
Living Homegrown Podcast – Episode 136

Big Ideas for Small Space Backyards with Susan Morrison

Show Notes are at: www.LivingHomegrown.com/136

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Theresa: This is the Living Homegrown podcast episode 136.

Announcer: Welcome to the Living Homegrown podcast, where it's all about how to live farm-fresh without the farm, to help guide the way to a more flavorful and sustainable lifestyle. Here's your host, national PBS TV producer and canning expert Theresa Loe.

Theresa: Hey there everybody. Welcome to the podcast. I'm your host Theresa Loe, and this podcast is where we talk about living farm-fresh without the farm. That includes preserving the harvest, small space food growing and just taking simple steps towards living a more sustainable lifestyle. All the different ways that we can closer to our food, even if we have little or not garden space at all. If you'd like to learn more about any of these topics, or my online courses, or my Living Homegrown membership, just visit my website, livinghomegrown.com

Today, we're going to be talking specifically about having a small backyard space. I brought on my friend Susan Morrison to talk about this. She's a landscape designer. I had her on the show before. I had her on episode 55, which I'll be sure to link into the show notes. But I wanted to bring Susan on this time because I wanted her to talk about big ideas for designing in a small yard. She has a brand new book that just came out called *The Less Is More Garden*.

What I loved about it, it's not specifically about vegetables, although she does talk about a lot of edibles in the book, it's really a philosophy. It's about having less of a garden can be more enjoyable, less maintenance can mean more relaxation, and that when you really are careful and intentional you can have less effort in your backyard and yet have so much more beauty. So I asked Susan if she wouldn't mind coming on and sharing some of the information with us.

In particular, in how we can adapt some of the design techniques with our vegetables and our edibles that we might have in our gardens. And you know, I don't think it matters how long you've been gardening in your backyard. It may be that you a brand new garden, or it may be like me, where I've been gardening in the same space for a very, very long time. Sometimes we kind of need to just look at our backyards with a fresh set of eyes and look at it in a different way in order to revamp it and enjoy it more. That's really what Susan talks about. She gives us some really concrete ways to look at our backyards, because the reality is that most of us don't have acres and acres to work with.

And actually, having acres and acres to garden and design in can be a little overwhelming, but when we are just looking at our small space we have to be really intentional with everything that we do or it can end up being just a jumbled mess, which of course we don't want. So I had Susan come on, and what she shares with us are the three most important questions that we should ask ourselves before making any changes to our backyard and also some really simple things like some adjustments that we can make to our raised beds to make them more inviting and usable in our backyard space, and an important consideration for any rock that we might put in our yard. This one I thought was really clever, something I never really thought about.

And also, Susan even shares a couple of her favorite vegetables that actually double as super magnificent garden features. I will have in the show notes for the episode everything that we talk about. To get to the show notes you just go to livinghomegrown.com/136 and I'll have everything there for you.

Let me tell you a little bit about Susan in case you didn't hear her on episode 55, which was about attracting pollinators to the garden. I will also link to that in the show notes. Susan Morrison is a landscape designer and she's nationally recognized for being an authority on smaller sized outdoor spaces. She specializes in teaching people how to make a big impact even if they have a really tiny backyard.

Now Susan lives in the Bay area of northern California and she's the co-author of the bestselling book, *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small and Large Spaces*, and we featured her on our PBS show, *Growing a Greener World* a couple years ago. So I will also link to that in the show notes.

She has recently published her latest book, which is, *The Less Is More Garden, Big Ideas for Designing Your Small Yard*. Now you can also find Susan in a lot of magazines and a lot of websites. I will link to those also in the show notes, but she's featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Cottages and Bungalows* and *Fine Gardening Magazine*, just to name a few.

So I think you're really going to enjoy this particular podcast episode because she makes us look at our gardens in a really different way, from a designer's perspective. And it doesn't take much to make a bit difference. So I think you'll like all of her tips and hints.

Now before we get started, I have one last thing to tell you, and that is that this particular episode is brought to you by my group coaching program, *Level Up*. As you probably know, I have several online courses geared towards helping you live a farm-fresh lifestyle without the farm. But you may not know that I also have courses for creative entrepreneurs within the garden, food and wellness space.

My mission is to help them setup successful online businesses so that they can reach more people with digital products just as I have. If you have ever considered teaching what you know online I created something special to help you. It's a PDF called, *The Five Signs You're Ready to Digitize Your Expertise*. What I love about this PDF is that it has a section at the end that will help you narrow down a good topic for an online product, whatever that may be. If you'd like to get a copy of this completely free resource, I have it all setup for you at livinghomegrown.com/free. You can download it there and get started.

