**“Dogscaping: Creating a Pet Friendly Garden”-** Our pets are an integral part of our everyday lives and family. It can be a challenge for gardeners to balance a healthy, safe and beautiful garden with the needs of their pets. This lecture will focus on how to make your garden safe and enjoyable for both your dogs (and cats) and their human companions. Helpful ideas will be presented such as using safe, durable surfaces and materials, reducing landscape wear and tear, avoiding toxic plants, using containers effectively and even growing fruits, vegetables and herbs that can be used as edible treats for your pets.

**Outline**

1. Creating pet friendly spaces (conversion areas)
   1. Protecting the landscape with fences and other physical barriers
   2. Dog repellents
   3. How to maximize a lawn in a pet friendly garden and lawn alternatives
      1. Patios, pathways and other hardscape features
2. Pet friendly plants
3. Container gardening
4. Poisonous plants to avoid or be aware of
5. Pet safety (using pet friendly products and composting)

**Dogscaping: Creating a Pet Friendly Garden**

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**Wear Resistant Turf Species**

Cool Season: Tall fescue *(Festuca arundinacea*)

Warm Season: Zoysia grass (*Zoysia spp.)*

**Alternatives to Lawn**

Weed Suppressive Groundcovers (<http://nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/groundcovers/files/wsg_brochure.pdf>)

**Herbs:** Use thyme, oregano and mints, sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)

**Ornamental Grasses:** Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum* ‘Dallas Blues’, ‘Heavy Metal’, Shenandoah’)

Japanese Hakone Grass (*Hakonechloa macra* ‘Aureola’, ‘All Gold’), Lilyturf (*Liriope spp*.), Sedge (*Carex spp.)*

**Bamboo:** Clumping *Sasa veitchii and Sasa pygmea, Fargesia spp.*

**Shade Trees:** Use Ginkgo -\*male plants only! (*Ginkgo biloba* ‘Autumn Gold’, ‘Princeton Sentry’), Linden (*Tilia x cordata*, *Tilia americana* ‘Redmond’), American Elm (*Ulmus americana* ‘Princeton’ and ‘Valley Forge’), Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* ‘Emerald Vase’ and ‘Village Green’)

**Landscape Ornamentals: Herbaceous Plants**

Coral Bells, Alum root (*Heuchera sanguinea* ‘Caramel’, Citronelle’ and Pewter Veil’), Tickseed, Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata* ‘Crème Brûlée’, ‘Zagreb’, ‘Full Moon’), Cranesbill, Geranium (*Geranium spp.,* ‘Rosanne’), Daylily (*Hemerocallis spp.,* not good for cats)

**A few shrubs and trees:** Rose Creek Abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora* ‘Rose Creek’) and Summerset Clethra (*Clethra alnifolia* ‘Compacta’, ‘Hummingbird’ , ‘Ruby Spice’ and ‘Sixteen Candles’), Camellias (*Camellia* April series, Winter series), Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica)*, Magnolia (*Magnolia spp.),* Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.)* and Blueberry (*Vaccinium spp.)*

Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus)* and Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), Marigolds (*Tagetes spp.*), Gerber Daisy and Celosia

**Additional plants for cats:** Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii*), Cat thyme (*Teucrium marum*), Spearmint (*Mentha spicata*), Peppermint (*Mentha × piperita*), Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*), Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) Cat grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)

**Plants to avoid:**

Daffodils, Lilies of the valley, Yews, Laurels, Laburnum, Azaleas, Foxglove, Philodendrons, Bittersweet, Nightshade, Hellebores, Castor Bean, Lilies (All types of lilies are TOXIC to cats), Stinging Nettles, Poison Ivy, Yews, Rhododendron, Holly, Hibiscus, Buxus, Privet, Juniper

Also avoid plants with thorns and seedpods such as roses, hawthorn, barberry, locust, etc.

**Edible Plants:** Blueberries, strawberries, apples (peeled and cored), bananas, cantaloupe, melon, pumpkin, (citrus, pear, peaches, plums must have no pits or seeds), raspberry, pineapple

Leafy vegetables such as spinach, swisschard, lettuce, cabbage

Broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers, green beans, peas, asparagus, green peppers

Sweet potatoes, turnips, carrots, summer and winter squash

Herbs: Cilantro, sage, cinnamon, oregano, fennel, basil, rosemary

**Toxic Foods:**

* Chocolate/milk
* Grapes/raisins
* Garlic/onions
* Apricots (pits)
* Cherries
* Rhubarb
* Avocado
* Chives
* Tomatoes/Eggplant

**Check this complete list!** [http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants?](http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants?field_non_toxicity_value%5B%5D=01)

**Organic products as fertilizers and pesticides:**

Use bone meal, blood meal, corn gluten meal, vinegar, baking soda, diatomaceous earth, vegetable-based liquid castile soap or horticultural oils and safer soaps.

Burnout II is a herbicide with citric acid and clove oil, Avenger herbicide has citrus oil

Use compost instead of chemical fertilizers!

Use clean, natural mulch and not dyed or processed mulches. And **DO NOT** use castor bean fertilizer or cocoa mulch, as they are highly **TOXIC**.