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# What's 'in' for the garden

## Invest in a few timeless pieces

You pick your car, your clothes and even your home appliances according to fashion trends.

Does your garden also reflect what's in and what's out?

Susan McCoy of the Garden Media Group, quoted in the About.Com gardening column, <http://gardening.about.com>, says decorating is in and random planting is out. She says that gardens are now seen as an outdoor extension of homes and recommends investing in a few "timeless pieces you plan on having forever".

She adds that luxury products are in and commonplace items are out.

"Consumers are shopping with a more discriminating eye for the future."

In the United States, according to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Tribune, suburbanites are using gardens as a way to build communities.

"In suburban areas, the back-yard patio is moving to the front of the house so that people walking by can stop and talk.

In urban areas, boulevard gardens are blooming along sidewalks, entic-

ing walkers and bringing gardeners and pedestrians together," Kim Palmer writes.

Better Homes and Gardens, [www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com), says the top gardening trends for 2004 include container



gardening, water features like fountains and ponds, simplicity—"The rampant riot of the cottage garden is giving way to plantings of single colors in several shades and shapes"—heirloom varieties in plants and breaking down the barriers between indoors and out.

Barbara Kam, writing for Calgary's TotalHome.ca—[www.totalhome.ca](http://www.totalhome.ca)—says that Canadians are recognizing the importance of outdoor lighting."

While often not needed during our long summer days, lighting highlights a garden's beauty during our darker, colder seasons and allows the outdoors to be known when it would otherwise be hidden in an oppressive cloak of darkness."

Later this spring, find more information about Trends in the Garden at the Miracle-Gro Web site, [www.miraclegro.com](http://www.miraclegro.com).

—News Canada

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