Okay. So are you ready for today's interview with Susan Morrison? All right, here's our conversation, where we dive into big ideas for designing your small backyard.

Hey Susan, thanks so much for coming back on the show.

Susan: I'm excited to be back.

Theresa: Good. Your new book, I really loved it. A lot of times I'm covering garden books that just deal with edibles, and I really love bringing you back because your books talk from a design aspect, and a lot of people might not be thinking, "Well, I'm doing vegetables, I don't really need to design." But oh my gosh, what a difference it can make in our backyards and in our enjoyment of our backyards. So thank you for coming on and tackling small spaces with us on this podcast. I'm really excited to have you here.

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- Susan: Well you know, it's a topic I'm very fond of, so you picked the right one.
- Theresa: Okay, perfect. Well, why don't we start by having you tell everybody a little bit about your background as a designer. Like, how long have you been doing this? Because you kind of specialize in small spaces, making a big impact with small spaces, don't you?
- Susan: That's correct. I've actually been designing, gosh I think about 15 years at this point. You know, here in California smaller backyards are very common, and they've become common really all across the country because houses are getting bigger and lot sizes are getting smaller. So truthfully, I don't even think that you need to specialize in small spaces, I think small spaces just come with the territory at this point. But for me, it goes beyond my experience as a landscape designer and it's also just about my experience as a home owner. Because the house that I lived in for 16 years was a big house on a little lot with the backyard that was only 18 feet deep by 60 feet wide. And so a lot of my interest in the topic has been because I spent so many years experimenting in my own space.
- Theresa: Yeah. I read that in your book and it made me feel better because you talked about how you started out making the mistake of trying to design the way a larger landscape is designed. Could you tell that story about how you started out with the wrong mindset when you were looking at your smaller backyard?
- Susan: Yeah, I can share that story. I grew up in southern California and in an older neighborhood. At that point in time, it was common to have small houses on big lots. So I grew up in a family of four in a 1,600 square foot ranch style home, but we never really felt cramped because we had this big backyard with a swimming pool and patios and vegetables and fruit trees and a lot of lawn. I had a great, happy childhood. So when my husband and I bought our first house I tried to recreate that, but I really wasn't taking into consideration was that not only did I have a small budget, but my backyard was much smaller. So what I wound up with was a lot of lawn and not a whole lot else.
- Theresa: Yes, yes. I started out that way too so I totally can relate. Well, in your book you talk a lot about your philosophy that when we have less space we can have more enjoyment and less maintenance but more relaxation. One of the areas that you cover was a lifestyle garden, and that totally piqued my interest because to me growing food and spending the time that I spend in my backyard makes my garden a lifestyle garden, but I thought maybe we should start with having you explain what exactly is a lifestyle garden to make sure I'm on the right track here.

Susan: I think you are on the right track. What I find with my clients when we meet for the first time is that there is this tendency to jump right to the practice. So they'll begin with the laundry list of things that they want to include in the landscape, whether that is a hot tub or planting beds or maybe a modest-sized lawn. The problem with that approach is it doesn't really take into consideration how we want to use the space and how we want to feel in the space.

And so what I like to do is ask a series of questions to help us drill down and figure out, what is that you really want to get out of this backyard? And then that's going to drive what we put into it and where we put those things. And so the philosophy that I've come up with that helps us get to that point is what I call the three W's. The three W's are, what will you be doing in the garden? When will you be outside? And, who will be with you?

Theresa: That makes perfect sense. So it's really how we're going to be using it and how we're going to be spending our time out there.

Susan: Exactly. Those three points, I think probably the first one, what will you be doing outside, is the most important, and sometimes it seems really obvious. You know, someone will say, "Well, okay. I need a place to sit, so of course I need a patio." But even something as straightforward as a patio is going to take on a different shape and a different set of characteristics it it's something that you're going to be using say for family dining or the entertaining, versus something more intimate, a place where you want to relax and read a book, and maybe have a quiet conversation with one other person.

Theresa: Absolutely. That even comes into play, like how much you're going to be cooking outside. Like, if you really barbecue a lot versus maybe you only got out there once a year.

Susan: Exactly. Those are thank you important questions to ask, and in fact the more you can drill down with these questions, the more powerful the whole idea of the three W's will be for you. So yeah, grilling is something that a lot of people like to do outside. So if you like to grill frequently then one thing that I might suggest is, "Well, let's put more of our design budget towards the grill space," because you know that you're going to use that. And if you like to grill year round, then I might suggest that we place the grill section closer this the backdoor, closer to the kitchen door, and that we provide some sort of protection from elements.

