

The American GARDENER®

The Magazine of the American Horticultural Society

May / June 2013



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LEFT: COURTESY OF MARK DWYER. RIGHT: COURTESY OF W. ATLEE BURKE CO.

ON THE COVER: Rosalind Creasy, author and edible landscaping pioneer, in her California garden. Photograph by Noah Hawthorne.

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NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

The American GARDENER

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FOR GARDENERS, spring is not only the time when our horticultural juices start flowing, but a time for traveling to flower shows, symposia, and meetings with like-minded gardening groups. In March, we traveled south to represent the American Horticultural Society at the second annual meeting of the Coalition of American Plant Societies (CAPS). Born out of a collective need for plant societies to stay relevant in today's changing world, this group includes representatives from a broad spectrum of national and regional plant societies.

The American Camellia Society (ACS) hosted this year's meeting at its headquarters, Massee Lane Gardens, located near Macon, Georgia (conveniently timed

to coincide with peak bloom time for the more than 1,000 camellia varieties in the garden). The meeting included presentations designed to address the challenges faced by plant societies and stimulated constructive conversations about practices that promote our missions and provide value to our members. It was exciting to see what the different groups

are doing to foster their members' different horticultural interests. (For more about the meeting, please turn to page 8.)

As part of our continuing support of these important horticultural groups, the American Horticultural Society will be hosting next year's CAPS meeting at our River Farm headquarters in the spring of 2014. We invite representatives of all specialty plant societies to join us so that we can expand the reach and influence of the CAPS as it moves into its third year. Look for more details about the meeting in upcoming issues of *The American Gardener* and on the AHS website.

Another important event nearer on the horizon is the AHS's National Children & Youth Garden Symposium from July 11 to 13, which this year is being hosted by the Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado. This is the 21st year for this unique event, which serves as a forum where practitioners of children's gardening from across the country can see exceptional gardens and programs, share innovative curricula, network with colleagues, and find inspirational ideas to take home to their own gardens and classrooms. Optional pre-symposium tours of the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in Wyoming and other Denver gardens are also on the agenda. For more about the symposium, turn to page 14 for a preview of the highlights.

Also in this issue of the magazine, you will find recommendations for deciduous shrubs that offer attractive foliage color to your summer garden, a how-to that offers guidance for creating a small pond in your garden, helpful advice for preventing and controlling aphids, and a profile of one of the most influential proponents of the edible landscaping movement, Rosalind Creasy.

Thanks again for being a part of the AHS gardening family, and happy gardening!

Harry Rissetto, Chair, AHS Board of Directors
Tom Underwood, Executive Director



MEMBERS' FORUM

TOMATO RECOMMENDATIONS

I thoroughly enjoyed the article "A Spectrum of Heirloom Tomatoes" (March/April 2013) by Craig LeHoullier. I garden in South Florida (Zone 10b) and love growing tomatoes. I am interested in getting some of the varieties mentioned, but I wondered which ones Mr. LeHoullier recommends as early, mid- and late-season varieties for my climate. Also, when should I plant them outdoors?

Raina O'Connor
Boynton Beach, Florida

Craig LeHoullier's response: A look through the varied offerings of the Florida-based Tomato Growers Supply Company suggests the sky is the limit as far as what you can grow in South Florida. Relying on the days-to-maturity information in seed catalogs as a guide—as well as considering fruit size—is probably the best way

to determine early, mid-, and late-season varieties. However, I've also found that maturity ranges are greatly influenced by a tomato grower's timing, cultural practices, seasonal weather, and garden exposure. Cherry tomatoes such as 'Sungold' and 'Black Cherry' tend to ripen first, followed by medium-sized tomatoes, with the largest beefsteak types taking the longest time to mature. Of course, there are exceptions, so my advice is to hedge your bets and go for a selection of colors and descriptions that you find attractive in a mix of estimated maturity ranges and sizes.

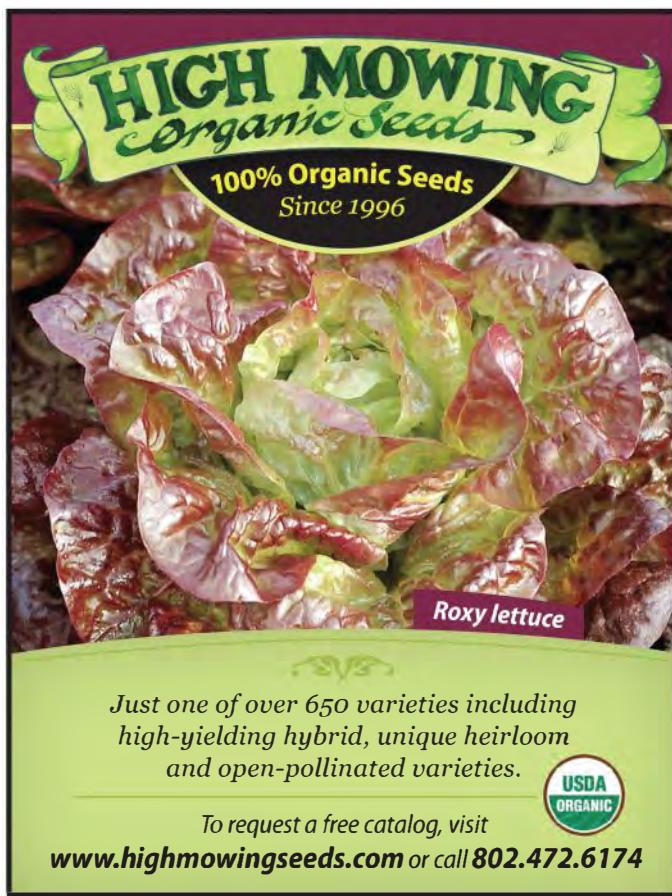
Florida tomato growers can usually start sowing seeds as early as August and continue through March, with harvesting season running roughly from November through June. This would avoid the hottest periods of the year, when diseases are most active and when tomatoes tend to drop their blossoms before setting fruit.

CURRENT CORRECTION

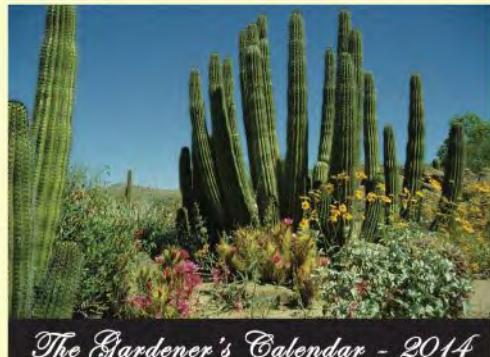
In the currant (*Ribes* spp.) article by Jo Ann Gardner (January/February 2013), it incorrectly states that all currant species are deciduous. *Ribes viburnifolium*, commonly known as evergreen currant or Catalina perfume, is definitely evergreen, as its name implies! It's a wonderful California species that is useful as a billowy groundcover for dry shady sites. The glossy leaves are borne on reddish stems, both of which emit a spicy aroma when bruised. The rather lax branches can be espaliered on a trellis, too. All in all, it's a very fine native shrub.

Carol Bornstein
Los Angeles, California

PLEASE WRITE US! Address letters to Editor, *The American Gardener*, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. Send e-mails to editor@ahs.org (note Letter to Editor in subject line). Letters we print may be edited for length and clarity.



A photograph of a High Mowing Organic Seeds seed packet for 'Roxy' lettuce. The packet features a green and yellow design with the company name at the top and a yellow banner below it stating '100% Organic Seeds Since 1996'. Below the banner is a close-up image of several heads of 'Roxy' lettuce, which have red and green variegated leaves. At the bottom of the packet, text reads 'Just one of over 650 varieties including high-yielding hybrid, unique heirloom and open-pollinated varieties.' A small USDA Organic logo is visible at the bottom right. The website 'www.highmowingseeds.com' and phone number '802.472.6174' are listed at the bottom.



The Gardener's Calendar - 2014

2014 "Gardener's" Calendar

One of the benefits that TGOA/MGCA offers its members is the opportunity for TGOA/MGCA and AHS members to participate in our annual photography contest. From these entries, photos are chosen for our annual calendar. We encourage all men and women to become a member of TGOA/MGCA and enjoy the benefits of a worthwhile organization. For more information about TGOA/MGCA or to order calendars for \$4.95 each postpaid, please call or e-mail:

The Gardeners of America / Men's Garden Clubs of America

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THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM TOURS



TOUR SPOTLIGHT



The Heritage and Gardens of Andalusia with Madrid

October 21–November 1, 2013

The Andalusian region of southern Spain features breathtaking natural beauty and gardens reflecting the many cultures that have settled there throughout history. In this tour, we will see gardens, art, cathedrals, castles, and palaces that recall a storied past. The tour will conclude with a visit to Spain's vibrant capital, Madrid. AHS Board member Landon Reeve will host this trip. Verity Smith of Specialtours will serve as the tour escort.

Accommodations for this program are limited; please make reservations early.



~ 2013–2014 Travel Destinations ~

Gardens of the Northern Italian Lakes

June 11–21, 2013

The Heritage and Gardens of Andalusia with Madrid

October 21–November 1, 2013

Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness: A Tour of New Zealand

January 11–26, 2014

Gardens of Normandy

September 9–19, 2014



For more information about the AHS Travel Study Program or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Joanne Sawczuk at jsawczuk@ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132.

Participation in the Travel Study Program benefits the work of the American Horticultural Society and furthers our vision of Making America a Nation of Gardeners, A Land of Gardens.



CONTACTS FOR AHS PROGRAMS, MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & DEPARTMENTS

For general information about your membership, call (800) 777-7931. Send change of address notifications to our membership department at 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. If your magazine is lost or damaged in the mail, call the number above for a replacement. Requests for membership information and change of address notification can also be e-mailed to membership@ahs.org.

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INTERNSHIP PROGRAM The AHS offers internships in communications, horticulture, and youth programs. For information, send an e-mail to education@ahs.org. Information and application forms can also be found in the Gardening Programs area of www.ahs.org.

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM For information about the Society's annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, e-mail education@ahs.org or visit the Gardening Programs section of www.ahs.org.

RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM The AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program offers members free admission and other discounts to nearly 300 botanical gardens and other horticultural destinations throughout North America. A list of participating gardens can be found in the Gardening Programs area of www.ahs.org. For more information, call (800) 777-7931 ext. 119.

RIVER FARM The AHS headquarters at River Farm is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays year-round (except Federal holidays), and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays from April through September. For information about events, rentals, and directions, visit the About River Farm section of www.ahs.org.

TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM Visit spectacular private and public gardens around the world through the Society's acclaimed Travel Study Program. For information about upcoming trips, call (703) 768-5700 ext. 132, send an e-mail to jsawczuk@ahs.org, or visit the Gardening Programs section of www.ahs.org.

WEBSITE: www.ahs.org The AHS website is a valuable source of information about the Society's programs and activities. Users must set up a username and password to access the member's-only sections.

News from the AHS

May / June 2013

PROGRAMS • EVENTS • ANNOUNCEMENTS

AHS PARTICIPATES IN PLANT SOCIETY MEETING

IN MARCH, AHS Board Chair **Harry Rissetto** and AHS Executive Director **Tom Underwood** represented the AHS at the second annual meeting of the Coalition of American Plant Societies (CAPS). The American Camellia Society (ACS) hosted the meeting at its headquarters, Massee Lane Gardens in Fort Valley, Georgia. Representatives from various plant societies such as the American Rose Society, the American Daffodil Society, and the Herb Society of America gathered to exchange ideas and share best practices on a variety of topics relevant to all these organizations, including communications, membership, and program development.



Patricia Collins and Robert "Buddy" Lee were speakers at the CAPS meeting.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, attendees enjoyed a guided tour of the Massee Lane Gardens, filled with blooming camellias, as well as presentations by guest speakers that included **Patricia Collins**, director of gardens at Georgia's Callaway Gardens, and **Robert "Buddy" Lee**, creator of the Encore line of reblooming azaleas. Among the presentations was one by the American Daffodil Society on the ADS's "DaffSeek" online database of daffodil photos that serves as a great resource for anyone interested in daffodils (it can be viewed at www.daffseek.org).

During the general session, Rissetto, a longtime member of the American Dahlia Society, addressed the group on the benefits of nurturing local plant and flower club relationships. "Today, nearly all plant societies have websites and virtual communities where information and photos can be shared," said Rissetto. "This kind of interaction is very efficient on a national level; however, it can't replace the tangible experience of a member picnic in a beautiful garden or the camaraderie at a flower show. Sharing a hobby bridges all sorts of differences."

Underwood wrapped up the general session by sharing tips on planning and implementing successful membership programs. "Although each of us is focused on different aspects of horticulture, we're all working toward providing multiple avenues for our members to pursue their passion for plants—with educational resources, special access to the plants and gardens they love, and opportunities for participating in activities that are rewarding, engaging, and fun," he said.

The AHS will be hosting next year's CAPS meeting, which will be held in spring 2014 at the Society's River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Representatives of plant societies nationwide are invited to attend. Once a date has been selected, information about the meeting will be posted on the AHS website and in this magazine.

GRANT FUNDS AHS ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS INTERNSHIP

THANKS TO a grant received through the 2013 ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP), the AHS has established a new Online Communications Internship to assist the Society's Communications staff with projects such as coordinating website updates, updating social media, and assisting with e-newsletter production.

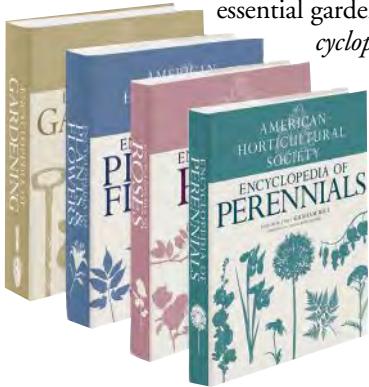
Sarah Ashley Patterson, a sophomore at the University of Virginia, was selected for the first internship, which runs from May to August. In addition to her regular tasks,

Patterson will work with the AHS staff to complete a special project that builds on her own interests in online communications.

The CSJP is administered by Volunteer Fairfax, a non-profit agency located in Fairfax, Virginia. The CSJP was founded in 1971 to introduce college students to the non-profit community. By sponsoring internships at non-profit agencies, the program helps students gain hands-on experience in a variety of organizations while increasing the ability of those agencies to accomplish their goals. In previous years, the AHS has used the grant program to fund internships in its membership and development departments.

SPECIAL MEMBERS-ONLY OFFER FROM THE FOLIO SOCIETY

THE FOLIO SOCIETY, an international publisher of beautifully illustrated books, is offering a comprehensive set of gardening books at a special discount rate exclusively for AHS members. The Complete Gardener's Collection, available only through the Folio Society, is a four-volume, hardcover, slip-covered set of essential garden guides. It contains the *Encyclopedia of Roses*, *Encyclopedia of Gardening*, and two American Horticultural Society references: the *AHS Encyclopedia of Perennials*, and the *AHS Encyclopedia of Plants & Flowers*.



AHS members can purchase this four-book set, valued at \$220, for just \$14.95 with a Folio Society membership, and will receive

a free Folio Society tote bag as a thank you gift.

This offer will be available until June 30 or while quantities last. To learn more, visit www.foliosociety.com/ahsmem.

RIVER FARM REOPENS

THE AHS'S RIVER FARM headquarters reopened to the public on April 29 after being closed for nearly four months during major utility construction and building renovation. "We are pleased to welcome AHS members and other visitors back to the gardens again," says AHS Executive Director **Tom Underwood**. "We're especially looking forward to hearing the sounds of children once again playing in the Children's Garden and other parts of the grounds."

The first phase of the utility construction project, funded in part by donations to the Society's "By-the-Foot" Capital Cam-

Save the Date for 2013 Gala

Mark your calendar now to reserve the date for this year's AHS Gala, which will be held Saturday, September 21, at the Society's River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. "Moonlight in the Garden" is the theme for the elegant evening event, which features a formal dinner, silent auction, and a chance to stroll River Farm's gardens as the sun sets. **Mark Warner**, the current senior U.S. Senator from Virginia, and former Virginia governor, is serving as honorary chair for this year's Gala.

