

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Fencescaping Adds Beauty, Security To Yards

(NAPSA)—The fence of your dreams is within your grasp, whether you are looking for a white picket fence or one that doesn't detract attention from your prize winning petunias. Consult your local fencescaper.

Todd Edlin, of Allied Fence in Atlanta, GA, is well-versed in fencescaping, the art of integrating a fence into a landscape. "First, a fence contractor comes to your house to discuss your objectives. Many people want a fence to contain their pets and children, some want one for security or privacy. Others want a fence to identify spaces, surround pools, or as architectural features."

Once you define your purpose, choosing the right style is easy. Fences come in many materials and styles. Popular fencescaping choices are vinyl-covered chain-link; wood and vinyl picket, privacy and post and rail; and, ornamental aluminum and steel fences. Each one of these has unique fencescaping characteristics.

Color-coated chain-link "disappears" into landscaping, while offering protection to pets and children. Popular fencescaping colors are black, green and brown. "Green blends in during the spring and summer, but can stand out in the winter. Black is virtually invisible all year," Edlin explained.

Picket and privacy fence styles protect property, while also providing an attractive barrier between you and your neighbor. Post and rail adds a rustic look and can be used to contain pets if a nearly invisible wire mesh screen is installed behind the



Photo Credit: Barbara & Jae Portman

This charming picket fence adds beauty and architectural interest to the yard.

rails. These fences are available in traditional wood, or maintenance-free vinyl, and come in many colors and styles.

Ornamental steel and aluminum provide security, as well as architectural interest. Their ornate scrolls and finials add elegance to any landscape. Ornamental steel can be custom made and provides distinction to estates, while ornamental aluminum is popular for enclosing pools because it does not rust.

Edlin advises, "It's easier to incorporate a fence into your landscape if you start thinking about it at the beginning of a landscaping project." He also recommends checking zoning codes and neighborhood covenants before you start to determine any restrictions on height or type of fence you can build.

To find a fencescaper in your area, contact the American Fence Association at (800) 822-4342, or visit the AFA Web site at www.americanfenceassociation.com.