I think it's not just that, it really goes beyond just the practical aspects of a grill space, and also if you like to cook outside that starts to be a reflection of you and your personality and what you want people to see. So what I might suggest in addition to that that we do, is maybe have a container with a small citrus tree or a fruit tree close by, or a container that includes cooking herbs so you can do that really cool, "Oh, I'll just snip a little thyme here to drizzle on my vegetables," while you're cooking. Those are the things that not only make a garden more enjoyable to be in, but much more of a personal experience.

Theresa: That makes so much sense. Yeah, you'd want to have a lot of your edibles really close to you so that you ... You wouldn't want to put it way at the back far corner, you want to have it right there. Plus, that also gives you something to talk about when you have someone out there and you're grilling. I love the idea of, "I'll just reach over here and add a little rosemary." Very impressive.

Susan: Exactly, exactly.

Theresa: Yeah, that's really good. And who you are with, that I think would come into play like if you have kids you need kind of a play area, versus if maybe you just have your girlfriend's over all the time and you want to have a space to have wine and cheese and crackers in the garden.

Susan: Exactly. Kids are definitely something to plan for, whether that's kids or whether it's grandkids. One of the challenges in a small space is some of the typical kid-friendly things that we think of, like a lawn, often aren't really practical. One of the things that I will sometimes have to work with the client to rethink is, if you don't have enough room that the lawn can be large enough that you can really play a game on it, then sometimes it's better not to have a lawn at all.

Instead, if you're fortunate enough to live close to a park, use that more running games and playing games. Instead, create areas in your backyard that are more about creative play. So you know, any sort of a meandering path that has space where you can push something or you can ride a tricycle is probably going to get used more than a lawn will anyway. Or even creating some kind of a craft area, or maybe even a little garden patch, because I'm assuming your listeners are gardeners. You know, let's start growing that next generation of gardeners are quickly as we can

Theresa: Yeah, absolutely. You could even be planning for doing like a bean teepee or having some sort of a fort area, where they could play and explore. I know in my backyard when my boys were little we had kind of a mud pit, where the kids had their trucks. When I was gardening and weeding, they would just be in this little mud ... it wasn't a sandbox, it was a mud pit, because they always wanted to have water in there. They were real gardeners because we were gardening too, but they loved to get really dirty, being boys. And so I just gave them a spot for that so that they were doing it in my flower beds, and it worked out great.

Susan: I love that idea. I think that's a fantastic idea. Well you know, the other piece of it too is you need to think about safety. I really enjoy having a water feature in a garden. And you know, there is a photo in the book that shows a water feature that I designed and I was careful to have an in-ground reservoir so that there was no standing water. There was no question that anyone could fall in.

The clients that I designed this for actually are grandparents, and one of the things that makes me laugh because this gets safety and creative play in the same idea, is that this type of water feature is one that has water that spills down the sides, so it doesn't actually splash. But it didn't take their oldest grandchild long at all to figure out that if she put a little pebble on the top of that it would redirect the water and create something that they could run through.

Theresa: That's funny.

Susan: So even if you don't come with a creative play idea, kids can often figure that out for themselves.

Theresa: Absolutely. Well, I guess the thing that really came across when I was reading the book is that it gave me a lot of ideas that I can use even though I grow vegetables. Your book wasn't specifically about vegetable growing but you do talk about that and having edibles in there. It made me realize that there are a lot of different ways that we can make an edible garden more enjoyable and more beautiful. One of the things that you've mentioned that I had never really considered was when we talked about raised beds and giving a place to sit on the edge of those raised beds.

Susan: Yeah. One of the concepts that I explore in the book is this idea of double-duty design. I think we talk about that a little bit when I was on your podcast previously. In small gardens things, you really need to do more with less because you only have so much space. And so if you have raised beds, one small change, which is just making them higher, is a great way to have them double as seating. So instead of doing a more traditional 12 inch raised bed, if you go up to 18 inches that's actually about what a chair height is and it's comfortable to perch on.

When you do that, what you want to do then as well as have enough of a lip, and even a six inch lip is enough, so that someone can actually perch there and sit and enjoy the space. Of course that's practical for you as the gardener as well because it means a lot less bending over when you're working in the vegetable patch, and so it makes it more comfortable for you as well.