An advertisement for Espoma Organic Potting Mix. At the top, a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink patterned dress, is smiling and reaching out to touch a large hanging basket overflowing with white and pink flowers. Below her, three bags of Espoma Organic Potting Mix are displayed. The bags are green with white and yellow text. The central bag is labeled 'FOR ORGANIC GARDENING' and 'All Natural - Enriched with Mycorrhizae'. The bags are set against a background of soil and more flowers. Below the bags, a large green banner with white text reads 'When you use the original, it shows.' To the right of the banner, the Espoma logo is shown in a green ribbon banner with the text 'SINCE 1929' above 'Espoma.' Below the banner, the word 'ORGANIC.' is written in large green letters, followed by the tagline 'A natural in the garden since 1929.' At the bottom, a green bar contains the website address 'www.espoma.com/videos'.

Gifts of Note

In addition to vital support through membership dues, the American Horticultural Society relies on grants, bequests, and other gifts to support its programs. We would like to thank the following donors for gifts received between March 1, 2013, and April 30, 2013.

\$1,000+ Gifts

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In memory of Max DeSilva and in honor of Alexander DeSilva

If you would like to support the American Horticultural Society as part of your estate planning, as a tribute to a loved one, or as part of your annual charitable giving plan, please contact Scott Lyons at slyons@ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 127.



AHS 2013 NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events that are sponsored or co-sponsored by the AHS. Visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 for more information.

- JUNE 6. **Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet.** River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- JUNE 27–29. **The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America Annual Convention.** Springfield, Illinois.
- JULY 11–13. **National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.** Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado.
- SEPT. 21. **AHS Annual Gala.** River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- OCT. 21–NOV. 1. **The Heritage and Gardens of Andalusia with Madrid.** AHS Travel Study Tour.

paign, involved connecting River Farm to the Fairfax County public sewer system. Renovations inside the Estate House included repainting the entire lower level—which is open to the public—and resurfacing the hardwood floors.

For the remainder of the spring and summer, River Farm will be open during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Admission is free, but donations are appreciated to help support the ongoing stewardship of River Farm. For further information about rentals, events, programs, and volunteering at River Farm, visit the AHS website (www.ahs.org) and click on “About River Farm.”

AHS FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

THIS YEAR, the AHS’s Environmental Award was presented at 14 participating garden and flower shows across the country. The award is given to exhibits that demonstrate how the art of horticulture can be used to promote environmental sustainability.

At the Southeastern Flower Show in Atlanta, Georgia, the AHS award was one of six captured by a display titled “Ida’s Cultivated Earth.” Attention to detail paid off for designer **Brooks Garcia** of Fine Gardens, and the staff at Hill and Dales, who constructed the display along with **Nate Tomsheck** of LaGrange College. An homage to renowned Georgia gardener Ida Cason Callaway, the display featured a replica of her garden workhouse adjacent to a vegetable and flower garden, complete with compost pile, garden arbor, martin house, hot bed, cold frame, and a chicken coop.

Also taking the Gold Medal, the Founder’s Cup, and the Golden Palette Awards, the winner of the Environmental Award at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show in Seattle, Washington, in February was **RHR Horticulture & Landwave Gardens** with their display titled “The Lost Gardener—A Journey from the Wild to the



This exhibit, “The Lost Gardener—A Journey from the Wild to the Cultivated,” was inspired by several Hollywood adventure movies.

Cultivated.” Inspired by movies such as *Jurassic Park* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, this lush display of unusual plants from specialty growers featured multiple micro-climates.

The AHS Environmental Award program is judged by nationally recognized leaders in fields such as landscape architecture and garden design. Criteria for the award include factors such as the use of non-invasive species, designs that provide for wildlife habitat and water conservation, and overall sustainability.

News written by Editorial Intern Lynne Hoffman and AHS staff.



Legacies assume many forms



Whether making estate plans, considering year-end giving, honoring a loved one or planting a tree, the legacies of tomorrow are created today.

Please remember the American Horticultural Society when making your estate and charitable giving plans. Together we can leave a legacy of a greener, healthier, more beautiful America.



For more information on including the AHS in your estate planning and charitable giving, or to make a gift to honor or remember a loved one, please contact Scott Lyons at slyons@ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 127.

Making America a Nation of Gardeners, a Land of Gardens

AHS MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Ian Warnock

by Lynne Hoffman

MOST PEOPLE can remember specific events or mentors who inspired their love of gardening. For AHS member Ian Warnock, the inspiration came during his childhood in Scotland. While visiting his grandmother, he read about how to grow peas in a bucket in a “helpful hints” column in the newspaper. Who could deny an 11-year-old’s request to try such an experiment? Thankfully, not Warnock’s parents; soon he had an entire vegetable garden growing in buckets. Since then, his interest in plants and gardening has never waned.

After working as an apprentice for the local public parks district, he attended Threave School of Practical Gardening (now the School of Heritage Gardening), near Dumfries, Scotland, for two years. Following his training at Threave, Warnock returned to the parks department as a journeyman gardener, but before finishing his four-year commitment, he was offered an international internship to study at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. There, he fell in love with more than the gardens, meeting his wife, Pat, who was also a professional gardener student. After becoming engaged in Scotland in 1984, they returned to the United States to pursue their horticultural journey together.

SCOTTISH TRANSPLANT

From Pennsylvania, the couple moved to Washington, D.C., where Pat became a horticulturist at the White House. Warnock worked for a time at the U.S. Botanic Garden before accepting the position of head gardener at the British Embassy in 1990. When the embassy hosted the Queen’s Garden Party, Warnock says he “just put on my best garden kilt, watched for the top of her hat amidst the soldiers, and when it came my turn to meet her, I followed the etiquette, waiting until she put out her hand before bowing and returning the handshake.”

The Warnocks enjoyed the active horticultural scene in and around the nation’s capital, but when Pat’s mother began send-



Maintaining the topiary carousel in the children’s garden is among the many tasks Ian Warnock juggles as lead horticulturist at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

ing news clippings about the 1995 opening of the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Pat’s hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, it seemed like an opportunity to play an integral role in the birth of a new public garden. Warnock immediately applied for a position at Meijer and he has been the lead horticulturist there for the past 17 years. In addition to the internationally renowned sculpture collection, the 132-acre property also features a tropical conservatory, and ever-expanding garden collections, including the Lena Meijer Children’s Garden, which opened in 2004.

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Warnock’s involvement with the creation of the Children’s Garden galvanized an already active interest in children’s gardening. Young visitors to the garden sometimes discover Warnock wandering about dressed as Mr. McGregor from the Peter Rabbit books or as a Jack-in-the-box. “Just watching the wee ones running pell-mell, or the more introspective kids who are happy to

sit and watch me plant or weed; that makes it special,” says Warnock, “And when one of them asks, ‘Can I help?’ Well, then you know you’ve caught them!”

To further his professional development and offer advice on successful programs to others in children’s gardening, he began attending the AHS’s National Children & Youth Garden Symposium in 2000, and has made several presentations at the event over the years. Warnock says he enjoys reconnecting with other attendees and sharing ideas.

RECALLING HIS ROOTS

For Warnock, gardening is not just a job. In his spare time, he enjoys tending the alpine plants in the rock garden he has created at his Grand Rapids home. He is also working on a children’s book—a quasi-autobiographical journal to explain to future generations how a bucket of peas led him to America.

Lynne Hoffman is an editorial intern with The American Gardener.

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 21ST ANNUAL

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM



AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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- Discover the beauty and richness of the Rocky Mountain region.



JULY 11-13, 2013 • Hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens

There is a growing trend in this country of bringing children and nature together, and the American Horticultural Society is proud to have been on the leading edge of that trend since 1993. The National Children & Youth Garden Symposium has attracted thousands of participants over the years, and each attendee has taken away valuable knowledge and shared it with countless others.

The 2013 Symposium is hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens, situated in the heart of Colorado's dynamic capital. Participants will have the opportunity to explore its beautiful gardens as well as learn how it is using plants to make a positive difference in the lives of Denver's citizens.

In addition, the Symposium will spotlight several other organizations in the region that have a proven record of success in regards to youth gardening education: Denver Urban Gardens, The Gardens on Spring Creek, and Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. Presentations by students, educators, and leading national experts will address a wide variety of topics from implementing innovative programs, activities, and curricula to fundraising and garden design.



For more information:

Visit www.ahs.org/ncygs, e-mail education@ahs.org, or call (703) 768-5700

Mile-High City

BY JANE KUHN

Denver and the Rocky Mountain region offer fertile ground for this year's 21st annual AHS National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.



Summer favorites at Denver Botanic Gardens include the Water Gardens, above.



COMPRISING LANDSCAPES as diverse as the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains, Colorado boasts abundant natural beauty. In this inspiring setting, the American Horticultural Society's 21st annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS) will take place July 11 to 13. This national event, the only one of its kind in North America, is designed for anyone who works with young people in the garden, offering the opportunity to exchange ideas, network, tour model gardens and programs, and learn from a variety of experts.

"We're excited to bring the symposium to the Rocky Mountains for the second time in its history," says AHS Executive Director Tom Underwood. "Some truly

fantastic things in the children's gardening arena are happening in this region, which symposium participants will get the chance to see first-hand. Whether you work with kids in a school setting, public garden, or through a community organization, this event has something for everyone!"

EXEMPLARY HOST GARDEN

This year's NCYGS will be hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG), located in the center of Colorado's Mile High City. The majority of the symposium's workshops and lectures will take place in DBG's exceptional education facilities, and attendees will have ample opportunities to explore its 42 distinctive gardens. In addition, participants will enjoy an evening reception and dinner at DBG's Chatfield campus, a working farm.

Hosts AHS Symposium



Open space and multiple options for creative, interactive play are key design features of Denver Botanic Gardens' acclaimed Mordecai Children's Garden, above and left.

Through these gardens and its programs, DBG strives to facilitate life-long learning for both adults and youth, and there is no place more appropriate for young ones to become acquainted with the natural world than the Mordecai Children's Garden. This three-acre garden, which opened in 2012, is designed to facilitate family interaction by encouraging adults to actively participate in their children's discovery and play. Drawing inspiration from children's gardens all over the country, Mordecai emphasizes natural space and provides multifaceted hands-on experiences for its visitors. The goal is to give children tangible encounters with the natural world that will encourage them to seek out similar experiences in their home environments.

According to Melissa Gula, the Children's Garden Program Coordinator at DBG, one of Mordecai's unique features is that it "is partially built on top of the Garden's parking structure, making approximately one third of the Children's Garden a green roof." The green roof helps to capture rain water and is strong enough to support the weight of soil, plants, and visitors. Another special characteristic of Mordecai is that its exhibits include six different native ecosystems, illustrating the diversity and adaptations of plant life in Colorado. The Mist-ery Forest, designed to replicate the montane forest ecosystem, is a prime example. One of the most popular destinations in the garden, the Mist-ery Forest contains "abundant loose natural materials that

visitors can move about and use for imaginative play," says Gula.

Additionally, DBG actively reaches youth through myriad educational classes, events, and interactive spaces. For example, children's camps offering engaging activities such as cooking, games, and take-home plants are available throughout the summer. The Home Harvest Garden is planted with a range of annuals, perennials, fruits, and vegetables and is stocked with child-size gardening tools to encourage hands-on interaction. This special space creates opportunities for young people to plant, harvest, and tend to both raised and in-ground beds. All of these programs function as proactive extensions of DBG's mission of connecting people and plants and engaging all levels of the Denver community.



In the Denver Urban Gardens program, kids are encouraged not only to grow and harvest vegetables, but to understand their important role in a nutritious diet.

Other ways DBG fulfills its mission is by showcasing a broad range of gardens and collections that highlight this people/plant connection, with a special focus on native and adapted plants that thrive in Western gardens. Unique elements of the Mountain West, such as high altitude, a semi-arid climate, and mountainous terrain, are mirrored in the garden's landscapes. DBG also works to preserve Colorado's natural heritage by introducing visitors to the flora and ecosystems found in their own backyards, and fostering a sense of pride and responsibility toward the natural world in general.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to becoming familiar with DBG's inspirational gardens and programs, symposium attendees will get a chance to experience the work of the Symposium's partner organizations during pre- and post-symposium tours.

Among these is Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), an organization that supports one of the largest community garden networks in the United States, which will be the focus of one pre-symposium field trip on July 10. Participants will learn about DUG's involvement in establishing three school gardens and the vital role each plays in building community, improving health, and enhancing education. A youth-led farmer's market, a schoolyard farm supply

ing the cafeteria salad bar, and integrated nutrition and science classes will be among the interdisciplinary aspects of youth gardening encountered at these sites.

Another pre-symposium tour option, also on July 10, will take participants to the Gardens on Spring Creek in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in Wyoming. Both of these public gardens feature innovative children's gardens, plus much more (see opposite

page). Knowledgeable staff members will lead tours at both locations, highlighting the history and development of the children's gardens and relating each organization's philosophy and approach to hands-on educational programming.

After the conclusion of the symposium, an optional trip to Boulder will offer participants a special "farm-to-cup" experience. The first stop will be Avery Brewing Company, a group that has been experimenting with a line of innovative brews made with locally sourced ingredients since 1993. Afterwards, the group will visit Niwot Hops Farm, which grows herbs, flowers, and vegetables—in addition to producing hops for Avery—all with an emphasis on sustainability and biodiversity. To cap off the day, participants will enjoy a delicious pizza dinner on the farm catered by Crust, a mobile pizza kitchen, accompanied by a variety of beverages, including selections from Avery's brewing line.

KEYNOTES AND EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Complementing the tours and field trips that are always an anticipated element of each NCYGS is a diverse slate of more than 50 educational sessions, workshops, and talks by national and regional children's gardening experts. Topics to be addressed include horticultural therapy, examples of creative garden curricula, design and maintenance, sustainability, and fundraising.



Whimsical sculptures welcome and engage young people in the Gardens on Spring Creek.

NCYGS 2013 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

To showcase a wide cross-section of the Rocky Mountain region's children and youth gardening initiatives during its National Children & Youth Garden Symposium this July, the AHS is proud to partner with three education-centric public and community gardens working to train and empower the next generation of gardeners.

CHEYENNE BOTANIC GARDENS

Cheyenne, Wyoming, has one of the nation's most challenging garden climates, thanks to the amount of hail and wind it typically experiences in a year. Therefore, the stunning nine acres of gardens and award-winning landscapes that comprise Cheyenne Botanic Gardens (CBG) is no small feat. This public garden boasts vibrant perennial and annual displays, a labyrinth, and peace garden among many other interactive spaces. The Paul Smith Children's Village is its centerpiece, providing hands-on classes, displays, events, and tours for children and their families.

"Its overarching theme," explains CBG Education Director Aaron Sommers, "is sustainability at a scale that appropriately engages children's imagination and wonder." LEED® Platinum Certified, this one-of-a-kind children's garden affords youth the opportunity to tangibly learn practical methods of gardening and sustainable living. For more information, visit www.botanic.org.



Paul Smith Children's Village

DENVER URBAN GARDENS

Established in 1985, Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) focuses on improving communities and health through gardens. It currently supports more than 125 community gardens, 40 of which are school-based. Seeking to support each community garden in ways most beneficial to its specific needs, DUG offers an array of resources and program support. These include an integrated nutrition and gardening curriculum, support for youth farmer's markets, intergenerational volunteers, and educator workshops.

"DUG and AHS share an interest in connecting young people to gardens," notes Jessica Romer, DUG's community initiatives coordinator, "rooted in the belief that the lessons offered in the garden are life-changing for children of all backgrounds." During this year's symposium, DUG will share insights gathered from its work in the greater Denver community. To find out more about its palate of projects and involvements, visit www.dug.org.

THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

The Gardens on Spring Creek (GSC) in Fort Collins is host to an eclectic variety of landscapes from the xeric parkway strip, designed by nationally recognized landscape designer and garden author, Lauren Springer-Ogden, to the rock garden and daylily, dahlia, and wetland demonstration gardens. Of the many inspiring spaces at GSC, the Children's Garden was the first to open in 2006. Here, a Green Roof Shelter comprised of straw bales and living roof, animal tracks, and a hands-on "dig here" raised bed entice youngsters and their parents to explore the natural world. GSC facilitates numerous educational programs for youth including parent-child projects, popular "Read and Seed" classes, and school field trips. Learn more at www.fcgov.com/gardens. —J.K.

