



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Letter November 17, 2015

Dress Up a Blank Wall

by Lydia Holley

Do you have a blank wall in your garden? If so, it gives you the perfect opportunity to show some creativity and dress it up with greenery.

You could grow a hedge in front of the wall. It then becomes a wall of green which can contrast beautifully with the color of your home. By choosing plants that either bloom or display berries, your hedge will also give your garden additional seasonal interest.

If you are handy with the pruners and do not mind regular tending, you can espalier a tree or shrub along your blank wall. Vines could also be a beautiful covering for that blank wall. Try ivy, clematis, moonflower vine (*Ipomoea alba*), crossvine (*Bignonia capriolata*), jasmine or climbing roses.



Train vines along wires either vertically or in a decorative pattern, such as diamonds, for an interesting effect. Wrap stands of clear mini lights around the wires for a touch of sparkle and cheer.

It is best to install latticework in front of the wall so that the plant's tendrils do not damage the wall or brick. If you are concerned about damage to your wall, train the vine to grow up a trellis instead.

A false window is another way to enhance a blank wall. Attach stationary shutters to a window frame. Instead of using shutters, you could use mirror attached to a window frame that has had the glass removed. When approaching the mirror at an angle, this may look deceptively real.

Vertical gardening has recently become quite popular. You could attach numerous pots or planters along your blank wall and grow a variety of plants on it. Be certain you take into account the added weight of soil and water when building a vertical garden.

There are wall sculptures that can embellish your blank garden wall with your own distinct personality. Be certain your sculpture is designed for outside use.

A wall fountain can decorate a blank wall, and add the soothing sound of splashing water. If you are not interested in having running water, drill holes for drainage and fill your fountain with pools of plantings.

There are a lot of options to dress up a blank wall. The hardest part may be deciding which treatment you like the best.

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