Theresa: Yeah, absolutely. You even talked a little bit about if you are near like a barbecue area you could have something else that people sit on that's near an edge of your garden, like a stone or a rock. It was like, "Oh, I hadn't even thought of that." A big rock could have an area that's flat so that you could sit on that as well.

Susan: Absolutely. When I put landscape rock into a client's design, depending on where it is, if it's going to be close to a patio or if it's close to a water feature, or also if it's going to be in a specifically kid-friendly area, I'll actually specify, "choose a flat seat rock." They're very easy to get and it just makes a fun unexpected place to perch.

Theresa: And also you talk in the book about the different things that we can grow that can add interest, and of course there's the seasonal colors and things like that, but you did actually talk about edibles and herbs and things like that, having that in our flower beds and using them as ornamentals. Which is something that I do in my front yard. My front yard is edible but it is landscaped as if it just landscaped.

So I want people to really keep that in mind because herbs, lavender and sage and scented geraniums, even parsley can look so beautiful just used as landscape plants. So when someone is looking at an area of their garden that maybe isn't like rows of veggies, what should they be thinking about in terms of shape or color? What should they consider in order to put something in if they want to add something that's edible?

- Susan: Well, one of the tenets of good landscape design regardless when you're choosing plants is to emphasize foliage color in addition to flower color. I think edibles can fall into that category really well. For example, if it's a sunny spot in the garden one of my favorite edibles to integrate into the landscape are artichokes, because an artichoke looks like this beautiful silver foliaged shrub and it doesn't look something that you're growing ... You know, it doesn't like I tried to sneak my vegetables in there. It looks like you choose, just because it's so attractive.
- Theresa: It is beautiful, yeah.
- Susan: It is. And if you're willing even to sacrifice a few of your artichokes you'll get an incredible flower as well. That's a good choice, and I would act, I'll even specify [Cultivar 00:21:09] here. I have switched over to imperial star, which is really nice because it's less prickly so it's a little friendlier in the landscape, and also you'll get artichokes in the first year if you're in a place where you can grow this as a perineal versus as an annual.
- Theresa: I didn't know that. I'm writing that one down. I'll be sure to list that in the show notes because they are stunning in the garden to have. The flowers are stunning as well.
- Susan: And you know, there's a second spot in the garden that I think works great with edibles. What often happens in smaller gardens is they have a lot of shade. That's just the reality of being in a built-up neighborhood, and you have trees and people have trees close by. As you know, it's a little trickier to grow edibles in a shade garden. And do one that I'm particularly fond of is a type of beet called bull's blood beet. What I love about it-
- Theresa: That's a great name.
- Susan: Well, if you saw it you would know why, because the leaves are this beautiful shade of red and it does quite well in part shade, and so it makes a really nice contrast plant in a shady garden but you still get your beets. So that's another one that I think is great, because I do have a lot of clients who are not sure what to do because there's so much shade in the backyard.
- Theresa: I love that. Okay, I'm writing that one down too. We'll put that one in the show notes as well. That's great, and I love the name. That's a great name.
- Susan: It is. It's catchy.

- Theresa: Well, I know containers are something that we can do a lot to add spice and a little bit of mystery and color to our garden. I wanted to talk to you about containers but before we did talk about that, you are just now coming off of the Northwest Flower and Garden Show up in Seattle and you did some stuff with containers up there. Could you tell everybody what you were working on while you were there?
- Susan: The Northwest Flower and Garden Show, it's a such a fantastic show to go to. In addition to the traditional seminars they have this really fun feature that they call Container Wars, where two designers are up on a stage in front of an audience. We go head to head and actually design three containers right there in front of the audience. We don't know what the containers are going to be, what color they're going to be, what plants are going to be available, until we get there. Part of it isn't just to be fun and entertaining while you see these containers going together, but it's also a chance for us to share tips with the audience. So I had a really good time with that.
- Theresa: So you have to talk and design at the same time?
- Susan: You have to talk and design at the same time, and the MC enjoys throwing challenges at you. Like, "Okay Susan, you need to design for the next five minutes with one hand behind your back."
- Theresa: Seriously? That's so funny.
- Susan: Yes. So it's kind of silly and it's a little bit goofy, but also it was still a great opportunity to interact with the audience and say, "Here are ideas that you can take home."
- Theresa: Fantastic. Well, I'd love to have you share some tips for using containers in our garden, because I know when you have a small space sometimes that's the best way to really get some emphasis. So what are some tips we can learn?
- Susan: One of the tips comes directly from the first surprise challenge that I got. That was to discover that all three of my containers were this bright shocking fire engine red. Which is not as you know the easiest color to work with, but it allowed me to share a tip that I use in my clients' garden, in my own garden. And that is, my absolute favorite flower color to use in containers is peach.
- Theresa: Really?