Anchoring these sessions will be keynote presentations from three of the country's leading experts in youth gardening. Louise Chawla, the associate director of the Children, Youth and Environments Center for Community Engagement at the University of Colorado, will



David Sobel

talk about the importance of engaging children with

nature in order to foster conscious environmental stewardship over the course of their lives. Marcia Eames-Sheavly, the children and youth program leader for Cornell Garden-Based Learning in Ithaca, New York, will provide resources and advice for demonstrating the value of educational gardens in her presentation. The final keynote, David Sobel, a senior faculty member in the education department at Antioch University New England in Keene, New Hampshire, will share insights from his work focusing on child development and place-based education. Sobel, who has written seven books and more than 60 articles focused

on children and nature, consults and speaks widely with schools, environmental organizations, and the National Park Service.

Through field trips, special keynotes, networking, and three days of engaging sessions, symposium participants will not only find fresh inspiration for their own gardens and programs, they will also get a taste of Colorado's beauty and diversity. In this unforgettable setting, this year's NCYGS is a can't-miss event for garden educators, administrators, youth program leaders, and designers of all kinds.

Jane Kuhn is the 2013 NCYGS coordinator.

Shrubs with outstanding Summer Foliage

Add interest during the dog days of summer by integrating deciduous shrubs that offer colorful or variegated foliage.

BY ANDREW BUNTING

AS SPRING FADES into early summer, the majority of flowering perennials, shrubs, and trees reach their zenith of glory. Some hold their appeal for an extended period, but as the dog days of summer take their toll on the ornamental garden, all but the most stalwart plants fall by the wayside. This is when tough deciduous shrubs with outstanding foliar interest can anchor a garden's design, aided by a supporting cast of annuals, tropicals, and flowering perennials that endure at this time of year.

The leaves of many deciduous shrubs are vibrantly colored when they first open in spring, but for the most part this color fades as the leaves mature and the weather warms. Some purple-foliaged plants dull to a purplish-green, while plants with yellow, chartreuse, or variegated foliage tend to scorch or take on a bleached look.

Most of the plants I have selected to profile here are ones that in my experience at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, offer long-lasting and attractive foliage color throughout the summer. Of these, many are best suited for gardens in temperate regions of North America, but I have included a couple of subtropical or tender shrubs. Some additional choices are included in a chart (see page 23). I also con-



'Royal Purple' is a classic purple-leaved selection of smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*).

sulted experts in some other regions of the country and you can find their recommendations on page 21.

THE COLOR PURPLE

A good asset in any garden, purple-foliaged plants are the great "equalizer" in that they combine well with almost all other colors. They provide a great backdrop or foil for the hot reds, oranges, and yellows, while at the same time softening fuchsias, cerises, and magentas. Purples provide striking

contrasts with chartreuse and nicely complement other more subdued colors such as cream and metallic blue.

I have always been a fan of the different selections of the purple-leaved smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*, USDA Hardiness Zones 5–9, AHS Heat Zones 9–3). The tall, upright stems of this shrub, which will grow to 15 or 20 feet tall, are cloaked in round dark purple leaves. In the mid-Atlantic, purple-leaved smokebush is best treated as a cut-back shrub by pruning

its stems down to a framework of two to four feet in late spring each year. This will keep the plant smaller and give the newly emerging leaves a more intense color. For years 'Royal Purple' was the most popular cultivar, but it has been superseded by 'Velvet Cloak', which has black-purple leaves. An even newer selection, 'Black Velvet' retains its dark purple leaves late into the season.

Several of the ninebarks (*Physocarpus opulifolius*, Zones 3–9, 8–1) also boast reddish-purple to purple foliage. This spirea relative, widely native in eastern North America, has arching stems covered in upward-facing clusters of dome-shaped flowers in May. This tough, drought-resistant species reaches 10 feet tall and thrives in challenging soils and full sun. Like smokebush, ninebarks can be cut back hard in late spring to improve leaf color, as long as you are willing to forgo flowering. I cut it back every other year in my home garden, which allows me to enjoy the flowers in alternate years.

Selections offer a range of sizes and foliage color choices. Growing to eight feet tall, 'Monlo' (Diabolo™) is the larg-



Little Honey™ hydrangea offers dramatic color on a compact plant.

est-statured cultivar of the purple-leaved types. The leaves are deep purple with a tint of red; the red is accentuated in regions with hot summers, such as the Deep South. 'Seward' (Summer Wine®) is smaller in size, reaching five to six feet with reddish-purple foliage.

Most hydrangeas are grown for their summer flowers, but there are a few with terrific summer foliage. A relatively new introduction from Monrovia's Dan Hinkley Collection is *Hydrangea aspera* Plum Passion® (Zones 6–9, 9–5). Discovered in central China, this selection grows five or six feet tall. Its spear-shaped leaves are smoky-purple on top and rose-pink beneath, with a coating of velvety hairs. Lacecap flowers with four-parted white florets radiating around many tiny mauve flowers in the center of the inflorescence bloom in summer.

YELLOW AND CHARTREUSE

Maintaining yellow or golden foliage on deciduous shrubs in the summer is often challenging. Many shrubs exhibit outstanding displays of vibrant yellows and chartreuse but as the intensity of the sun increases, the color often fades to yellow-green or lime-green.

Another smokebush selection, Golden Spirit™, has exceptional golden foliage in the spring in the Philadelphia area, but fades to yellow-green in summer. In regions where the summers are less intense, such as northern California, Pacific



In addition to its attractive purple foliage, Diabolo™ ninebark bears a profusion of pinkish-white flower clusters in spring.



Tiger Eyes™ is a staghorn sumac selection that maintains its brilliant yellow, deeply cut foliage even in full sun.

Northwest, and New England, the excellent yellow color will last all summer long.

Hydrangea quercifolia 'Brihon' (Little Honey™) is worth the effort to include in the garden. In every respect it is a diminutive version of the oakleaf hydrangea. The leaves, flowers and stature are smaller. Smaller oaklike leaves cover this small, spreading rounded shrub which only reaches four feet tall with an equal spread. In July, it bears stout cone-shaped panicles of white flowers and the foliage is a striking soft yellow. In warmer regions, the trick to successfully growing 'Brihon' is finding the perfect site. Too much sun and the leaves will burn and too much shade will result in green foliage. Planting it on the edge of a shaded area or in dappled shade will result in a striking summer beauty which can bring a beacon of brightness to the lightly shaded garden.

For outstanding golden foliage in full sun, a favorite is 'Bailtiger' (Tiger Eyes™), a yellow-foliage selection of the staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*, Zones 3–8, 8–1). The compound leaves with many leaflets create a striking textural effect in the gar-

Sources

Avant Gardens, Dartmouth, MA.

(508) 998-8819.

www.avantgardensne.com.

Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT.

(203) 288-1026.

www.brokenarrownursery.com.

Forestfarm, Williams, OR. (541)

846-7269. www.forestfarm.com.

Gossler Farms, Springfield, OR. (541)

746-3922. www.gosslerfarms.com.

Plant Delights Nursery, Inc., Raleigh,

NC. (919) 772-4794.

www.plantdelights.com.

Resources

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants (6th ed.) by Michael A. Dirr. Stipes Publishing, Champaign, Illinois, 2009.

Sunset Western Garden Book (9th ed.) edited by Kathleen Norris

Brenzel. Sunset Publishing, Menlo, California, 2012.

den. The golden foliage holds up very well in full sun where this native sumac thrives. It can either be treated as a cut-back shrub, or allowed to reach 15 feet tall and take on beautiful architectural shapes in the garden. Spreading via underground stems (stolons), like other sumacs, it can be a bully in certain garden situations, so be sure to allow plenty of room for growth.

BLUE AND SILVER

Silver, pewter, and glaucous blue are not typical foliage colors for deciduous shrubs. However, there are a handful of stellar shrubs that offer these foliar attributes in the garden. One example is a newish small statured selection of St. John's-wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*, Zones 4–9, 9–1) saddled with the intentionally cumbersome cultivar name 'Cflpc-4I' but trademarked as Blue Velvet. Blooming from midsummer to fall, the golden-yellow flowers make a striking contrast to the steely-blue foliage. Blue Velvet grows two to three feet tall with a rounded habit. It takes full sun and is very drought tolerant once established.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

For summer foliage color, Richie Steffen, curator of plants at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle, Washington, recommends variegated Japanese mint shrub (*Leucosceptrum stellipilum* 'October Moon', Zones 5–8, 8–5) for its "fantastic bold, rounded foliage that is bright green and widely edged in lime-yellow." Growing to about three feet tall, 'October Moon' bears spiky lavender flowers in late summer that Steffen says "look great with the leaves." According to Steffen, it is adaptable to East Coast gardens as well, but would probably be best in a site with part or dappled shade.

Nancy Rose, editor of *Arnoldia*, a magazine published by the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, calls 'Donna May' (Little Devil™), which grows to three feet tall with an upright habit, "a great asset for smaller gardens, where full-sized purple ninebarks won't fit." Rose says it's a useful substitute for purple-leaved cultivars of Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), "which is very invasive in New England so both the species and cultivars are banned in some states."

Rose also recommends southern bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla sessilifolia*) selection 'LPDC Podaras' (Cool Splash™), which grows two to four feet tall with a mounded habit in sun or part shade. "Its stems root at the tips, so it makes a good groundcover, especially for slopes," she adds.



TOP: BILL JOHNSON; BOTTOM: COURTESY OF BAILEY NURSERIES



Denny Schrock, state Master Gardener coordinator at Iowa State University in Ames, also recommends 'Donna May' ninebark for its attractive burgundy foliage from spring through fall. "It provides a stunning backdrop for light-colored perennial flowers," says Schrock. "As a bonus, in late spring it bears clusters of white blooms with a hint of pink, and in fall, reddish fruits adorn the plant. With a mature height of just three to four feet, this low-maintenance selection of a Midwest native plant easily fits into almost any size landscape."

Another Schrock favorite is the bluebeard (*Caryopteris × clandonensis*, Zones 6–9, 9–1) selection 'Summer Sorbet', which he says "charms with its green foliage edged in gold throughout the summer." It reaches three feet tall and wide and its sky blue flowers, which bloom in late summer, attract butterflies and bees. "Although the aboveground stems are only reliably hardy to USDA Zone 6, the roots survive in Zone 5, and will send up vigorous stems that reliably bloom the following year," says Schrock.

For the Southeast, Jamie Blackburn, curator of woody plants at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, recommends 'Brihon' (Little Honey™) oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*). "This selection holds its color well into July before fading to a light green, as most golden-foliaged shrubs do in our Southern heat, and its small stature makes it good for a small space in part shade," says Blackburn. "A light pruning in summer will also encourage a golden new flush of growth that will persist into fall." —A.B.



The striking blue-green foliage of honey flower or honey bush has a sweet fragrance that has been compared to peanut butter.

Red-leaved rose (*Rosa glauca*, Zones 2–8, 8–1) is one of the very few roses that is coveted for its ornamental foliage. The smoky purple-blue foliage on this upright species rose, which reaches six to eight feet tall, provides a striking contrast for the five-petaled, single, cerise-pink flowers that open in late spring.

Honey flower or honey bush (*Melianthus major*, Zones 8–11, 12–8) is small, relatively tender shrub native to southern Africa that has glaucous blue-green compound leaves composed of finely toothed individual leaflets. The foliage also has an intriguing, sweet scent that inspired its alternate common name of peanut-butter plant. Intriguing rusty-red flowers bloom on terminal spikes above the foliage in late summer. It will grow two or three feet tall as an annual, but is known to reach six feet in regions where it winters over, such as parts of the Pacific Northwest. Provide free-draining soil and a site in part shade.

VARIEGATED

There are many, many cultivars of shrubs that have bicolor or tricolor variegated leaves of green, yellow, and cream. One of my favorites is a selection of the native

Southern bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla sessilifolia*, Zones 4–8, 8–1). ‘LPDC Podaras’ (Cool Splash™) is a colonizing shrub that reaches four feet tall in full sun or part shade. The tapering leaves have dark green centers and creamy-white margins. Clusters of tubular light yellow flowers



‘Duet’ is a white-berried beautyberry featuring attractively variegated leaves.

appear in midsummer, attracting ruby-throated hummingbirds.

Another great shrub with white-and-green variegated foliage is ‘Duet’, a selection of purple beautyberry (*Callicarpa dichotoma*, Zones 5–8, 8–6) introduced by the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. This white-fruited beautyberry can reach six feet at maturity. However, because it blooms and fruits on “new wood” it can be cut nearly to the ground in late spring, thus keeping it to a more compact three to four feet.

The glossy abelia (*Abelia ×grandiflora*, Zones 6–9, 9–6) has always been a stalwart flowering shrub in the summer landscape. It has experienced a considerable renaissance in the garden with many new interesting variegated cultivars being introduced. ‘Kaleidoscope’ has an abundance of white star-shaped flowers in summer and fall and narrow glossy leaves of yellow, green and a touch of pink. This mounding shrub grows to two or three feet tall with a slightly broader spread. Confetti™ has green leaves with a cream margin and ‘Sunrise’ has yellow margins. For best foliage color in warmer regions, a site with some afternoon shade is ideal. In northern

MORE SHRUBS FOR SUMMER FOLIAGE COLOR

Botanical Name (Common Name)	Height/Width (feet)	Foliage Interest; Other Features	Origin	USDA Hardiness, AHS Zones
Yellow Foliage				
<i>Corylopsis spicata</i> 'Ogon' (spike winter hazel)	6/10	yellow-gold; yellow fragrant flowers in spring	Japan	5–8, 8–5
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i> Chardonnay Pearls™ (slender deutzia)	3/2	yellow to lime-yellow; fragrant white flowers in spring	Japan	5–8, 8–5
<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i> Dream Catcher™ (beautybush)	10/12	new leaves bronze-purple-yellow, mature yellow, then turn light green; pink flowers late spring and early summer; golden orange fall color	western China	5–9, 9–5
<i>Leycesteria formosa</i> Golden Lanterns™ (Himalayan honeysuckle)	5/5	yellow to yellow-green; tinted red white flowers from summer into early fall with dark red bracts	Himalayas, western China/eastern Tibet	7–9, 9–6
<i>Spiraea thunbergii</i> 'Ogon' (Thunberg spirea)	3–5/3–5	yellow to yellow-green; white flowers in spring	China/Japan	5–8, 8–5
Purple Foliage				
<i>Lagerstroemia</i> Delta Jazz™ (crape myrtle)	6–10/4–5	burgundy, cupped leaves; bright pink blooms in summer; orange-red fall color; brownish-red peeling bark	garden origin	7–9, 9–7
<i>Loropetalum chinense</i> var. <i>rubrum</i> Purple Pixie® (Chinese fringeflower)	1–2/4–5	deep maroon to purple-green leaves; hot pink flowers in summer	China	7–9, 9–7
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> Black Lace™ (European elder or black elder)?	6–8/6	lacy, fern-textured, dark purple leaves; fragrant pale pink flowers in summer; lustrous black fruit in fall	Europe, northern Africa, western Asia	6–8, 8–6
Green and White Variegated				
<i>Daphne xtransatlantica</i> 'Summer Ice' (Caucasian daphne)	3/4	medium green leaves with a white margin; flush of white blooms in late spring and sporadically into fall	garden origin	5–7, 7–5
<i>Disanthus cercidifolius</i> 'Ena Nishiki' (redbud hazel)	10/10	bluish-green heart-shaped leaves with broad white margins; small, slightly fragrant burgundy flowers in fall; red, orange, and gold fall color	Japan	5–8, 8–5
<i>Orixa japonica</i> 'Pearl Frost' (variegated Japanese orixa)	6–8/6–8	gray-green leaves with creamy white margins	Japan	6–10, 10–6
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> 'Variegatus' (mock orange)	8/8	medium green leaves with an irregular cream border; fragrant white flowers in early summer; peeling orange-red bark	southeastern Europe/Asia Minor	4–9, 9–4

gardens glossy abelias are semi-evergreen to deciduous while in the South they tend to be more evergreen.

FINDING THE RIGHT SITE

Because regional climate, especially summer heat and humidity, will affect the performance and appearance of some of these foliage shrubs, selecting a site with the right light exposure is one of the keys to success. In the Northeast, the upper

Midwest, and in parts of the Pacific Northwest, many will thrive in full sun. In the mid-Atlantic and parts of the lower Midwest, part shade is probably the best choice for many foliage plants, especially those with yellow or chartreuse foliage. In hot summer regions such as the Southeast and the Deep South, it may be difficult to keep yellow and chartreuse foliage plants happy short of a site with full afternoon shade and some supplemental irrigation.

In the right site, plants with colorful foliage will extend the garden's interest through the middle of summer, bridging the gap between the early summer bloomers and the arrival of the fall-flowering perennials. As such, they are a key component of any gardener or designer's plant palette.

