

# The Weishaar Garden

## Petite Pizzazz

Marlene Weishaar —  
Merriam

### About the gardener

Marlene moved to her home in April 2016. The house was previously owned by an elderly woman and not much had been done to maintain the yard or plantings for some time. The house had a small fenced-in patio area surrounding a concrete pad, a redbud tree that was dying, and overgrown burning bushes. The yard had little grass, and drainage issues too!

Marlene's vision in creating a garden was to make use of the limited space around her home, adding colors and texture to make it interesting and functional. She wanted a cozy, yet open-air patio space that she could enjoy every day and also entertain friends. The pergola was created to provide shade, including the hand-made lattice shaped like a set of bay windows. It makes a perfect home for clematis and climbing roses. Plants were chosen that would complement and soften the hardscape of the patio and yet be a continuation of the gardens surrounding the house.

With a townhome, which has limited yard and garden space, Marlene's challenge was to make the most effective use of the space she had. The patio fencing presented a challenge as it blocked the view of the garden and was very hot in the summer with little breeze. The enclosed patio area was not easily accessible for anyone physically challenged. Marlene set about to remedy all these issues and has successfully accomplished the task.

### Marlene's tips

- ✓ As your garden grows, you can move plants that don't fit into your design anymore. Find them a new home in your garden or give them away.
- ✓ If you have small spaces, look for compact, upright plants that won't take up too much space. She looks for interesting and unusual small trees and shrubs that will add color and texture to a small space.
- ✓ Soften your hardscapes with lots of plants. It will turn a stone structure into a delightful living space.



### Special things to notice about this garden

- The **Tree of Life patio gate** was designed and handmade by a talented iron worker in Topeka and family friend. The **metal sunflower sculpture** on the side of the house was also made by the same artist.
- The patio area includes a **corner pergola** with climbing **heirloom roses** and **clematis**. The **lattice** was designed and built from scratch and made to look like a set of bay windows.
- In the corner surrounded by potted plants is a **swan bird bath** that was rescued from neighbor's back yard where it was swallowed up by a thick growth of honeysuckle.

### Marlene's favorite plants

- **Roses.** A longtime favorite as they are both beautiful and fragrant. Heirloom Climbing rose is a special plant perfectly suited for the pergola.
- **Bougainvillea.** Marlene loves the tropical show of this plant. In concrete pots, they add a dramatic look with their everblooming bracts.
- **Cotoneaster Standard.** Glossy green leaves with pink blossoms in spring, and small red berries in the fall put on a show!
- **Weeping Cherry Tree.** Early spring brings a cascade of delicate cherry blossoms on long weeping branches, like a fountain of white.
- **Alliums.** Purple and white spring blooms are delightful, in mid-summer allium 'Millennium' gives the garden beds a new pop of color!