Susan: You wouldn't think peach goes with red but if you look closely at a peach-colored flower, it's typically made up of actually a lot of different colors. So if you think about like a snapdragon or you think about maybe a peace rose and you look closely at it, that has a little bit of yellow and a little bit of pink and a little bit of red all mixed together to get that final shade. And so in fact, it will pull out almost every color that you have in the garden, or it will be a beautiful complement to any blues or lavender that you have in the garden.

So I actually used peach, and then because I had those little different shades in it, in the flower choice that I had, even some pinks in my containers. It looked, I guess you're not supposed to say this about your own container design, but you know, it looked really great and it was a surprise. That was a surprise for people. They wouldn't have necessarily thought that that color would work as well as it did?

Theresa: No, I totally would have never picked pick. I wouldn't have even thought that, but it makes perfect sense because that's how you get peach, is the blending with red. That's-

Susan: Exactly.

Theresa: Yeah, that's awesome.

Susan: Exactly.

Theresa: Okay. Cool, what else? What else you got for us on containers?

Susan: Well, another tip that I gave out is that for me it isn't necessarily always about what you put inside of the containers, it's also about where you place the containers. We talked a little bit about the logic of putting edibles close to where you're going to be using them, but that still encompasses the idea that containers belong on the patio. I actually like to put them out into the landscape. With small gardens I have found that they can be real problem solvers.

One way that I use them is if it's a mature garden and you've got trees that the roots just completely own the ground. So I had some mature ornamental pear trees that it just was impossible to really plant anything other than very shallow ground covers. So by placing containers out underneath those trees you get around that idea of roots that can't be planted in and you get this really nice beautiful mid-sized focal point that helps make that space a little bit more interesting to look at.

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- Theresa: Because that has happened to me too in our old property. There was no ... I couldn't plant anything under the tree. It's been there forever. There was maybe a quarter inch of soil and that was it.
- Susan: Exactly.
- Theresa: That's a good idea, yeah.
- Susan: And interestingly enough that was my solution with containers in my old garden, and we moved to a new house two years ago. So now I'm in the opposite situation, where I have a baby garden. How I'm using containers in my baby garden is where I have planted things that are very slow-growing, like I have a few agaves out in the landscape, I've actually positioned containers next to those slow-growing plants so I have an immediate something that's filling in the garden and an immediate bit of height to break up all those low-growing baby plants. But when those agaves finally get going I can just pick up those containers and move them somewhere else.
- Theresa: Yes, totally. That also helps us with anything that we have that's an annual. Like maybe we had some carrots in a certain section and when we finish harvesting them we have this big blank space in the garden and it looks kind of weird. It's so easy to just pick up a container and place it there so you fill in that spot.
- Susan: You're absolutely right. It's a perfect solution for vegetables which go through cycles like that. So you can still look out and see something beautiful, even though whatever was there before is all finished up, all tucked away until the next year.
- Theresa: Right, right. Well I know you say that there's something that you like better than spillers, because what's that phrase that designers always say about spillers and fillers?
- Susan: Yes. There's a definite design standard for containers that you want your thriller, your big beautiful look-at-me plant, your fillers, your medium-size plants, and your spillers coming over the side. But what I find often with spillers is that there's too much spill and people putting spillers all the way around the container, and unless the container's really tall, they tend to come all the way down to the ground and they just kind of completely obscure the container. Which I don't like, I like to see the container as well. So unfortunately it's not as catchy because it doesn't really rhyme, but I like chubby plants. So instead of-

Theresa: So thrillers, fillers and chubbies?

Susan: Yeah, exactly, and chubbies. So it doesn't quite roll off the tongue, does it?

Theresa: No.

Susan: With chubby plants, instead of something that trails all the way to the ground, I like something that kind of pokes its way out a couple of inches. Actually you know, a great plant for that that I use quite a bit in containers is an ornamental form of oregano called Kent Beauty.

Theresa: I love Kent Beauty. It's gorgeous.

Susan: It's a really fantastic plant. You're still going to get that connection. That spill is what sort of connects the container with the plants on the top, but it's only going to down maybe a couple of inches. So that's my alternative to the traditional spillers, and I think it creates a container that's a little bit more cohesive, and you can still enjoy the beauty of the container that you picked out.

