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entertaining

All



you can create the look and feel of a dining room outdoors by using a foldable table underneath a fabric tablecloth; don't worry too much if you don't have patio furniture. **The designer secret to elevate the style factor is to use your actual dining room chairs around the table!** It's unexpected and creates a casual, yet elegant look – especially when you layer your tablecloths in colors that reflect the spring season and add decorator pillows on the chairs to make them more comfy.

The gloomy days of winter are behind us and the sunshine beckons us to enjoy our outdoor spaces this spring. Take advantage of the beautiful backdrop by entertaining family and friends this season with a table setting inspired by the garden.

The table décor can also be whimsical beginning with each place setting. Shop at any garden center for oversized terracotta plant saucers and use these as a decorative charger. With your dinner plate on top – (*hint hint - not paper plates*), it's the perfect combination of garden chic. **Another idea is to use mason jars as glassware. Their vintage charm is perfect for homemade lemonade or any refreshing drink. The mason jars are inexpensive and you can find them at any craft store or supermarket.** They also make perfect candleholders or flowers vases, and look beautiful with tea lights suspended from tree branches, a pergola or patio umbrella at night. Hang them with fishing wire to make them appear as if floating in midair.

Group an assortment of plant pots in different sizes with colorful flowers or aromatic herbs for a centerpiece. You can surround the arrangement with natural grapevine or twigs, and add a layer of dried moss at the base. Terracotta pots in miniature can also be used as place cards. Fill them with a plant and write your guest's name on the outside with a permanent marker – these become party favors that your guests can take home as a reminder of this spring soiree. For a more rustic style, thin slices of logs can also be used as place cards, and by cutting them thicker, they make a great

Fresco

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Host a spring fling inspired by the outdoors.



base for candles when used with a hurricane glass around it. Finish off the place setting by rolling up your flatware inside kitchen towels in fun gingham patterns to replace traditional napkins and tie with a twine bow. Every detail counts! Other ideas to complete the experience are to use plant pots upside down as base to elevate your serving platters; this especially looks nice on a buffet table, and also think about using plastic planter boxes as a stylish ice cooler.

The concept behind a garden party is to incorporate elements you would find outdoors to decorate the table with a rustic elegance. The best part is you might already have a majority of these items for free in your own backyard! Have fun, fire up the barbecues and enjoy everything that spring has to offer as you entertain with style this season.