

## Kimberly's Surprise

Nestled in one of Auburn's older established neighborhoods just off South College Street, you'll find **Kimberly's Surprise**. This family garden has been under improvement since it's new owners arrived four years ago from the eastern edge of our nation's great plains to the "loveliest village on the plains." The challenge of learning what plants grow best in our hot, humid climate was felt as numerous plants brought from their former home failed to survive in our higher humidity and longer growing season.

The gardener of this prime location loves the challenge of creating a garden for herself and her husband to utilize as a venue for work related functions. The gardener comments that since they have moved several times she likes to leave an improved and well maintained garden with each new location. Transforming gardens is an inherited trait from her gardening mother.

With that vision in mind several large spring flowering shrubs have been moved to balance the older flowering trees and newer plantings that add interest. The plantings have been selected to provide a variety of different blooms throughout our long growing season. Raised vegetable beds were created that provide fresh produce along with herbs for cooking and enjoying. These are enclosed by a brick wall topped by a unique section of metal fence. Decorative lanterns at set intervals within the fence structure provide another touch of completeness.

As you stroll the garden, take a moment to admire the longleaf pine sapling. This is the Alabama state tree and has the longest needles of any pine tree. Also look for numerous plantings in containers around the garden coupled with tons of interesting groundcover, hostas, coral bells, and other plants that form a green base for the larger plants. You'll also spot the gardener's collection of "garden art" throughout the garden.