Theresa: Absolutely, absolutely. So really, the bottom line is that when we are looking at our backyard, even though we may be growing vegetables it helps to look at it from a different angle or with fresh eyes. I know you say something all the time about how it helps to have someone else look at your garden with you. So if we were wanting to kind of spruce up our garden, is that what you would advise? Is maybe bringing over a friend and having them help you look it over before you dive into moving things around?

Susan: I always think having another set of eyes is a good idea. And you know, sometimes obviously people call in a designer for that, for a consultation, but it doesn't need to be a designer. In fact, I will tell you truthfully, this was true for me in my new garden, every time a designer comes over I ask them what I should be doing. And so even designers really want to get someone else's point of view, because you know, what happens is we look at our gardens but we stop seeing, and that's particularly an issue when everything in your garden is fine, every individual feature that you have in your garden works but you feel like somehow the whole garden does not flow together, it does not work together.

That can be very difficult when you're in your garden day in and day out, to figure out why that is and why your space doesn't feel connected. So a fresh set of eyes can often immediately spot just a few things that you can change that will make a big difference.

Theresa: Now if we had that feeling, because I've had that feeling before with my garden because sometimes it kind of gets, I don't know, kind of old and haggard. Sometimes you're just like, "It needs a little something." And from a design standpoint I know one thing that has helped me is when I was advised to maybe have something repeating. Whether it was a color or a texture that I kind of repeat in a couple different spots so it would draw my eye. Is that usually the best way to make it kind of come together, is to have something that's the same all over?

Susan: That's definitely a good way. That idea of repetition is sort of a classic design principle and is important in a small space. It can be more challenging in a small space, particularly for people who love plants, because they don't want to repeat the same thing. They want to go shopping and then they want to get cool new things. So it's also important to know that it doesn't have to be same plant. It doesn't mean that you have to have the same gold colored carex everywhere in the garden. It just means, if gold's a color that I like and that I want to use, I need to make sure I have a little bit of it everywhere, even if it's a different plant every single time.

Theresa: Got it. So it could be like maybe a certain shade of green or a certain leaf color that repeat, that same color, in different ways throughout the garden.

Susan: Exactly. Yeah, and it can be shapes as well but I think color I think tends to tie things together a little bit more because color is such a strong effect in the garden. You're going to just see it and feel it and notice it more. And then also, it doesn't have to be just plant color. So you can repeat the color of your plants, you can echo your plants and just include a container or a chair or even throw pillows that you use on your furniture. That's another great way to get those repeats in. And again, you don't have to worry about having the same plant over and over again.

Theresa: That makes perfect sense, of course. Yeah, so if something maybe that color just isn't blooming everywhere or you don't have that color everywhere, you can use your containers and your furniture. That would be a lot easier than trying to find something else every single season so you could have it all year long. That's really good.

Well Susan, thank you so much for sharing all the information out of your book. The book is *The Less Is More Garden*. I really loved the photographs in this. I have to tell you that when I was looking through and you would be talking about a design element, and then you had these perfect photographs to show with it, I really, really got a lot of enjoyment and I learned a lot from your book. I so appreciate you coming on and sharing this because I know it helps me and I know it will help the listeners. So thank you very much for coming on the show today.

Susan: I had a great time. Thank you so much for having me Theresa.

Theresa: Well I hope you enjoyed that interview with Susan Morrison, the author of *The Less Is More Garden, Big Ideas For Designing Your Small Backyard*. Now in the show notes for today's episode I will have links to everything that Susan talked about. I will link to her website. I will link to the previous podcast that she was on, episode 55, where she talked about attracting pollinators for a food garden, and everything else. To get to the show notes you just go to livinghomegrown.com/136 and I'll have everything right there for you.

Also, this episode is brought you to you by my program Level Up. If you've ever considered teaching what you know online, I created something to help you. It's a PDF called *The Five Signs You're Ready to Digitize Your Expertise*. It has a section at the end that will help you narrow down a good topic for an online product. It's a completely free resource and I have it setup for you at livinghomegrown.com/free where you can download it whenever you're ready to get started.

So that's it for today. Thank you so much for joining me. I know how busy you are and I really appreciate that you took time out of your busy day to listen to this podcast. So until next time, just try to live a little more local, seasonal and homegrown. Take care.

Announcer: That's all for this episode of the Living Homegrown podcast. Visit livinghomegrown.com to download Theresa's free canning resource guide and find more tips on how to live farm fresh without the farm. Be sure to join Theresa Loe next time on the Living Homegrown podcast.