Andrew Bunting is curator at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

enliven your garden with a Small Pond

BY CAROLE OTTESEN

A pool of water adds an entirely new dimension to your outdoor space.

LIKE A fire in the hearth on a winter's night, a garden pond draws us closer to inspect, to take comfort, to stay a while. We are not the only ones attracted. No sooner is there a pool in the garden than wild creatures take up residence in this new ecosystem.

Exactly how frogs know—within hours—about the existence of a new pond is one of nature's mysteries. They appear as if by spontaneous generation. Within weeks, they are joined by birds, butterflies, and dragonflies.

As well as being a focus and a source of new life in the garden, a pond offers the prospect of a whole new palette of plants.

There are tropical lilies, dramatic, sculptural *Thalia*, and hundreds of others.

Putting in a pond takes some time and grunt work, but once installed, no other garden element delivers as much beauty, entertainment, and satisfaction for as little effort in maintenance.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Before embarking on an installation project, check with your homeowners' association and municipality to see if there are local restrictions on pond construction. Some areas require a six-foot fence for any pond deeper than 18 inches. Many municipalities require recirculating

pumps and filtration systems. Others may require building permits.

Before you even think about digging a hole, you must find the best location for a pond in your garden. Adding a filter or an electrical pump for a fountain means you'll have to situate your pond where electricity is accessible. Of course, you'll need a source of water. And don't neglect to call "Miss Utility" to have the gas and power lines on your site checked.

The best place is a sunny spot in the open. Many aquatic plants need six to 10 hours of sunlight per day. Don't place the pond under a large deciduous tree, because fallen leaves will cover the pond in

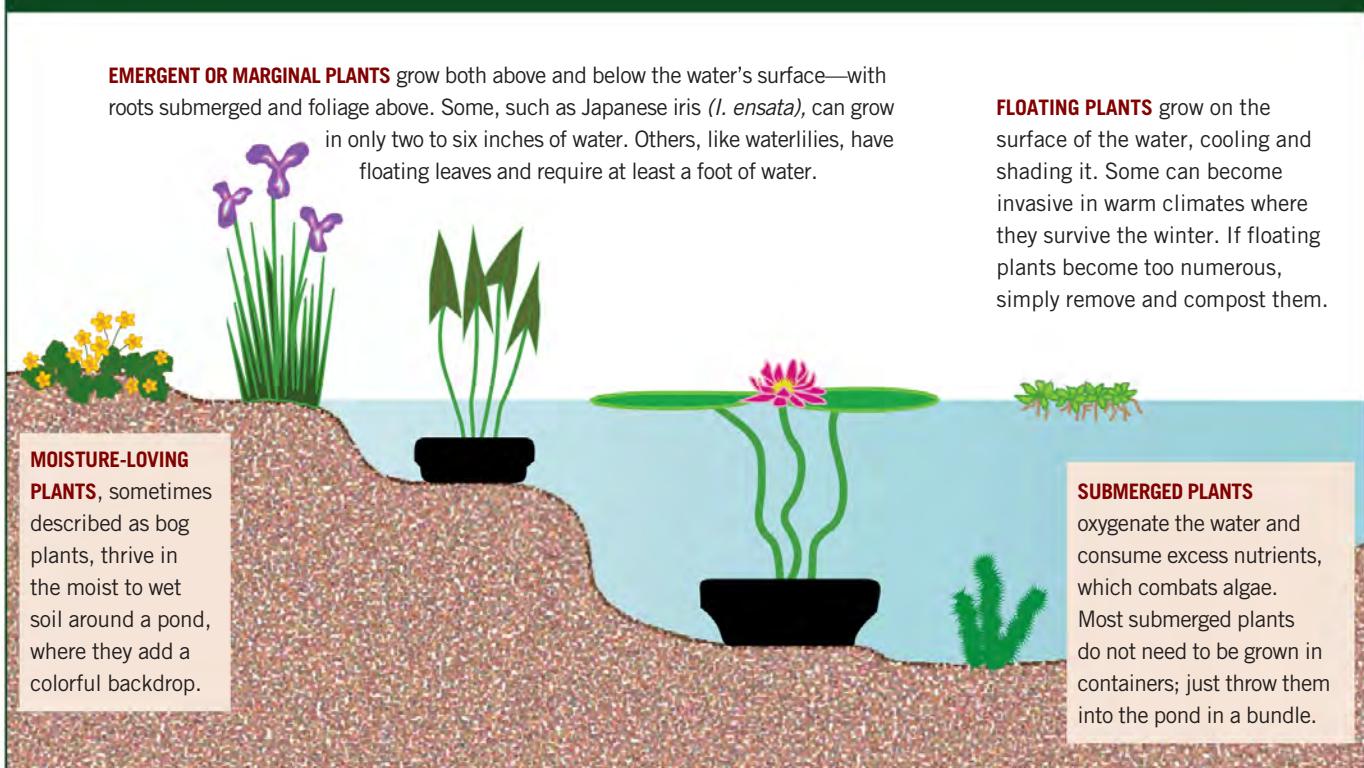


A small pond such as the one shown on the right can be constructed in a weekend and creates valuable habitat for a variety of animal life. Above: A frog, which has found its way to a suburban backyard, rests atop the floating foliage of a water garden.



Categories of Plants for Water Gardens

A pond consists of several mini-ecosystems, each suited for plants with different needs. Including a variety is key to creating an attractive garden feature and a well-balanced habitat for fish and wildlife. For a list of plants in each category, see page 27.



autumn, clogging pumps and filters and, when decayed, harming fish and plants.

Keep at least one edge of the pond accessible, so that you can easily care for the plants and feed the fish. And be sure the size of the pond is in scale with other elements in the garden. A spacious patio will dwarf a tiny pool, and vice versa.

EXCAVATING THE POOL

In addition to the effect of a pond's size in your landscape, its size affects the life within. The larger and deeper it is, the more water it contains—and the less effect seasonal and diurnal temperature fluctuations will have upon its microclimate. In any case, 50 square feet (10 by 5 feet) is considered the minimum surface area required to maintain a healthy in-ground pond.

Garden ponds are usually 18 to 24 inches deep and sometimes include a deeper hole to overwinter fish. Excavate about two inches deeper than you wish the pool to be to accommodate a layer of sand and cushioning. Sculpt shelves on the sides of the pond for emergent plants that grow in less than 12 inches of water.

LINING THE POND

To keep water from percolating into the ground, you'll need to line the excavation with a waterproof material. The instructions on the following page are for the installation of a flexible plastic or rubber liner. The advantage of a flexible liner is that you can make the pond any size or shape you wish.

Resources

- Backyard Water Gardens: How to Build, Plant & Maintain Ponds, Streams & Fountains** by Veronica Fowler. Cool Springs Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2013.
- Garden Ponds, Fountains & Waterfalls for Your Home** by the editors of Creative Homeowner Press, Mahwah, New Jersey, 2011.
- International Waterlily & Water Gardening Society**, www.iwgs.org.
- The Water Gardener's Bible** by Ben Helm and Kelly Billing. Rodale Books, Emmaus, Pennsylvania, 2008.

You can also use pre-formed fiberglass pools molded in a variety of shapes, many with built-in shelves for emergent plants. Another option is to install a concrete pool, which is very durable but expensive.

WATER

Once the pond is dug and the liner is in place, do not walk on it to avoid tearing it. Conceal the edges with rocks or bricks and slowly fill the pond with water. Wait 24 to 48 hours for the chlorine to evaporate. If chloramine or chlorine dioxide is present in your water, you will need to use treatment chemicals, which are available in water garden supply stores.

The water in a healthy pond looks like a clear, dark crystal. The way to achieve this is to create a balance of life within the pond by adding just the right number and kind of plants, scavengers, and fish. Plants that cover all but 25 to 40 percent of the water surface, a few small fish, and a snail or two should keep the water clear.

Failing this, you can install a filter or add bacteria that consume nitrogen in the water to help control algae.

INSTALLING A POND WITH A FLEXIBLE LINER

Installing a small pond—especially one without an electrical pump or filtering system—is not a technically difficult project, but it does require some muscle power. Still, a pond like the one shown here can be installed over a weekend, especially if you have an assistant. The use of a flexible liner is a boon for the novice pondcrafter; since precision digging isn't nearly as critical, it is much more forgiving and less labor-intensive than installing either a pre-formed fiberglass pond liner or a concrete pool.

What you'll need:

■ Shovel	■ Flexible liner	■ Tape measure	■ Carpenter's level	■ Long 2x4 or 2x6 board
■ Cinder blocks or other weights to hold down edges of liner			■ Utility knife for cutting liner	
■ Work gloves	■ Flat stones for edging the pool		■ Wheelbarrow for hauling soil and stones	



1. Mark the boundaries of the pond. Stakes and string can be used for straight edges, but if the pond will be irregularly shaped, use a garden hose, shown here. Then start digging the area inside the string or hose to the desired depth plus two inches, being sure to slope the edge to prevent water runoff.

2. Here, the excavation includes sculpted shelves for growing emergent plants, but you can also grow them in containers elevated on bricks to the proper depth. To check the edges of the hole for levelness, lay a 2x4 or 2x6 across the top and place a carpenter's level on top of the board.

3. Before laying the flexible liner into the hole, remove rocks and other debris that can puncture the liner. Lay down two inches of sand or pieces of carpeting. Then lay the liner on top, allowing it to extend one to two feet outside the edge. Hold down the liner with blocks. Fill the bottom with water to mold the liner to the hole.



4. Once the liner has been adjusted for fit and is filled with water, start laying stones or flagstones on the outer edges of the hole to hide the liner and form an attractive frame around the pond. Trim any excess liner and fill in around the edges with soil or mulch.

5. Wait a couple of days after filling the pond with water before introducing aquatic plants. This allows the water to warm and chlorine to dissipate. Slowly lower containers of aquatics to their appropriate depths. A couple of weeks later, you can introduce fish and other aquatic life.

6. After it's installed, a pond that's been well planned and thoughtfully planted and stocked with the right number of fish and scavengers should not need much maintenance. During the summer, you might need to offset evaporation by topping off the pond every few days.

PLANTING THE POND

Plants are crucial to the pond's health and should cover 60 to 75 percent of the water's surface. Those with floating leaves such as waterlilies do the best job of shading and cooling the pond and preventing algae growth.

Algae, which thrive in bright sunlight, can cloud the water. It takes about six weeks after the pond and plants are installed before the algae diminish and the water becomes clear. If this doesn't happen after eight weeks, consider using bacterial algae controls or install a filter.

Water plants fall roughly into four categories, depending upon where they grow (see page 25). Using a mixture of all types will help create an attractive and healthy pond.

CONTAINERS

Wait until the water in the pond is at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit before placing containers of hardy waterlilies or emergent plants into the pond. Tender plants such as tropical lilies should not be set in the pond until the water temperature reaches 70 degrees.

For aquatic plants, wide-mouth containers two-thirds full of heavy clay are ideal. Set the rhizome or root on the soil, cover with more soil, and push fertilizer tablets, available where waterlilies are sold, into the soil.

Finally, add a layer of pebbles. Thoroughly water the container and let it drain before very slowly lowering it into its place at the appropriate depth. When planting aquatics, never use potting mixes for terrestrial plants; their components will disperse and muddy the water.

POND LIFE

Fish add interest to the pond and—importantly—eat mosquito larvae, but you only need a few. Four small goldfish or minnows are plenty for a 50-gallon pond. More fish means more food and more waste to sully the water. Unless you have a large pool with adequate filtration and fenced-off plants, avoid big fish like koi.

Add a snail or two, because these scavengers will consume organic wastes and algae. Tadpoles, courtesy of resident frogs, will do the same. ☀

Carole Ottesen is a contributing writer for The American Gardener. This is an updated version of an article that was published in the May/June 2002 issue of The American Gardener.

PLANTS FOR WATER GARDENS

The following is a list of plants that can be grown in the various mini-ecosystems of your pond. The USDA Hardiness and AHS Heat Zones are listed with each species. Plants marked with an asterisk (*) tolerate less than six hours of sun. (Note: Many aquatic plants can become invasive if allowed to escape a garden, so it's a good idea to check with your local Cooperative Extension service on restrictions to growing certain species in your region.)

MOISTURE-LOVING PLANTS

Blazing star (*Liatris spicata*, 4–9, 9–1)

*Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*, 3–9, 9–1)

Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*, 3–9, 9–1)

Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*, 3–7, 7–1)

*Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*, 3–8, 8–1)

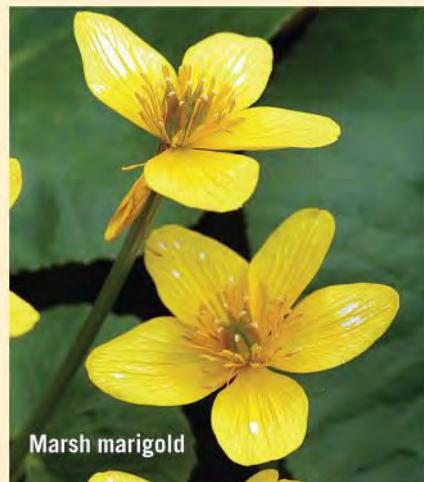
*River oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*, 5–9, 9–5)

*Rodgersia (*Rodgersia* spp., 5–8, 8–5)

*Turtlehead (*Chelone* spp., 4–8, 9–1)



Blue flag



Marsh marigold

EMERGENT PLANTS

■ The following thrive with just enough water to cover their roots—2 to 8 inches:

Green arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*, 5–9, 9–5)

Blue flag (*Iris versicolor*, 4–9, 9–1)

*Cattail (*Typha latifolia*, 4–9, 9–1)

Golden club (*Orontium aquaticum*, 6–11, 12–6)

Green taro (*Colocasia esculenta*, 9–11, 12–9)

*Powdery alligator-flag

(*Thalia dealbata*, 6–11, 12–6)

Japanese iris (*Iris ensata*, 4–9, 9–1)

*Pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*, 4–11, 12–1)

Sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*, 3–10, 11–1)

*Umbrella grass (*Cyperus involucratus*, 10–11, 12–10)

■ *Lotuses and waterlilies need 12 to 18 inches of water over their roots:*

Lotus (*Nelumbo* spp., 4–9, 9–1)

Waterlilies (*Nymphaea* spp.)

Day-blooming tropical waterlilies (10–11, 12–10)

Hardy waterlilies (4–11, 12–1)

Night-blooming tropical waterlilies (10–11, 12–10)

SUBMERGED PLANTS

*Canadian pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*, 5–11, 12–5)

White water buttercup (*Ranunculus longirostis*, 4–11, 11–4)

FLOATERS

*Big floating heart (*Nymphoides aquatica*, 7–11, 12–6)

Spatterdock (*Nuphar* spp., 5–11, 12–5)

Watersprite (*Ceratopteris thalictroides*, 9–11, 12–5)

Zestful Zinnias

BY RAND B. LEE



New and improved selections of these beloved annuals are colorful, long-blooming additions to the summer garden.

I YOU HAVE never grown zinnias before, or have grown them once or twice and given them up in disappointment, join the club. I was leery of zinnias for years. For one thing, I resented the fact that although seed catalogs pictured the tall cutting zinnias with glorious, fully double blooms the size of soccer balls, mine always ended up mostly semi-double and single. Furthermore, my zinnia leaves and stems were always covered with the powdery white residue that is the hallmark of the fungal disease, powdery mildew.

I am delighted to report that zinnias are making a comeback. Renewed interest in butterfly- and hummingbird-attract-

ing flowers, plus the development of disease-tolerant hybrids that produce a truly high percentage of doubles, have zinnia seeds and starts selling briskly all around the country. If you have given up on zinnias, it is time to embrace them again.

And if you have never grown them before, you're in for a treat. Few annuals come in a wider range of heights, habits, and colors: six inches to three feet tall; upright, branching, or spreading, with flower colors of red, orange, coral, salmon-

on, pink, rose, lemon, gold, green, lilac, purple, magenta, or white, and some surprising bicolors. (For cultivation tips, see "How to Grow Zinnias," page 30.)

Botanically, zinnias (*Zinnia* spp.) belong to the aster family (Asteraceae), like the dahlia; and the zinnia's flower forms have often been compared to those of its rhizomatous cousin: dahlia-flowered, with layered, rounded petals; cactus-flowered, with shaggy, pointy petaled flowers resembling the blooms of cactus-flowered dahlias; daisy-flowered, composed of a central disk fringed with a circle of petals; scabious-flowered or crested, featuring a raised central boss or tuft; and button zinnias,

Zinnias are available in many flower forms and colors, including this cactus-flowered selection in the 'Burpeeana Giants' mix.



