



Gardening and Home Improvement

The Watson Writes Portfolio

(These are just a sampling of the dozens of articles written on this subject matter)

Alex, the Garden Guy

Alex the Garden Guy is more than just an experienced garden craftsman, he is the king of garden customization, making sure that your natural outdoor environment is built and maintained to your personal desires and specifications.

Alex brings 16 years of expertise. The son of a gardener, Alex grew up learning his craft, found his talent and created his business. He learned firsthand to understand what a weed was, and what was not. He soaked in how to identify the details of the plant surroundings, to understand them and help them thrive.

Alex's standards are high when it comes to client satisfaction. He works to make sure the client gets what they want, and at the same time develops a high level of trust with them. He strives never to violate that trust and does not break his vow of honesty and straight-forward communication.

Alex's approaches every new property with an eye of health and creativity. He sees how it can be changed to the client's ideal, and how it can be perfected.

Many varieties of plants will work to make the property aesthetically pleasing and artistic. Colors are very important. Many colors and textures that can work and make an incredible look for that certain area. Alex plays with colors, test what looks good, and enhances the statuary fixtures the client has.

Alex sees plants as art. That art can be developed with one of two different strategies: Natural pruning or Ornamental. Natural pruning flows and allows the plant's organic growth and movement to flourish. The plant exhibits movement and grace.

Ornamental, on the other hand, can be shaped into whatever form the client desires, and can stand out prominently in that representation. It is done with power shears and creates a pleasing shape that might not happen in a natural form. A caution however: The leaves will be damaged and will brown quicker than those left in a more natural form. It is important to be aware of dead foliage falling within the plant, and that requires additional maintenance so that aphids and fungus do not start attacking the plant itself. If the ornamental look is the client's desire, Alex can create it, and follow up with the proper care so the plant does not get damaged over time.

If a gardener does not get his hands dirty, he is not doing it right. A gardener must feel the dirt, feel the plant. There is an important communication and ability to feel and understand their signals. Alex literally talks to your plant life and treats its health and wellbeing based on the signals it gives him.

Every plant has a different season in which it needs trimming for health. Alex makes note of your plant's specific needs. Roses, and some trees, do better when they are trimmed regularly. That plant life tends to grow "suckers" which are new bumps and ultimately appendages. They do not produce, however, and the plant's inner resources are wasted where they could be focused on keeping the core plant healthy and productive. On an apple tree for example, the sucker portion becomes essentially full plants but with no production.

Fertilizer and its use is important, but needs to be handled with expertise. You need to know what kind to use on which plants and when to use it. Incorrect use will burn the plants and can cause insect infestation. Alex brings this expertise.

Alex is not just a "regular" gardener. He also excels in building creative pieces and garden ornamentation. He can customize yard structures, leveraging his years of experience working in the construction industry, and as an experienced welder, along with his gardening work. He can integrate it into the garden landscape. He often can get creative with what the client has existing on their property and does not seek to have his clients go out and invest in more statues or fixtures. He will work with what you have on hand. If a client likes something they already have but doesn't know how to incorporate it into their yard artistry, Alex can make it into something astounding.

Have a fallen tree? Let Alex show you how it can be made into a garden artifact.

Alex offers both electric or gas powered leaf blowing. Electric is much quieter but is more expensive and less effective. New regulations next year will restrict this to the only option, but for now, Alex offers either method to meet the client's preference. Alex is expert in best practices for the best results.

Alex trains his clients on what they already have and how to maintain it.

Alex can work with a client's irrigation systems and has identified parts and components that were originally presented as "quality", but in fact, were not. He can fix the system with cost effective products. He will leave the client with an understanding of what they have, how it works and what actual needs to be done to maintain it.

Alex regularly creates a map of the property and knows where every valve in the irrigation system is, where it leads, a detailed description of when it turns off, when it turns on, and the days it should be watering. He supplies the clients with a copy and keeps a back up copy in case the client misplaces theirs.

We need our yards, and our yards need Alex. There is nothing like having a well-maintained natural yard, a garden, a space. It is ideal, if you have children, to have your own space to spend time with them touching nature. Have a picnic, sit in the grass, feel it. Be surrounded by flowers and see how they grow and express innate beauty. Always touch nature, dive into the color, the textures, the magnificence. Yes, it must be maintained and cared for, but it is worth it.

Especially when you have Alex, the Garden Guy.

Solar Energy

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Are you giving too much of your hard earned cash to PG&E? Kris from Sunrun here, and we can save you money while giving you control of where your power comes from.

It is a simple process. We put equipment on your roof, that you don't pay for. This equipment will brighten your day. Not only will it lower your monthly energy bill – by A LOT – but it will allow you to charge powerful batteries that can run your house in case we are hit with a storm blackout. And you know we WILL have a storm knock out power at some point.

So, if you are interested in saving money, if you are tired of being gouged by PG&E, give me a call to see if your qualify. I am Kris from Sunrun, your energy consultant, and I can be reached at (831) 251 8023.

