



September Yard of the Month





The September Yard of the Month features the home of Donna and Don Hinton, 114 Afton Way, in The Villas of Oakhurst. The home follows the overall Mediterranean vibe of the neighborhood with its red tile roof and brilliant white stucco exterior, and the Hintons have played up that style with their plantings, accessories and use of bright colors.

Don's experience as a football coach explains his dedication to meticulously maintaining the lawn. Crisp edging and a thick blanket of mulch control weeds in the flower beds that skirt the house. Palm trees at the corners of the home accentuate the Mediterranean feel. The contrast of dark greens in the shrubbery, primarily cleyeras and Indian hawthorns, with dark brown mulch and the cheerful chartreuse of sweet potato vine anchor the south corner of the house.

A tall double pink althea bush and a variety of colorful pots brimming with seasonal flowers accent the entryway. An

ornate cross nestles in a bed of monkey grass, and urns of lush ferns flank the

Donna says their interest in the lawn can be credited in some part to their families. Don's family business in his growing-up years was a feed and seed store, and the planting, fertilizing, mowing, and grooming can be traced to his years of managing football fields. Her mother and grandmother were all about plants and a big garden, and her sister is a master gardener.

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"We love being outside, and we love the beauty that plants bring to any land-scape," she adds.

The design of The Villa lots offers a challenge in creating impact, and the Hinton yard and garden show what a well-designed plan can create in a small space.

Nominations for the Yard of the Month, sponsored by *The Clinton Courier* and the Happy Gardeners Club, can be directed to Cheryl Yeagley at cyeagley13@gmail.com.