Colorful 'Oklahoma Mix' zinnias hold center stage here in a garden bed with cosmos, maidengrass, and marigolds.

leaves about an inch long and hairy stems. The species stands one to one-and-a-half-feet tall with single, daisylike, orange or yellow flowerheads.

The Mexican zinnia imparts its heat tolerance to a number of long-blooming cultivars. Single-flowered types include 'Chippendale', which grows to 16 inches tall, bearing mahogany flowers tipped orange, and 'Soleado', which reaches 15 inches, its light orange blooms edged in yellow, and their centers ringed in mahogany.

Semi-double to double-flowered types include 'Aztec Sunset', a 2007 Fleuroselect Gold Medal winner, and 'Persian Carpet', a 1952 All-America Selections (AAS) winner. Both are favorites of Jimmy Turner, senior director of gardens at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Texas, who is partial to their hot, bicolor flowers and open, airy habit. They grow to about 15 inches tall, but of the two strains, 'Aztec Sunset' is more compact. "Keep them deadheaded and

Sources

Annie's Annuals & Perennials,
Richmond, CA. (888) 266-4370.
www.anniesannuals.com.

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds,
Mansfield, MO. (417) 924-8917.
www.rareseeds.com.

Harris Seeds, Rochester, NY. (800) 544-7938. www.harrisseeds.com.

Jung Seeds, Randolph, WI. (800) 297-3123. www.jungseed.com.

Stokes Seeds, Buffalo, NY. (800) 396-9238. www.stokesseeds.com.

Resources

Annuals and Tender Plants for North American Gardens by Wayne Winterrowd. Random House, New York, New York, 2004.

Armitage's Manual of Annuals, Biennials, and Half-Hardy Perennials by Allan M. Armitage. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001.

The Wisconsin Master Gardener Program: Zinnias by Susan Mahr, 2011. <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=zinnias>.

which have small, semi-double to double, hemispherical blossoms.

ZINNIA BLOODLINES

Carl Linnaeus, the 18th-century Swedish botanist who is credited with conceptualizing the nomenclatural system used to classify plants and animals, named the genus *Zinnia* after Dr. Johann Gottfried Zinn, the first European to describe it scientifically. Zinn himself was a mid-18th-century anatomist and director of the botanical garden at the University of Göttingen in Germany.

Most *Zinnia* species, which include perennials and subshrubs as well as annuals,

are native to Mexico; a few hail from Central and South America and the American Southwest.

With over 20 recognized *Zinnia* species and innumerable cultivars, including interspecies hybrids, the precise nomenclature of the zinnia clan has become rather muddled. Zinnias grown today, however, owe their genes primarily to three annual species: *Z. haageana*, *Z. peruviana*, and the best known, *Z. elegans*.

THE MEXICAN ZINNIA

First described by botanists in 1862, the Mexican zinnia (*Zinnia haageana*, syn. *Z. mexicana* and *Z. linearis*) has narrow, hairy

HOW TO GROW ZINNIAS

The consensus among the gardeners I interviewed for this article is that the best way to grow zinnias is from seed, sown directly where they are to stand after all frost has passed. Seed-sown plants quickly catch up with transplants, which often suffer from the restricted roots they develop in nursery packs. In the old days, most zinnias took a long time to bloom, so gardeners in northern zones would start them indoors or in hotbeds then plant them out after the nights had warmed. Nowadays, with so many cultivars quick to bloom, this is not generally necessary except in the very coldest regions.

CULTURAL ADVICE

Zinnias thrive in full sun on well-warmed, well-drained, well-fertilized soil. If your soil is already decent, suggests Iowa garden writer Susan Appleget Hurst, all you may need to add to their bed is finished compost or well-rotted manure. Jimmy Turner, senior director of gardens at Dallas Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Texas, advises adding compost to sandy soils and expanded shale to sticky clay. He warns that too much water can encourage fungal diseases, particularly on heavy soils.

RESISTANT SELECTIONS

For bedding zinnias, the best solution for avoiding powdery mildew—the fungal disease that is the scourge of zinnia foliage—is to grow mildew-resistant varieties. Excellent choices include the Profusion, Pinwheel, and Zahara™ series, and the Mexican zinnia (*Zinnia haageana*). If you want to grow mildew-resistant zinnias for cut flowers, 'Benary's Giants' are hard to beat.

As for mildew on other tall cutting zinnias? Get over it, our experts advise. "The point is moot," says Hurst. "You grow tall zinnias for the flowers, not the foliage. The mildew doesn't affect the flowers, just the leaves and the stems. Plan on nasty legs and grow something else in front of them."

—R.B.L.

they'll bloom all summer, even in our Texas summer heat," says Turner. 'Aztec Sunset' bears one-and-a-half-inch burgundy, gold, and cream flowers; the two-inch blooms of 'Persian Carpet' are combinations of cream, gold, maroon, pink, and purple.

Both Turner and garden writer and radio host Susan Appleget Hurst, of Winterset, Iowa, praise the 'Crystal' series of bedding zinnias, another *Z. haageana*-derived strain. 'Crystal' series zinnias are low, bushy plants eight to 14 inches tall. They bear single orange, white, or gold flowers. Says Turner, "Here in Dallas, the plants make a flat mound continuously in bloom

its leaves are oval to broadly lancelike. The yellow-centered blossoms feature six to 15 ray petals in scarlet, purple, or yellow.

Although *Z. peruviana* has been used extensively in breeding, Hurst thinks the red-flowering species is highly garden-worthy. "It has a wildflower-Southwest look that's totally different from the one you get from standard zinnias," says Hurst. "*Z. peruviana* blooms a soft red, not screaming bright. And the flowers differ from one another—they change as they age," she adds.

THE ELEGANT ZINNIA

Zinnia elegans, an upright, hairy, sin-



'Aztec Sunset' is an award-winner recommended for its compact form and heat tolerance.

from mid-April to first frost. We water them only once or twice a week." (For additional zinnia selections see "More Great Zinnias for Your Gardens," page 33.)

THE PERUVIAN ZINNIA

The Peruvian zinnia (*Zinnia peruviana*, now considered to include *Z. angustifolia*, *Z. multiflora*, *Z. pauciflora*, *Z. tenuiflora*, and *Z. verticillata* of gardens) colonizes rocky roadsides, ravines, and limestone soils at elevations of around 4,000 to 5,000 feet. It is native to southern Arizona, Mexico, Central America, and South America. The unimproved wildling grows 12 to 20 inches tall, occasionally taller. Its branchless or sparsely branched stems are green, turning purple or yellowish as the season advances;

gle-flowered species first described by Europeans in 1796, is the wild ancestor of most of the dahlia-, cactus-, and button-flowered zinnias treasured by cottage gardeners everywhere.

In 1798, the D. Landreth Seed Company in Philadelphia offered the first zinnia seeds for sale in the United States, but initially it generated little interest. This would soon change. In 1861, a double form, originally called *Z. elegans flore-pleno*, was introduced to commerce by the French seed firm, Vilmorin. By 1864, there were orange, purple, red, and salmon varieties being grown in America.

"The zinnia," wrote garden writer Edward Sprague Rand, Jr. in 1874, "was a flower from which little was expected, and thus the

horticultural world was greatly surprised by the production of the double zinnias, which, for the last few years, have been so much admired...[they are] magnificent flowers, of vivid color, free growth, and easy culture." Rand lists the colors then available: red, rose, crimson, scarlet, purple, white, orange, and yellow. He describes two distinct strains in cultivation, "one with a flat, shallow flower, more the shape of the single form, and the other with a deep flower, with regularly reflexed petals; both are very handsome."

DAHLIA-FLOWERED ZINNIA ELEGANS

The oldest dahlia-flowered zinnia strain still available in commerce today was introduced in the 1920s by John Bodger of Bodger Seeds in California. Bred from a huge-flowered sport found in a field of 'Mammoth' zinnias, the new strain was named 'California Giants' and was awarded a gold medal from England's Royal Horticultural Society.

'California Giants' are big bushy plants two to three feet tall by up to three feet wide, bearing single, semi-double, and sometimes double flowers four to six inches across. The strain is available in a color mix that includes orange, red, yellow, lavender, pink, white, maroon, and magenta-violet and occasionally in separate named colors. But the plants are not mildew-resistant.

Many other tall dahlia-flowered strains that make excellent cut flowers have been introduced since Bodger's 'California Giants'. Years ago, when it first came out, I grew 'State Fair Mix' in my Santa Fe, New Mexico, garden. It was more tolerant of common zinnia diseases than the 'California Giants' and it produced more doubles. The plants get three feet tall and bear four- to five-inch-wide, single, semi-double, and double blossoms in scarlet, rose, salmon, orange, yellow, pink, purple, white, and bicolors.

Other tall cutting zinnia strains promising mostly double flowers include Burpee's 'Giant-Flowered Mix', which grows 26 to 30 inches tall, with five-inch flowers; 'Peppermint Stick', which grows to three feet, produces three- to five-inch blooms in white, orange, yellow, pink, and cream, all streaked and spotted dark red; and 'Oklahoma Mix', which bears small to medium flowers in a range of colors on 30- to 40-inch-tall plants with good mildew resistance.

Current queen of the tall dahlia-flowered zinnias is undoubtedly the hybrid 'Benary's Giants' series. Developed for the



'Uproar Rose' is a mildew-resistant selection that has performed well in the upper Midwest.

cut flower trade and renowned for its resistance to drought, mildew, high summer temperatures, and rain, this strain produces sturdy, 30- to 40-inch plants bearing a high proportion of double, four- to five-inch blossoms in a range of colors, including yellow, orange, white, scarlet, rose-pink, coral, red, lilac, and purple. They are available both as a mix and in separate colors; the

seed is expensive but well worth it.

Annie Hayes, founder of Annie's Annuals and Perennials in Richmond, California, is a fan of 'Benary's Giants'. "They bloom for months, they don't get mildew, and the flowers can get practically as big as your head when they're well grown," says Hayes, who digs a lot of compost into her hard clay soil—the only fertilizer she uses.

In Boise, Idaho, garden writer Mary Ann Newcomer is particularly fond of 'Benary's Giant Lime'. "It's like it's got ice crystals covering the center of the flower," says Newcomer.

Several single-color, dahlia-flowered zinnias have become popular. 'Orange King' grows to 40 inches tall and bears large, fully double, rich orange blooms. 'Queen Red Lime', which grows 24 to 30 inches tall and features three- to four-inch fully double flowers in a blend of rose and lime-green, is a favorite of Mark Dwyer, director of horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin. Dwyer also likes 'Uproar Rose' and 'Royal Purple'. "Most of these strains," says Dwyer, "have superior mildew resistance here, and the foliage holds up well, too."

Shorter, well-branched, double dahlia-flowered strains make great additions to beds and container gardens. The award-winning hybrid 'Sunshine' series is a 20- to



Growing three feet tall with large streaked and speckled flowers, 'Peppermint Stick' is a suitable choice for cutting gardens.

30-inch-tall selection bearing four-inch blossoms in either yellow or an extremely lustworthy red; 'Red Sun' is always sold out whenever I try to send away for a packet.

The compact 'Magellan' bedding series, another Dwyer favorite, grows 12 to 14 inches tall and nearly as wide, with excellent secondary branching. Its four- to five-inch flowers come in a wide range of individual colors and as a mix; 'Magellan Coral' captured an AAS award in 2005. 'Short Stuff Mix F1', perhaps the most dwarf double dahlia-flowered strain, bears three- to four-inch flowers on plants only eight to 10 inches tall and 10 to 12 inches wide.

CACTUS-FLOWERED ZINNIA ELEGANS

The cactus-flowered zinnias produce shaggy semi-double to double flowers with pointy petals. Perhaps the oldest strain is Burpee's 'Cactus-Flowered Mix', with scarlet, rose, orange, and yellow flowers on 30-inch-tall plants. The two-foot-tall 'Burpeeana Giants', originally introduced in 1961 and recently re-selected, bear three-inch-wide double flowers so stuffed with pointy petals that they resemble chrysanthemums. 'Little Lion' makes rich orange double flowers on two- to three-foot-tall plants; the blossoms look like shaggy sunbursts.

BUTTON-FLOWERED ZINNIA ELEGANS

I am particularly fond of button zinnias. My favorite is probably 'Sunbow Mix', which grows 24 to 30 inches tall, with exquisite little one-and-a-quarter- to two-inch, fully double flowers in rose, purple, gold, scarlet, orange, pink, or white. Harris Seeds' 'Edwardian Mix' gets 16 inches tall by 20 inches wide and bears double buttons to two inches across in lavender, rose, and white. 'Zinnita Mix' is a button bedding strain best suited to pots and window boxes. The six- to eight-inch-tall and eight- to 10-inch-wide plants are covered with one-and-a-half- to two-inch scarlet, yellow, white, and orange flowers.

INTER-SPECIES HYBRIDS

Zinnia peruviana has been crossed with *Z. elegans* to produce several excellent, small-flowered, single to semi-double, heat- and drought-tolerant, and mildew-resistant cultivar lines well suited to bedding and containers. These crosses fall into two general groups: *Z. hybrida* and *Z. marylandica*.

Dwyer likes the *Zinnia hybrida* Profusion series, known for its compact, well-branched



Compact selections that are well suited for growing in containers include Zahara Yellow, above, and 'Zinnita Mix', left, which reaches only six to eight inches tall.

20 inches wide. Like the Profusion series, Zahara comes in both a single- and a double-flowered strain. The flowers are about two-and-a-half inches across, with particularly vibrant colors. Dallas's Jimmy Turner is a fan of Zahara™, particularly Zahara™ Fire, Zahara™ Yellow, and the Zahara™ Doubles. "They don't get mildew or black spot, the flowers don't fade, and there's no deadheading necessary," says Turner.

LOTS TO LOVE

Easy care, improved disease resistance, and an incredibly long-blooming season make zinnias valuable no matter where you garden. Not only will their flowers brighten your landscape and fill your vases for months, their nectar attracts hummingbirds and butterflies, and their seed sustains a variety of songbirds. With their wide range of flower colors and shapes and plant habits to suit any bed or container, it's easy to understand why this old-fashioned favorite is making a comeback.

Author and garden consultant Rand B. Lee grows his zinnias in Aurora, Colorado.

MORE GREAT ZINNIAS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Here are several more recommended varieties of zinnias suitable for bedding, container plantings, and/or cutting gardens. Several are All-America Selections (AAS) winners.

Name	Height/Spread (inches)	Flower Style/Size (inches)	Flower Color(s)	Comments
<i>Zinnia elegans</i>				
'Border Beauty Mix'	18–20/8–10	double dahlia/ 3–3½	pink, rose, salmon, yellow, orange	'Border Beauty Rose' was 1984 AAS winner
'Burpee's Big Tetra Mix'	30/12–14	double dahlia/6	pink, scarlet, white, yellow	huge blooms great for cutting
'Candy Cane Mix'	17/12–14	double dahlia/4	white or yellow stippled and streaked red to rose	unusual coloring, good for cut flowers
'Dreamland' series	9–12/10–12	double dahlia/3–4	pink, rose red, yellow	compact plants with long-lasting blooms, good for front of beds
'Exquisite'	36/8–10	double dahlia /4–5	bright rose-red to soft pale rose	flowers change color as they age, excellent cut flowers
'Park's Picks Mix'	40–50/12–18	double dahlia/4–5	red, salmon, rose, pink, lilac, orange, yellow, white	great for cutting
'Raggedy Anne'	36–48/15–18	double cactus/4–5	yellow, orange, red, coral, rose, lilac, pink, white	great for cutting
'Swizzle' series	10–12/10–12	double dahlia/3–4	gold and red or ivory and rose	fully double bicolor on compact plants, good for front of beds
<i>Zinnia haageana</i>				
'Old Mexico'	12–18/8–10	semi-double/2½	bicolored: mahogany, gold, red	powdery mildew resistant, 1962 AAS winner, compact habit
'Sombrero'	15–18/10–12	single/2–3	red centers with gold tips	bold bicolor
'Star White'	14/8–10	single/2	white with gold centers	powdery mildew resistant, great for containers or bedding
<i>Zinnia hybrida</i>				
'Zowie! Yellow Flame'	24–36/12–14	semi-double/3	rose with gold tips and red-and-gold centers	great for bedding or containers, vibrant colors, 2006 AAS winner
<i>Zinnia marylandica</i>				
Zahara™ Starlight Rose	12–18/12–18	single/2½	rose-white bicolor	powdery mildew resistant, uniform, compact plants, 2010 AAS Bedding Plant Award
<i>Zinnia peruviana</i>				
'Bonita Yellow'	18–24/15	single/1	soft gold	powdery mildew resistant, often reseeds





Rosalind Creasy, above, has seamlessly integrated edible and ornamental plants throughout her California garden, including along the front walkway, top.

edible gardening Advocate

An early champion of mingling edibles and ornamentals, Rosalind Creasy is pleased to see the concept gaining popularity in American gardens.

