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Dr. Kent Willett, D.D.S.
 Dr. Kent Willett, D.D.S., is a General Dentist practicing in Columbia, since 1981. He is well known for his talents in both sedation dentistry and cosmetic dentistry, while being a long-time member of the prestigious Pankey Institute in Key Biscayne, Florida, where he has completed studies in restoring difficult dental cases. He sees referrals from all over the United States seeking high quality dental care.

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 Dr. Willett is not a specialist, he practices general dentistry. Dr. Willett has completed an American Dental Association approved one year residency program in which Conscious Sedation is taught. Cosmetic dentistry is a non-specialty interest area that requires no specific educational training to advertise this service.

BY JENNIFER LIU | PHOTOS BY WHITNEY BUCKNER



CAROLINE LEEMIS might be the primary person to seed and weed her personal selection of strawberries, tomatoes and herbs, but she's not the only one getting her hands dirty with the project. Her two dogs, Lily and Macy, are fascinated by the sprawling food garden in their backyard, too. But when their well-intentioned curiosity meant more than a few damaged celery stalks, Leemis had to think creatively to make sure next season's batch would live to see sunlight and not just her pooches' paws.

Leemis, owner and principal interior designer of Caroline Leemis Design, recently dug into her bag of power tools and creativity to build an enclosed gardening space in her backyard. She spent early spring weekends putting together a new fire pit, raised garden beds, two tree boxes and a wooden bench, all with splashes of color and fun.

"Be creative with your design," she says. "Don't be afraid to add in color here and there."

"Start small," she says. "It's not as hard as some people think. You can do a lot in a small space, and you'd be surprised what you can get out of it."

Along with Lily and Macy's interest in the family garden, Leemis' husband, Eric, has also gotten in on the action. The great thing about gardening is that it can be a relaxing individual activity or even a family affair.

"Get the family involved, and use it as an educational opportunity," Leemis says. "I didn't grow up gardening, but I think having that kind of experience, especially when you're young, is great. It's important to know where your food comes from, how it's grown, how it impacts our bodies and the environment."

Slices of Paradise

Interior designer Caroline Leemis offers tips, tricks and DIY tutorials to grow your own pieces of backyard heaven

SITTING PRETTY

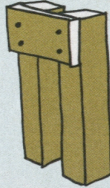


You'll need:

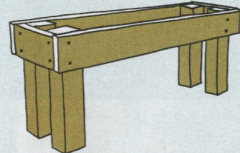
- One 4-inch-by-4-inch-by-8-foot cedar board
- One 2-inch-by-6-inch-by-12-foot cedar board
- One 5/4-inch-by-6-inch-by-16-foot cedar board
- Paint (optional)
- Exterior wood sealant
- 3-inch wood screws
- 1 1/2-inch wood screws

Process:

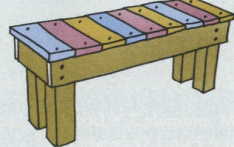
- 1 Cut the 4-by-4 down to four pieces that are 20 inches long each.
- 2 Cut the 2-by-6 down to two pieces that are 4 feet long and two pieces that are 1 foot long.
- 3 Cut the 5/4-by-6 down into 16-inch-long pieces.
- 4 Seal the boards with exterior wood sealant and let dry.
- 5 Screw the 1-foot-long 2-by-6s into two of the 4-by-4s to create the side of the bench. Then screw the other 1-foot-long 2-by-6 into the other two 4-by-4s to create the other side of the bench.



- 6 Attach both pieces together by screwing the 4-foot-long 2-by-6s on either side.



- 7 If desired, paint the 5/4-by-6 pieces in the colors of your choice. Let the paint dry, seal with an exterior sealant and let dry.
- 8 Once all pieces are dry, screw the 5/4-by-16-inch pieces into the frame using 1 1/2-inch wood screws.



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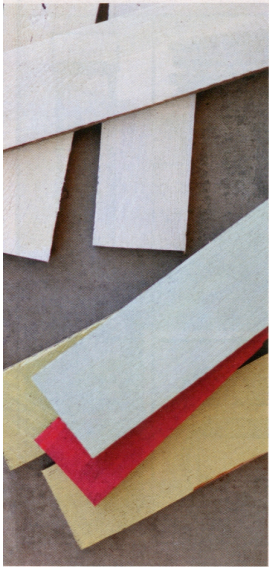
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GROWING GREEN



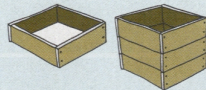
CAROLINE LEEMIS is the owner and principal interior designer of Caroline Leemis Design. To find out more about Leemis and her business, visit carolineleemisdesign.com.

You'll need:

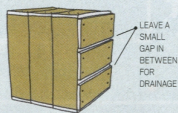
- 1-by-6 untreated cedar boards cut into 15 18-inch pieces (or however big you desire your box to be)
- *You'll want untreated cedar because the chemicals from treated wood are absorbed into the soil, which is not something you want for the health of your plant. Cedar is better quality and lasts longer.
- 1/4-by-2-inch wood shims
- 1/2-inch wood screws
- 3-inch standard nails
- Wood glue
- Recycled pallet pieces (optional)

Process:

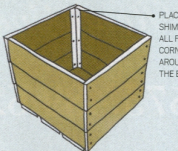
- 1 Cut 1-by-6 down to 18-inch pieces (or however wide you would like your box to be). You'll need 15 of them.
- 2 Take four of the 18-inch 1-by-6s and nail them together into a box. Make three boxes.



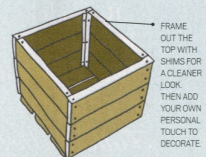
- 3 Using one of the boxes, nail three 1-by-6 pieces to create the bottom. Spread out each 1-by-6 about an inch apart so that the outer pieces line up with the edges of the box. The gaps will be used for drainage. (If you do not leave a gap, you can drill holes for drainage later.)



- 4 Stack the three boxes on top of each other.
- 5 Using 1/4-inch wood shims, wood glue and screw in two at each corner to create the interior frame and support.



- 6 Create your own custom top. We used scraps of the wood shims to "frame" out the top and then nailed in painted recycled pallet pieces along the top edges.



- 7 Plant your tree. CH

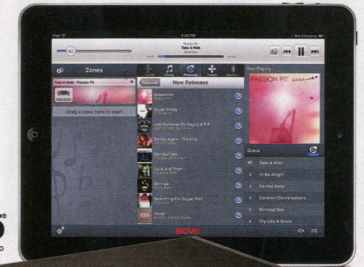
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