

Grave undertaking



The last piece of the puzzle is now complete.

Of all the decorations, the graveyard is probably the easiest to set up (excluding the fence gang, which is just hanging stuff and so doesn't qualify in *my* definition of decorating).

Once the mulch is down (two bags worked fine), there is nothing left but for the randomly strewn bones and skeleton heads around the strategically placed tombstones. Well, it's not entirely random, there is a pattern to the layout, but it still amounts to a very easy setup.

Historically, I've draped webs over the graveyard, but I'm reconsidering this year. The biggest obstacle to web placement is points of anchor.

The webs you see for sale at most Halloween displays are basically gossamer fiber bunched together. To get the web "effect", you have to pull the strands apart, effectively stretching the gob of white, green, purple or black (there may be other colors, but I've never purchased them).

Without something to "anchor" them to (a tree branch, a plastic fence line, etc.), the "web" just becomes a balled up mass.

Additionally, it doesn't react well to wetness. Unlike real

spider webs, which glisten and sparkle after a rain or in the morning dew, the store-bought webs just tend to sag and tangle, losing their fluency and appeal.

Based on the expanded driveway display, I think eliminating the webs and putting the fog machine back in the middle of the landscaping (in that stony gap behind the tombstones) might make a more effective look this year.

Plus, placing those webs probably takes longer than setting up the whole graveyard! I need to shift into BBQ host mode for the Halloween party. I can always make the last-minute call to add webs on Sunday or Monday before Halloween.

So, for now, I'm only in disaster recovery mode, fixing all displays for the movements out of position caused by the never-ceasing rainstorms that have plagued me for the whole of the last week.

I only ask that they give the trick or treaters relief next Tuesday and let them have a safe and (reasonably) dry Halloween night.

The ball's in your court, Mom Nature.