BY ANNE RAVER

IWAS GOBBLING blackberries in Rosalind Creasy's garden one evening last July after offering to gather enough for dessert. The thornless variety, 'Black Satin', gave her 50 pints of plump, juicy, unbelievably delicious berries one summer. After all, this is Los Altos, California, 40 miles south of San Francisco. It's USDA Hardiness Map Zone 9B and Sunset Zone 14, where winter temperatures rarely fall below 25 degrees. "But the nights are cool, so we can't grow 'Brandywine' tomatoes," Creasy points out.

Poor dear. The queen of edible landscapes had tempted me out from muggy, stink-bug-infested Maryland with a photo of her artichokes in bloom. "I had so many I was sick of them and let them go to flower," she wrote. Reading her e-mail, I could just imagine the Cheshire cat grin on her face.



Statuesque kale plants combine with diminutive flowering twinspurs (*Diascia* sp.) in this container.

Creasy, of course, is the woman who, back in the 1970s, ripped up her front lawn and started growing lemon and grapefruit trees, eggplants and heirloom tomatoes, colorful beds of mesclun and freckled lettuce among the nasturtiums and flaming red crocosmias.

She has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to gardening trends. Her first book, *The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping*, was published by Sierra Club

Books in 1982, decades before the more recent veggies-instead-of-lawn brand of activism became popular.

Not only did Creasy counsel growing food instead of turfgrass—without pesticides, of course—she helped popularize the idea of designing with edibles. Sure, Victory Gardeners had grown nearly half the country's produce in the 1940s. And the hippies in the 60s were growing corn and beans in the front yard.

What made Creasy different is that she inspired gardeners by showing us how to replace a ratty hedge with espaliered fruit trees, beds of impatiens with herb gardens of striking colors and shapes, water-guzzling lawns with terraces, changes in grade, and winding paths.

Creasy's much revised 2010 edition of *The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping*, filled with sumptuous color photographs, goes far beyond that first book, with its funky drawings and raised beds of vegetables. Here a mown path curves through a field of wheat—Creasy grew enough in her front yard one year to bake 10 loaves of bread with the neighborhood kids. It reveals her eye for striking juxtapositions—the vermillion stems of Rainbow chard rising above rambling Pink Wave petunias, spiky cardoon blossoms lounging over rough-hewn cobblestones. Other scenes reflect her constant travels to other gardens: the prairie natives in David Cavagnaro's fruit garden in Decorah, Iowa; the ebullient self-seeding annuals of Dean Riddle's four-square plot in the Catskills of Upstate New York.

This edition packs some 40 years of her gardening experience into an “Encyclopedia of Edibles” over 100 pages long, with mouth-watering photographs, and explains how to grow, harvest, and cook everything from an almond to a Yam.

“She is Alice Waters’ spiritual sister, with dirtier nails,” says Thomas C. Cooper, a former editor of *Horticulture* magazine, linking her with another well known California foodie, the founder of Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley.

If she didn’t invent the phrase—“edible landscaping”—she has been its “great publicist,” says Roger Swain, the biologist and writer who hosted *The Victory Garden* on PBS for more than 20 years. “She understands color and beauty and design and takes the palette of vegetables that exist and displays them with eye-capturing glory.”

FEAST FOR THE SENSES

My own favorite of Creasy’s writings—she has published 18 books, and counting—is *Cooking from the Garden* (Sierra Club Books, 1988), in which she joyfully explores gardens around the country, from the baked bean gardens of New England to the chili gardens of the South-

west and many ethnic gardens of Americans with a yen for foreign flavors.

So it's more than wonderful to find myself grazing in Creasy's blackberry patch at sunset amid the low-throaty chortle of her chickens.

The spicy scent of a climbing rose, with double peachy pink flowers, wafts across the brick path. "That's Polka, my favorite of all my roses," says Creasy, as she stands pondering the height of kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate (*Polygonum orientale*), an heirloom annual with chains of delicate pink flowers that hang from arching branches on a thick stalk the size of a small tree. "I'm wondering whether to take it down or not, or would some colored wire make it look more like a sculpture?"

Touring the garden, I notice a pomegranate tree, whose bright green bulbous fruits are just emerging from ruby-red flower petals. "That's 'Utah Sweet', which has pink fruit, not red, and sweeter than the one you get in the store," Creasy says. "And its foliage turns flaming yellow in the fall."

In a little plot of popcorn, grown for the local kids, each stalk rises out of the square of a blue-green painted wooden trellis that Creasy has placed horizontally, about six inches off the ground, to keep the corn from flopping over as it grows. This simple device, attractive yet functional, is one of her many ways to bridge the divide between the vegetable and ornamental garden. "People are gardening with edibles the same way the farmer has



Creasy loves to share her passion for gardening, here offering tips to some neighborhood kids.

been farming for years. We need to come up with different ideas," she says.

Creasy identifies a tomato, which is so dark purple, I thought it was an egg-

plant, as 'Indigo Rose'. "Jim Myers at Oregon State came up with it, and it has more anthocyanin, like blueberries, and more nutrition," she says. Its dark green leaves and dark fruit look fabulous growing up a red tower. And they are set off even more by a little forest of five-foot dahlias, the color of vermillion, with blood-red stems.

Then there are the herbs I had never tasted before. These include a chive from Mongolia, with a deep, but mellow taste. Creasy got the seeds from Seed Savers Exchange, the heirloom seed organization of which she is a board member. "It's a much prettier flower, too, and it doesn't flop," she says. Mexican culantro, which looks like a narrow-leaved lettuce but tastes like cilantro. Only this one doesn't hurry to go to seed; it will keep coming back if you nip off its tiny white flowers. Sesame looks like a kind of foxglove, with its demure tubular flowers; its leaves taste better than the more familiar seeds.

Rosalind Creasy's Books

Here are a few of Rosalind Creasy's gardening and cooking books. For a complete list, visit her website (www.rosalindcreasy.com).

Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow a Rainbow Garden. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, California, 1994.

The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, California, 2010.

Cooking from the Garden, Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, California, 1988.

Rosalind Creasy's Recipes From the Garden, Tuttle Publishing, North Clarendon, Vermont, 2008.

Resources

Common Sense Pest Control (3rd edition) by Sheila Daar and Helga and William Olkowski. Taunton Press, Newtown, Connecticut, 2013.

Rebugging Your Home & Garden: A Step-by-Step Guide to Modern Pest Control by Ruth Troetschler. PTF Press, Los Altos, California, 1996.

Tucked into pots and growing in drifts in low borders, these plants lead my nose and hand down brick paths, under leafy arbors—laden with oranges, or apples, or hops blossoms (“I’m going to make beer,” says the irrepressible Creasy), sometimes sinking my teeth into a fruit I can’t resist, such as ‘Pink Pearl’, an 1800s apple that not only has a blush-pink skin, but is pink inside and crunchy-sweet-tart.

A ‘Fuyu’ persimmon grows next to ‘Pink Pearl’. “It’s a crispy one,” she says. “I like to have it for Thanksgiving, cut in wedges and wrapped in prosciutto.”

ESCAPING THE PESTICIDE CYCLE

When Creasy and her husband, Robert, and their two small children moved here in 1968, this fertile oasis was just lawn with a fruitless mulberry—still here, with baskets of fuchsias hanging from its branches—and a handful of apricot trees that were all that was left of a former apricot orchard.

The subdivision’s landscaping was anchored by bentgrass and hybrid tea roses. And despite the influence of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, which came out in 1962, the Creasys’ neighbors were still pouring pesticides on their lawns. “The chemical movement was in full flower,” she says. “The woman who sold us the house said, ‘Here is the name of the people who spray,’ and the guy would come in and fog the whole yard.”

She kept her children, Bob, then six and Laura, three, indoors for a day or two after each spraying. “But it gave me the creeps,” she said. So she started floating the idea of not spraying. “Everybody said, ‘If you stop, everything will be flooded with insects.’”

Everybody, that is, except Ruth Troetschler, a biologist and Audubon activist, who lived at the end of her street. “She said, ‘Oh, you’ll get a lot of aphids, but they’ll finally settle down,’ recalls Creasy. “Put in lots of flowers, for the beneficials.” Troetschler would eventually summarize her philosophy in *Rebugging Your Home & Garden: A Step-by-Step Guide to Modern Pest Control*, published in 1996.

When Creasy stopped spraying, it was the beginning of what would become a lifelong obsession to change the face of the American landscape, and maybe our diets, as well.

GROWING UP GARDENING

Actually, the roots of that obsession may go even further back, to her childhood in Needham, Massachusetts. When Creasy was five, her father gave her a plot for her very own garden. “Some lima bean seeds, tomato plants, strawberry runners,” she remembers. “And no rules or anything like that.” She moved things around so much, like furniture in her dollhouse, nothing had a chance to put down roots. “I never harvested anything,” she says. But she loved being outside, where her

of Monet’s garden,” she says—but a nod to Isabella too.

Another influence on Creasy’s worldview came via her husband, Robert, who died in 2005. A physicist and computer wizard for IBM, Robert’s work took him around the world. His young wife accompanied him—to Cairo, Hong Kong, Milan, Rome, Jerusalem, and many other places—and nosed around the markets while he was immersed in software and machines. “By dinner time, everybody was tired of computers, and I’d say some-



In a border around the front of Creasy’s home, herbs, vegetables, and ornamentals of varying heights and textures mingle companionably.

father was relaxed. “So I associate gardening with a warm, wonderful feeling.”

She went to college at Simmons in Boston, where her classroom building was next to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. And she liked to study in the courtyard to the sound of the water and some music student playing harp or piano. “It smelled of those trailing nasturtiums, in the middle of winter,” she said. “It was heaven.” In her current garden, nasturtiums climb on a pergola she made of galvanized pipe painted aqua—“my version

thing like, ‘I saw these fava beans with pink flowers, and they say they eat the stalks! Do you eat the stalks?’ And soon people would be talking about how their mother or grandmother cooked them.”

Traveling helped her realize how few choices Americans had at their produce markets. For example, “We think pomegranates are red inside, but some are black, some are yellow, others are orange and pink and white,” she says. “Americans have selected their fruit for its size and color.”

CRITICAL THINKING

Once her children were in school, Creasy went back herself—to Foothill Community College in Los Altos Hills, California, to study horticulture and landscape design.

Her studies further convinced her to embrace the work-with-nature philosophy, but she began to question some of its folk myths, such as marigolds repel bugs. “People who knew something

about entomology would roll their eyes,” Creasy says. “So while it did a great thing for waking up gardeners, it was an emotional issue, not science-based.” Creasy points out that some marigolds do repel soil-borne nematodes, through compounds exuded from their roots, but not all. It’s the nectar and pollen produced by this composite’s flowers, Creasy says, that attract beneficial insects which help control pests.



Creasy regularly consults on edible landscaping projects, including one at Powell Gardens in Kansas City, Missouri, top, and at the New York Botanical Garden, above.

Since her husband was rubbing shoulders with scientists almost daily at Stanford University, every time she had a question, he would find an expert who could answer it. She met Sheila Daar and Helga and William Olkowski, at the Bio-Integral Resource Center in Berkeley. They were developing techniques for Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which would later be explained in their book, *Common Sense Pest Control* (see “Resources,” page 36).

In those days, pesticides like DDT were still seen as harmless. But Creasy, who was working with the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters on cleaning up the bay and polluted ground water, knew those chemicals were harming the environment. “I interviewed William Olkowski for a class presentation and the professor said, ‘Wow, you have the science to back it up,’ and asked for the references.”

CONVERTING TO EDIBLES

Meanwhile, she had talked Robert into giving up a piece of the lawn—well, it was really the parking space. But it had been sprayed for so many years, it took a few more to cleanse the earth of pesticides. “I just threw in lots of compost and grew things I didn’t eat, like Shasta daisies,” says Creasy.

Once the pesticides had time to leach away, she started integrating edibles. “I grew artichokes and people would say, ‘What’s that beautiful flower?’ Then I put in peppers and nobody fainted.”

By the time she was working on *Cooking from the Garden* in the mid-1980s, she and Wendy Krupnick, who had worked with Alice Waters at Chez Panisse, trucked in tons of compost and Krupnick double-dug the whole front yard. They had to have room for experimenting with all those herbs and lettuces and heirlooms that hip Californians and seed savers across the country were starting to grow.

Creasy says she was having so much fun, she didn’t have time to process the fact that she was part of a sea change in gardening. Only in retrospect does she look back and say, “Wow, that was amazing. You’re just going day to day and putting in your two cents and experiencing things. You don’t say, ‘This is a



Lushly planted containers of ornamentals and edibles surround Creasy as she pots up some seedlings in her garden earlier this year.

movement.' You respond to your environment, and that's who you are."

NO SLOWING DOWN

Creasy's accomplishments as a writer, teacher, garden designer, and photographer are mind-boggling. She has been a guest on numerous radio and television programs, including *Good Morning America*. Her articles and photographs have been published in dozens of national gardening and cooking magazines, and she has served as a columnist for publications such as the *Los Angeles Times* and *Country Living Gardener*. In addition to many awards for her writing and photography—*The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping* has won several awards, including being named one of 75 Great American Gardening books by the American Horticultural Society in 1997—she was named to the Garden Writers Association's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Now 74, Creasy still keeps a busy schedule lecturing and designing edible landscapes. In 2008, she designed a section of the Heartland Harvest Garden, a 12-acre edible garden created at Powell Gardens in Kansas City, Missouri. Recently she finished designing an edible garden for the Adobe Corporation headquarters in nearby San Jose.

Almost every week, some young couple calls to ask for help on bringing edibles into their yard. I ask her if food gardening is a fad that Gen X and Gen Y aren't going to mess with, when after all, they can buy fresh organic produce at the farmer's market? "It takes work, and I think young people are dismayed that it takes experience," she says. "You're not going to pick up an iPhone and see how to do it."

But on the other hand, she has watched edibles settle into the landscape. "I don't think we're going to go back to people thinking edibles belong in the backyard,"

she said. After all, celebrities such as Alice Waters and First Lady Michelle Obama have helped make food gardens cool.

When people move into a new home, she hopes they will look around the yard, and think, where do I put the fruits, vegetables, and herbs? "The priority would be, 'I grew up with this amazing hedge of blueberries' and now I can have one,' as opposed to 'I grew up with a lawn, so now I have to have a lawn,'" she says. Growing and harvesting fresh food in your own garden is like opening Pandora's box, she says. "Once you have fresh basil and arugula, you're never going to go back." ☀

A longtime gardener who writes for the New York Times and Landscape Architecture magazine, Anne Raver lives on a family farm in Maryland. To view one of Rosalind Creasy's recipes, click on the link to the Web Special on the AHS website.

Controlling Aphids

by Scott Aker

HIgh spring is the time when everything happens quickly in the garden. As the days get longer, plant growth increases. Soft new growth also heralds the arrival of aphids. There are few pests that can build populations as quickly as these sedentary marvels of the insect world. Aphids damage plants by sucking sap from leaves and stems, which causes distortion and stunting, and by spreading viruses. They also excrete a sticky liquid that is unsightly and attracts other organisms undesirable to gardeners.

To understand how to manage aphids, you need to know a little about their life cycle. A small number of overwintering aphid eggs hatch just as plant growth begins in spring. These hatchlings are females, and they are one of the few insects that give live birth to their young, which are also female and genetically identical to their mothers. For most of the year, aphids skip sexual reproduction and the egg stage, allowing them to cycle through generation after generation in an astonishingly short period of time, as little as eight days for some species. A few aphids can become thousands in a very short time.

