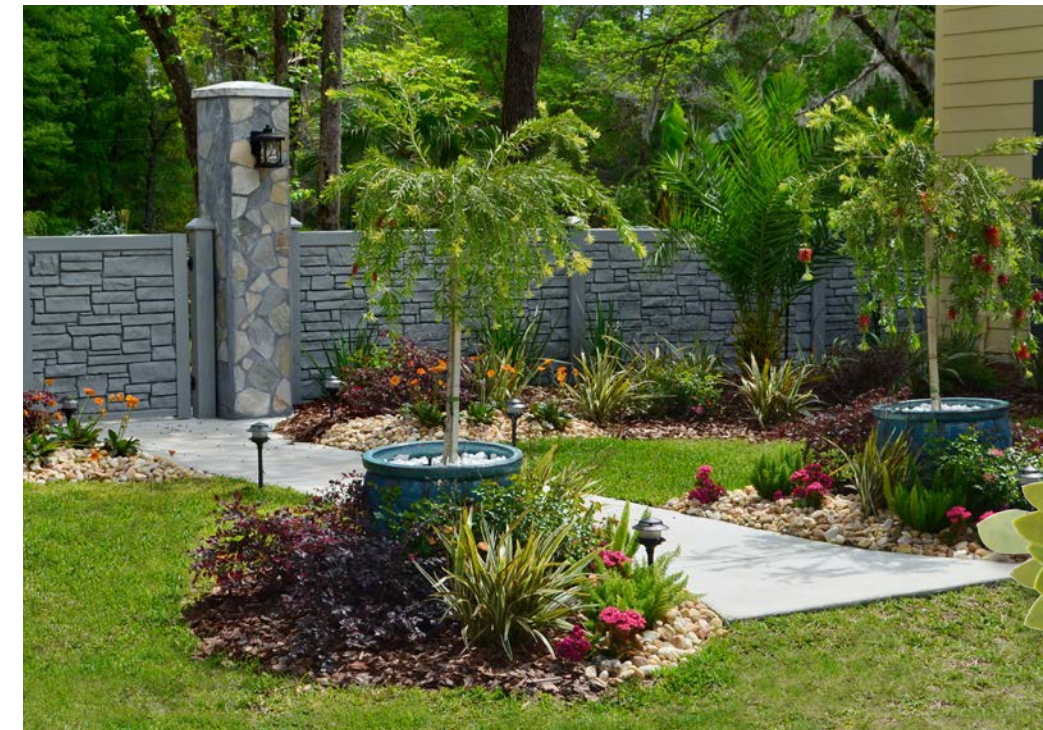




SPRUCE UP

FOR THE SUMMER

—BY JON GEORGE—



SUMMER SHOWERS BRING *Summer Flowers*

Summer is upon us and seasonal, almost daily rain showers turn our gardens to a lush green, full of planting possibilities.

Take time this summer to reevaluate your front landscape. Pulling out old landscape shrubs that are overgrown and sprucing up with color will easily add to the curb appeal and value of your home. This home (left) in the Millhopper Forrest neighborhood needed plants that were deer resistant and provided year long color. A new path was



also added to traverse from the driveway to the front walk.

If you like hydrangeas, then you will love the Chinese snowball viburnum (pictured left). This semi-evergreen shrub blooms like a big hydrangea with lime to white blooms, but it takes full sun to partial shade and does not wilt as easily as a hydrangea. Give it plenty of space on the corner of the house or as a focal point in a flower bed.



JON GEORGE is the owner of Cottage Gardens, Inc., a Gainesville-based landscape design and installation firm. Jon has been gardening in North Central Florida for more than 30 years. You may contact his staff at www.TheCottageGardener.com or at cottagegardensinc@yahoo.com.

GETTING TO KNOW

The Weeping Bottlebrush



The weeping bottlebrush tree makes a beautiful specimen tree that is in great demand for its brilliant color and romantic weeping form. Beware! Until recently most weeping bottlebrush varieties would not tolerate the cooler temperatures we experience in North Florida. Look for zone 8 cold tolerance.

Plant bottlebrush trees in full sun to partial shade. Container grown specimens (above left) make a bold statement for a pool entrance and hummingbirds love them as a nectar source.

PLANT CARE:

Re-stake new plants with flexible ties and top-dress with composted soil and a deep layer of organic mulch.

- Water well for establishment
- No trimming needed
- Fertilize 3 times per year

