

## Top Trends in Gardening for 2006

*Ed Lyon, Executive Director of Janesville Rotary Gardens and Spellbound Garden Writing and Consultation was the speaker at the December WHPS meeting, discussing current trends in gardening. Here is a summary of his comments.*

"Outdoor living" is the biggest trend in gardening. Higher fuel prices are spurring consumers to stay closer to home for entertainment and relaxation, with a focus on decorating the outside of the home.

### **What's in and what's out for 2006**

*Lived in gardens are in. Showplace gardens out.* Gardens reflect the individuals personal life-style; easy gardens with low maintenance and full of color.

*Simple elegance is in. Fussy gardens are out.* Less is more. Buzzwords are post-modernism, new minimalism and modern American Classics.

*Gardens in small spaces are in. Colossal landscapes are out.* Consumers are gardening more in less space, on patios, decks, rooftops and in containers. Vertical gardening is in.

*Pot-scaping is in. 1-D containers are out.* Container gardening is showing up in beds and borders or standing alone, as a way to splash color throughout the yard.

*Adventuresome is in. Safe is out.* Cottage gardens are safe and comfortable. Zen gardens are edgy. Look for plants with architecture and texture. Expect to see lots of red, purple and gold.

*Boom without bloom is in. Flowers only are out.* Large, leafy plants without flowers provide drama and color without the upkeep.

*Mixing containers is in. Mixed containers is out.* Trend is toward grouping single-plant containers.

*Indoor living color is in. Plant-less houses are out.* Homes with open space and porches are being filled with houseplants.

*Fountains in. Ponds out.* Containers and fountains used to keep sound, motion and water in the garden in a simplistic way.

*Home grown is in. Fast food is out.* Reflecting society's current enthusiasm for health eating and a desire for fresh fruits and veggies, vegetable gardening is coming back en vogue.

*Safe gardening is in. Reckless gardening is out.* There is a shift to get plants off chemicals and on a healthier, holistic life-style.