The mouthparts of aphids are modified into a long strawlike stylet that can pierce deep into plant tissues, allowing them to feed on sap. Sap is primarily composed of water and carbohydrates, along with a relatively small amount of amino acids. Since aphid bodies are made of proteins assembled from amino acids, they must process a large amount of sap to get the amino acids they need for growth and reproduction. The excess carbohydrates are converted into honeydew, which is excreted through small tubes located near the end of the aphid's abdomen. Aphids can produce enormous amounts of honeydew, which in turn may attract ants that have been



These rose aphids, which have shed their white shells, are feeding on a rose bud.

known to protect aphids from predators in return for the sweet reward. Honeydew is also host to an unsightly dark-colored fungus known as sooty mold.

ENCOURAGING APHID PREDATORS

Fortunately for gardeners, aphids are the primary food source for a wide array of insects that serve as the first line of defense. Ladybird beetles, or ladybugs, top the list, but syrphid flies, aphidiid wasps, and lacewings are important aphid predators. To encourage these beneficial insects to inhabit your garden, it's important to understand their needs and to be able to identify them in the different stages of their life cycles.

Ladybird beetles Everyone knows what an adult ladybird beetle looks like, but few can identify the small yellow-orange, spindle-shaped eggs they lay in small groups or singly on the undersides of leaves. These hatch into black larvae that

look a bit like small alligators. As they grow, the larvae of most species develop orange spots. The pupae of ladybird beetles look a bit like orange tortoises attached to leaves and stems. Ladybird beetles only lay eggs when they detect an adequate supply of aphids for their young to reach adulthood.

Syrphid flies Also known as flower flies or hover flies, syrphid flies are bee and wasp mimics. Their yellow-and-black pattern may fool predators, but their large flylike eyes and their single set of wings give up their identity. They are agile fliers and are often found hovering around flowers in the aster family. Because they have many pores and are white or ashy in color, their eggs look like small oval pieces of pumice. Like houseflies, the larvae lack legs and move around like tiny slugs, consuming aphids. Pupae are not often seen, but are brown and football-shaped.

Aphidiid wasps Tiny and gnatlike, aphidiid wasp adults are generally black and are seldom noticed in the garden because they are so small. Females pierce



Beneficial lady beetles lay single or clustered tiny orange-yellow eggs like these on the underside of a cotton leaf.



The larvae of syrphid flies, seen here in adult form, are excellent aphid predators.

aphids with their ovipositor and lay a single egg in each aphid. The egg hatches and feeds on the aphid's internal organs, causing it to puff up and develop a tan or cream color. After it pupates, the adult wasp chews its way out of the dead aphid's body and escapes to mate and repeat the life cycle.

Lacewings Adult lacewings are beautifully delicate insects with intricately veined wings. They are usually green.



Lacewing larvae, like this one in top center of the photo, eat not only aphids but other garden pests such as small caterpillars and mites.

Females lay eggs singly or in small groups on plants. The hatchling larvae are elongated and have curved mouthparts that are large in relation to their bodies. They are voracious eaters and will devour each other as readily as they do aphids, small caterpillars, and mites. Lacewing pupae look like small cocoons with strands of silk attaching them to plant surfaces.

It is important to tolerate some aphids early in the season since none of these beneficial insects will lay eggs if the aphid pop-

Gardening Q&A with Scott Aker

PRUNING WAX MYRTLES

We have some wax myrtles on the property that were severely pruned by the previous homeowners. How can I restore them to their natural shape?

I'm guessing that the plants responded to the pruning by growing a multitude of branches near the cut ends of the branches. Thin these branches to give the shrubs a more natural appearance. Wax myrtle can also be pruned to develop into an interesting small tree by removing lower branches. If this is the look you want, start the plants over by cutting them back a few inches from the ground and allowing a single stem to develop. Otherwise, wax myrtles don't require much pruning beyond removal of dead branches.

THIRST STUNTS PACHYSANDRA

I have two maple trees growing 16 feet apart. Because I haven't been able to grow grass underneath the trees, five years ago I dug a bed between them and planted pachysandra. I have added top soil, mulched, fertilized, and allowed leaves to decay on the bed over the winter, but the pachysandra plants have not spread. What can I do to encourage the plants to fill in this area?

Pachysandra needs shade and moist soil to develop into a continuous ground cover. The maples are probably not leaving much soil moisture for the pachysandra, stunting its growth. You might eventually succeed in growing it, but you may need to plant many more plants. If you plant individual plants six to 12 inches apart, and water the bed thoroughly during dry periods, your pachysandra may cover the ground in a shorter period of time. Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon* spp.) may be another groundcover option to try.

—S.A.

Send your gardening questions to Scott Aker at saker@ahs.org (please include your city and state with submissions).

ulation is too low to ensure the successful development of the next generation. Often these insects will eliminate aphid populations in a few weeks if the weather is warm enough to allow them to cycle through generations rapidly enough. In cooler weather, aphids may persist longer and you may need to intervene with other control measures.

CONTROLLING APHIDS

Limit watering and fertilization to prevent soft succulent growth that is attractive to aphids. Excessive nitrogen fertilizer increases the amount of amino acids in plant sap, allowing aphids to reproduce more quickly. Excess watering promotes more rapid sap flow that keeps food flowing to aphids at a high rate.

The simplest control is at the end of your garden hose. A blast of water will knock aphids off your plants, and since they are delicate and wingless at this stage, they have no chance of returning. You can also spray plants with insecticidal soap—which works particularly well on aphids

because their bodies are soft and susceptible to the caustic ingredients in the soap—or horticultural oil. Aphids won't develop resistance to these pesticides because the mode of action is physical—burning or smothering them—rather than an attack on the insect's nervous system like most conventional pesticides.

For control of aphids, I don't recommend the use of pesticides other than soap or oil. Keep in mind that aphids give birth to young that are genetically identical to their mothers. That means that if a few aphids happen to be resistant to a pesticide, they pass on that resistance to their offspring. Many conventional pesticides will also wipe out non-target beneficial insects, so the resistant aphids will be able to breed unchecked by natural enemies. The result will be even more aphids than if the gardener let nature take its course.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist in the Washington, D.C., area.

Eggplant: One Versatile Vegetable

by Barbara Pleasant

WHETHER round or oblong, purple, white, green, pink, or striped, outstanding varieties of eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) earn a place in more gardens every year. And for good reason: nutritionally, eggplants are low in calories, high in fiber, and are a good source of potassium, folic acid, and several antioxidant compounds. The mild-flavored fruit lends itself to a wide range of delicious recipes and the plant itself is quite ornamental.

Wonderfully adapted to large containers, stately eggplants are perfect for growing on a sunny deck or patio, and they make colorful centerpieces for intensively planted raised beds. With their bold-textured leaves, purple star-shaped flowers, and oddly charming fruit, they are an appealing addition to a sunny flowerbed.

A staple crop in India, China, and the Middle East for at least 5,000 years, eggplant was brought to Spain in the 8th century under the name of alberginia. Hundreds of years later, when grilled eggplant became popular at the French royal palace, its name morphed into aubergine. Yet there was no escaping the fact that most eggplant fruits look a lot like eggs, which justifies the English name of eggplant.

GROWING GUIDELINES

Eggplant grows best in full sun and thrives in heat that makes many other plants wilt. They should be planted in the garden only after the soil has warmed in late spring. Where summers are short, fast-maturing varieties can be grown in beds where the soil has been covered with black plastic mulch to absorb solar heat, or you can grow them in dark-colored



'Fairy Tale', a 2005 All-America Selections winner, is a compact eggplant cultivar well suited for growing in containers.

containers for the same effect. Special warming methods are not needed from USDA Hardiness Zone 6 southward, where the soil stays warm long enough to grow vigorous, heavy-bearing plants.

A fertile soil with a slightly acidic pH (5.5 to 6.5) is ideal for growing eggplant. Supplement the soil before planting with well-rotted compost or manure and a balanced organic fertilizer. Place a stake next to each eggplant at planting time to avoid damaging roots later. Weed eggplants by hand until they are 12 inches tall, and then mulch them to help retain soil moisture and suppress weeds.

Soon after the plants produce starry purple blossoms, tie plants to the stakes to keep them upright and to prevent the stalk from breaking under the weight

of the fruit. This is also a good time to give eggplants a second dose of organic fertilizer, or you can drench the soil around their roots thoroughly with a liquid plant food. This supplemental feeding helps push out secondary stems that will produce late-season blossoms and fruits.

Some vegetables are unhappy when grown in containers, but not eggplant. Especially in cool climates, eggplant roots stay warmer in planters than they would in the ground, which encourages vigorous growth.

In the garden or containers, eggplant grows best with constant soil moisture. Dry conditions can cause eggplants to shed their blossoms and produce little fruit.

PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION

Eggplant flea beetle (*Epitrix fuscula*) is the bane of eggplant gardeners. Eggplant leaves can become so riddled with flea beetle holes in summer that the plants are badly weakened. Flea beetles are especially destructive to young seedlings. Prevent damage by covering plants with summer-weight row covers. Inter-



Eggplant flea beetles can weaken plants by riddling the foliage with holes.

Sources

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Warminster, PA. (800)888-1447. www.burpee.com.

Fedco Seeds, Waterville, ME. (207) 426-9900. www.fedcoseeds.com.

Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, IA. (563) 382-5990. www.seedsavers.org.

Tomato Growers Supply Co., Fort Myers, FL. (888) 478-7333. www.tomatogrowers.com.

estingly, I've noticed that flea beetles are much less bothersome to eggplants grown in planters on a deck or patio compared to plants grown in a garden.

Occasionally Colorado potato beetle larvae are found devouring tender new leaves. If they are too numerous to hand-pick, applying spinosad to leaf surfaces will bring them under control and reduce flea beetle infestations, too.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

'Applegreen' Developed in New Hampshire, this cold-tolerant variety produces pale green fruits with tender skins starting 65 days or so after transplanting.

'Diamond' Born and bred in the Ukraine, the stocky two-foot plants produce robust crops of nine-inch-long purple fruits in about 70 days, with full harvest a few weeks later.

'Millionaire' An updated Asian long-fruited variety with a tiny seed cavity, it produces shiny purple fruits 10 to 12 inches long starting 65 days after transplanting.

'Rosa Bianca' An Italian heirloom, the



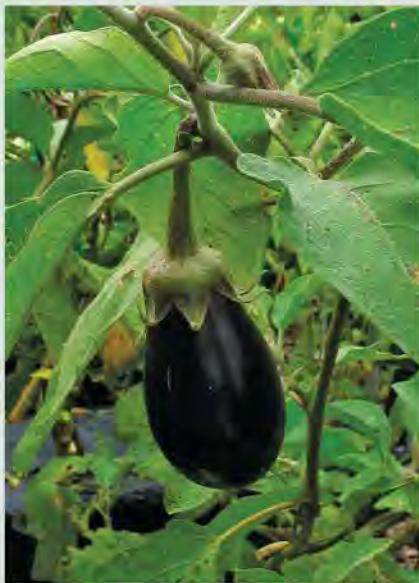
PLANTING BASICS

Getting Started You can start seeds indoors under lights about eight weeks before your last spring frost. Eggplant seeds germinate best at warm temperatures between 70 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Gradually shift eggplant seedlings to larger containers, and harden them off in a sunny, protected place like a cold frame before transplanting them to the garden. Alternatively, eggplant seedlings are widely available at garden centers in spring.

Planting Wait until at least two weeks after your last spring frost to set out seedlings.

Spacing Allow at least 18 inches between plants. Choose containers at least 16 inches wide for each plant.

Days to Maturity Depending on variety, expect the first eggplants to ripen 51 to 85 days after transplanting.



Harvest fruits regularly to encourage an extended period of production.

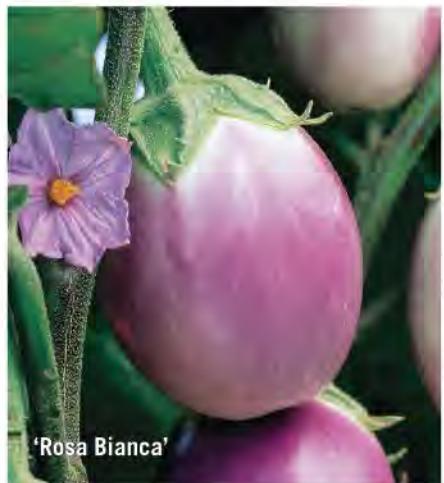
four-to six-inch round fruit is purple with creamy white shading; it begins producing about 80 days after transplanting.

'Swallow' One of the earliest-maturing eggplants (51 days from transplanting), this dark-skinned Asian type is also an excellent choice for containers.

ENJOYING THE HARVEST

Healthy plants produce for two months or more, or until short days and cool nights stop their growth. By late summer, a large-fruited plant can produce four to eight glossy fruits, many more for small-fruited varieties.

Eggplant fruits are ready to pick



when close to their mature size and the skins are glossy. It is better to harvest under ripe eggplant than to let them go until the skin turns dull and the seeds inside begin to harden and turn bitter. Use pruning shears to cut each eggplant with a stub of stem and calyx attached; harvest regularly to encourage continued flower and fruit development. Eggplant will keep in the refrigerator for a few days, but should be cooked as soon as possible for best flavor.

Many recipes include salting cut eggplant to remove bitterness, but this is seldom an issue with tender, garden-grown eggplant. Eggplant slices are great on the grill, or in baked casseroles such as eggplant parmesan. Few vegetables are as stuffable as eggplant, with fillings that reflect eggplant's travels through the great cuisines of the world—from Middle Eastern mixtures of garlic, ground lamb, and bulgur to spicy cornbread and seafood stuffings used on the Gulf Coast. Try combining the chopped, cooked flesh with tomatoes, onions and salty olives or capers to make eggplant caponata, a Sicilian condiment that is delicious on bread or with pasta.

The author of several gardening books, Barbara Pleasant lives in Floyd, Virginia.

The Oregon Garden

by Lynne Hoffman



AT ONE TIME the Oregon Garden might have been described as a “hidden treasure,” but over the last few years, this unique site located in Silverton, Oregon, about 60 miles south of Portland, has been discovered by garden travelers. The 80-acre garden, which opened in 1999, inspires wonder and admiration for gardeners, plant nerds, and nature-lovers. It features one of the largest collections of dwarf conifers in the country, a garden dedicated to plants of the Pacific Northwest, a wetlands area that treats wastewater, and an affiliated resort. Even four-legged family members are welcomed at this pet-friendly facility.

Collaboration might be the byword for the garden, which was developed through a partnership between the Or-

egon Association of Nurseries and the city of Silverton, with cooperation from other state and national groups. The nonprofit Oregon Garden Foundation owns the garden, but it is operated by Moonstone Garden Management Incorporated, which built an extensive onsite resort at which many visitors stay.

SPECIALTY GARDEN AREAS

Despite its relatively young age, the Oregon Garden features 20 distinct specialty gardens. A family favorite, the **Children's Garden** offers interactive exhibits that engage children and encourage active play while also providing a multitude of

The Conifer Garden features one of the largest collections of dwarf and miniature conifers in the United States.

learning opportunities. A round, latched door draws children to the Hobbit House, where they inevitably run to explore the underground tunnel. They can also dig for bones in Dinosaur Dig, and climb the Tree House built around a mature willow tree, where real fixtures and furniture are planted with colorful flowers. Imaginative topiary adds to the playful atmosphere as visitors are greeted by grassy-haired “pot people.” Adjacent to the Children’s Garden, the **Train Garden** was developed with the help of two regional train clubs.

A garden trek to the Northwest wouldn’t be complete without the opportunity to get up close and personal with some amazing conifers, and the **Conifer Garden** delivers in spades—and spruces and pines, thanks to a partnership with the Western Region of the American Conifer Society (ACS).



Sculptures such as this one can be seen in many areas of the Oregon Garden.

Doug Wilson, a longtime ACS National and Western Region Board Member has been instrumental in the ongoing development of the Conifer Garden. “The goal is to showcase the beauty and versatility of these trees which include many deciduous conifers, and to educate the public that they are so much more than just evergreens,” says Wilson. The unique collection includes a variety of companion plants such as Japanese maples, daphnes, heathers, and heaths.



At the entrance to the Children's Garden, a pair of pot people keep each other company while waiting to greet visitors.

If the range of gardens and exhibits seems a bit overwhelming, Brittney Hatteberg, the garden’s marketing manager, recommends visitors start with a narrated tram tour. Complimentary with paid admission, the 25-minute tour gives guests an overview of the facility, stopping at four different locations where passengers can disembark or board.

DRAWING A CROWD

How do you get more than 700 people to volunteer for a botanical garden event? The answer can be summed up in two words: beer and music. The Oregon Garden’s Brewfest, held annually in April, features 22 live bands and 62 breweries, attracting about 6,500 people last year. Other popular events include Movies in the Garden, held weekly July through August, and the Scarecrow in the Garden display each October. This year, the garden is adding a Christmas Market each weekend from Thanksgiving to Christmas that will include artisan vendors and a festive holiday light display. Winter activities include the Annual Stitches in Bloom Quilt Show, held the last weekend in January, with vendors and workshops.

FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

More than just an awe-inspiring horticultural display, the Garden’s commitment to sustainability is evident through exhibits that feature green roofs, composting, and edible landscaping. But most unique is the **Wetlands Habitat**, which was created to treat the area’s waste water through a series of pools that comprise an attractive water feature called the A-Mazing Water Garden. Development of the waste-water treatment area was part of the garden’s original partnership with the city of Silverton.

Another popular area is the **Silverton Market Garden**, which showcases 147 crops commonly grown in Oregon and provides hands-on gardening experiences to willing visitors. The garden’s harvest—some 7,000 pounds annually—is donated to needy families in the community.

Each section of the **Home Demonstration Garden** exhibits a different element of garden design and provides display areas for local nurseries and landscape firms who sponsor, design, and maintain their own area, providing ideas to inspire home gardeners. There are separate display and trial

Additional Information

The Oregon Garden, 879 W. Main Street, Silverton, OR 97381. (877) 674-2733. www.oregongarden.org.

■ Open year-round, including holidays
Hours: May–September: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; October–April: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
■ Admission: Adults \$11; Seniors 60+ \$9; Students 12 to 17, \$8; Children 5 to 11, \$5; Children 4 & under free. The Oregon Garden participates in the AHS’s Reciprocal Admissions Program, so AHS members get free admission and parking, a discount in the gift shop, discounts on garden events, and other benefits. Contact the garden for details.

Other nearby sites worth visiting:

Frank Lloyd Wright Gordon House, 869 W. Main Street, Silverton, OR 97381. (503) 874-6006. www.thegordonhouse.org.

Silver Falls State Park, 20024 Silver Falls Highway SE, Sublimity, OR 97305. (800) 551-6949. www.oregonstateparks.org.

gardens for new annuals and perennials. A **Medicinal Garden**, **Sensory Garden**, and **Rose Garden** are just a few of the other specialty gardens, each with a story to tell. A new feature this summer will be the recently planted **Fuchsia Display**, which includes 375 plants of 101 different species and is believed to be the largest public collection of fuchsias in the country. The fuchsias were donated by Fry Road Nursery in Albany, Oregon.

CREATURE COMFORTS

Many visitors to the garden stay in the associated **Oregon Garden Resort**, where each room has a private patio or deck overlooking the Garden, and guests receive complimentary garden access. Guests can relax and enjoy amenities such as a full-service spa, an outdoor pool and hot tub, and a restaurant and lounge with live music every night, which is a welcome way to end a long day of visiting the garden and other local sites.

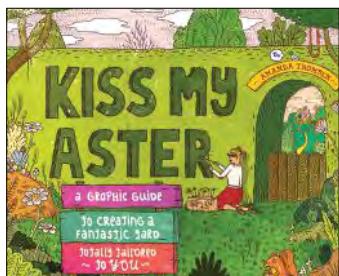
Lynne Hoffman is an editorial intern with The American Gardener.

Recommendations for Your Gardening Library

Kiss My Aster

Amanda Thomsen. Storey Publishing, North Adams, Massachusetts, 2012. 160 pages. Publisher's price, softcover: \$16.95.

EVERY SO OFTEN, a book comes along that challenges the limits of the media and shows how much is still possible with old-fashioned paper and ink. Amanda Thomsen's new book does just that.



If you are in your 30s or 40s, you may remember those Choose Your Own Adventure books that let you personalize the story by skipping to a certain page if you wanted the protagonists to do X, or a different page if you wanted them to do Y. *Kiss My Aster* uses a similar concept, and has that same spirited combination of breezy adventure, interactivity, and sheer fun.

Every page is covered in full-color illustrations, humorous-yet-effective tips, and little asides such as "How to spot a phony landscape architect" (tip: if he's wearing white or sports a fake mustache, you may have a phony on your hands!). Section headings such as "Shrubs: The Khaki Pants of the Landscape," "Dropping Acid (or Alkalinity)," and "Annual Means Always Having to Say Goodbye" set the tone for what's to come.

The humor, clever illustrations, and interactive format of this book are so special that it would be easy to overlook the caliber of the advice the author provides. Thomsen is known for taking a witty, Gen X approach to gardening, yet she also has the rare ability to simplify the complex. Her advice is to-the-point, easy-to-understand, and, most important, provides the exact types of information that new gardeners really want and need.

This would be the perfect book to give as a gift to someone who is just beginning to consider how they can turn their boring patch of lawn into a true garden masterpiece. Obviously, it's not the only book they'll need, because there are no photos with design ideas or planting schemes to try. However, the book provides a thorough and encouraging framework for how to approach different kinds of landscaping projects, and grounds readers in the basics without putting them to sleep. This beautifully crafted book will become a well-worn and dog-eared addition to any new gardener's library.

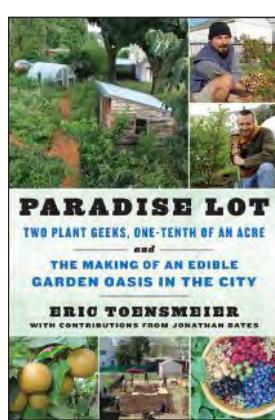
—Genevieve Schmidt

Genevieve Schmidt is a landscaper and garden writer in Arcata, California. She also blogs at www.northcoastgardening.com.

Paradise Lot

Eric Toensmeier. Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, Vermont, 2013. 248 pages. Publisher's price, softcover: \$19.95.

FOR BABY BOOMERS like me who dreamed about going "back to the land" in the early 1970s, Helen and Scott Nearing's *Living the Good Life: How to Live Sanely and Simply in a Troubled World*, was our touchstone. Forty years on, many of today's 20- and 30-somethings feel that same longing to grow food and live more lightly on the land. In his new book, *Paradise Lot*, Eric Toensmeier offers a roadmap, with the story of how he and fellow permaculture expert and contributing author Jonathan Bates created an edible backyard oasis on a tiny city lot in Holyoke, Massachusetts.



Self-described plant geeks, the authors' passion includes popularizing undervalued, low-maintenance perennial food crops from around the world—everything from American persimmons, giant fuki, Chinese yams, hog peanuts, and sunchoke. After a decade of research about growing and using these plants, the two were eager to get their hands in the soil and put their knowledge to work. A house in the country with 10 acres was far beyond their means. Instead, they set out to prove that almost anyone, anywhere, could turn their backyard into a foraging paradise.

Chronicling 12 years of transformation from scruffy urban lot to a lush garden, the book describes practical techniques from how to deeply aerate an established perennial garden to how to use leaves and cardboard boxes to sheet-mulch a new garden.

Their achievements on one-tenth of an acre have been remarkable. They introduced hundreds of different plants as well as a pond, greenhouse, wetlands, compost bins, and laying hens. Their garden became more than the sum of its parts, and over time, they witnessed the evolution of an ecosystem "of delightful abundance and elegant complexity." *Paradise Lot* is a book about plants, but it's also a book about following your passion, and about the power of gardening to bring us into a deeper relationship with the natural world.

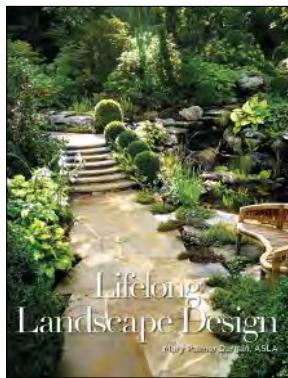
—Kathleen LaLiberte

Kathleen LaLiberte is a garden writer and marketing and communications consultant in Richmond, Vermont. Her website is www.johnniebrookcreative.com.

Lifelong Landscape Design

Mary Palmer Dargan. Gibbs Smith, Layton, Utah, 2012. 208 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$30.

EVERYONE WANTS A garden that stands out from all the rest, but how does one think outside the box to get one? The answers might be found in the latest book, *Lifelong Landscape Design*, by landscape architect Mary Palmer Dargan of Atlanta.



As Dargan explains in the introduction, lifelong landscape design means thinking about more than your own garden. "It involves encouraging your community to be a well-rooted environment consisting of friends who share homegrown produce, walk in the neighborhood, recycle, water harvest, compost and are watchful of each other's well-being," she says. She then suggests numerous ways to integrate your own garden into the natural landscape, your neighborhood, and among your friends and acquaintances.

The book is an inspirational guide to creating gardens that promote healthy living—places that refresh both the body and the soul. Dargan has developed more than 200 "patterns" and "activities" that are the components of a healthy life. She outlines nine principles of lifelong landscape design and the first, The Web of Life, concerns garden elements such as entries, decks, terraces and outdoor rooms that connect homeowners with nature.

Dargan describes how a dining terrace can bring about social interaction; how active recreation, such as yoga, swimming, playing, and just plain gardening, enhances health and prolongs longevity; how sustainable techniques restore the balance of nature; why pet-friendly gardens (chickens, anyone?) help reduce stress.

Beginning gardeners will find this book particularly valuable. Dargan defines landscape terms—alleé, landing, shrub node, soft walks—that guide new gardeners toward well-defined design decisions. She suggests that people "start small" with perennial gardens, and she provides a simple recipe to make it work.

I particularly liked the profiles of gardens that are spread throughout the pages. In "At Home on the Range," Dargan tells us how architect John Isch of Cincinnati took advantage of natural views to site the house and design surrounding multiple outdoor terraces to fit the lifestyle of an extended family. "A Gracious Stroll Garden" in Augusta, Georgia, is the perfect place to entice a visitor to wander through the landscape and enjoy a number of special plant collections. "A Pleasure Parterre" in Atlanta features a formal garden filled with topiaries and gardens that link a bed and breakfast establishment with a guesthouse and a garden retreat.

This book is for anyone who believes that we are shaped by our environments. In it, Dargan shows us how to adapt our gardens to fit our own experience and enhance the quality of life itself. 

—Jane Berger

Jane Berger is a landscape designer based in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. She blogs at www.gardendesignonline.com.

A woman with long brown hair is smiling while kneeling in a lush green lawn. Three bags of Espoma Organic Lawn Food are displayed in front of her. From left to right: Summer Revitalizer (yellow bag), All Season Lawn Food (green bag), and Fall Winterizer (orange bag). Each bag is labeled "SAFE FOR KIDS AND PETS".

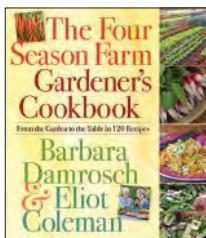
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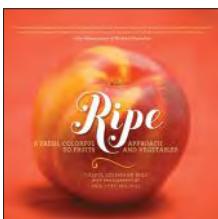
GARDENER'S BOOKS

Making the Most of Your Harvest

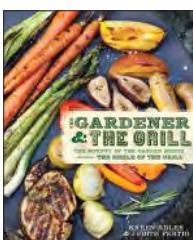
IT'S A SHORT trip from garden to table if you grow your own fruits and vegetables. And even if you don't, the availability of fresh seasonal produce at farmers markets and through community supported agriculture programs increases each year. Here are several new books that aim to help you take full advantage of this bounty by offering imaginative ideas for preparing and serving it in style.



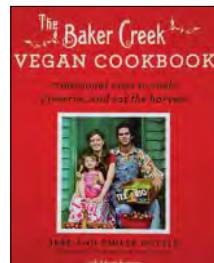
The Four Season Farm Gardener's Cookbook by Barbara Damrosch and Eliot Coleman (Workman Publishing, \$22.95) is a celebration of growing and preparing your own food. Part One guides readers through the establishment of a year-round food garden. Recipes in Part Two are selected to make the most of each season's harvest. "The garden provides a list of ingredients, inspires the recipe, and collaborates on the menu," explains Damrosch.



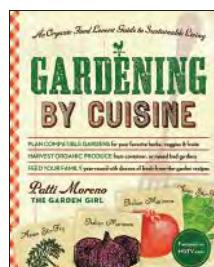
Unlike most cookbooks that are organized by type of food, **Ripe** by Cheryl Sternman Rule (Running Press, \$25) is arranged according to the color of the produce, with vivid photographs by Paulette Phlipot. Lively introductions and a single inspired recipe is included for each fruit or vegetable, such as Beer Battered Squash Blossoms, Caramelized Onion Asiago Tart, and Tarragon Lime Green Tea. The author also supplies "Simple Uses For" each item—pairings of compatible flavors or ideas intended to trigger your own culinary creativity.



If you are among those who think grilling makes all food taste better, check out **The Gardener & the Grill** by Karen Adler and Judith Fertig (Running Press, \$20). "Grilling from the garden...gives you twice the sense of accomplishment—first from growing your own food, and secondly, from making it taste so good," the authors opine. A chapter entitled "Pantry" includes salts, sauces, and drizzles for grilling. Photos and tips for both growing and grilling are sprinkled throughout the recipes, from appetizers through desserts.



The Baker Creek Vegan Cookbook by Jere and Emilee Gettle (Hyperion, \$19.99) includes traditional recipes such as apple fritters, sauerkraut, and tomato sauce, as well as many Asian-inspired dishes. Vegetables—often, specific heirloom varieties, as you might expect given the authors own an heirloom seed company—take center stage; substitutions have been made for meat and other non-vegan ingredients. There's also a chapter on canning and drying to help preserve your produce for later use.



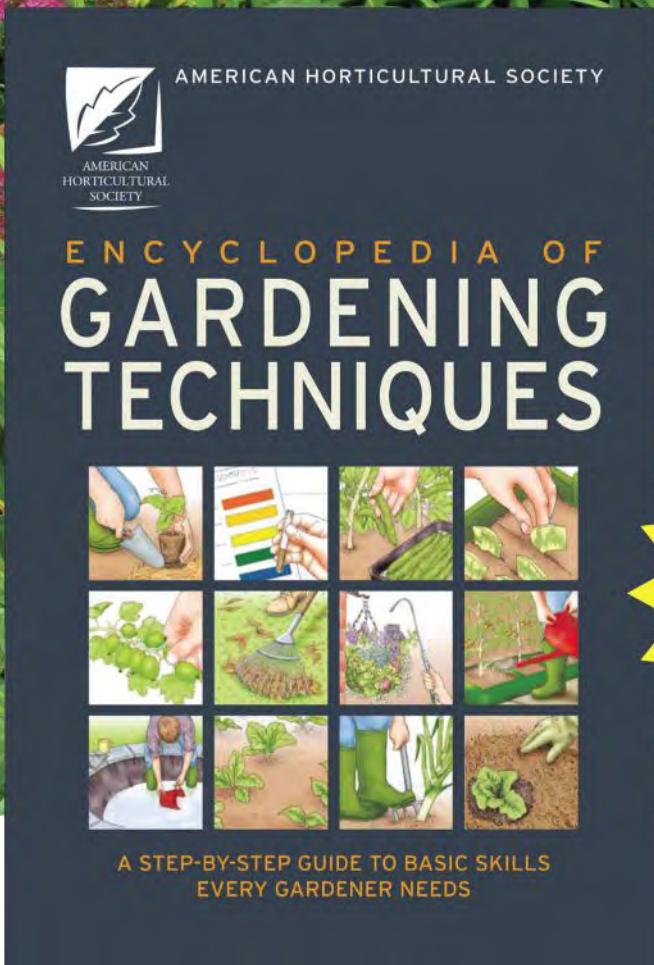
Gardening by Cuisine by Patti Moreno (Sterling Publishing, \$18.95) offers beginning food growers—even those who live in an urban setting—step-by-step information for establishing a raised bed food garden. It covers basic growing requirements as well as instructions for building raised beds. Then it provides plans for growing specific gardens including: Herb Pesto Garden, Three Sisters Native American Garden, and more. Recipes that use the plants in each garden follow the growing instructions.



Greek Revival from the Garden by Patricia Moore-Pastides (University of South Carolina Press, \$27.95) promotes a traditional Mediterranean diet—one that is high in fresh fruit and vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts, and seafood, with dairy in moderation. The simple yet innovative recipes rely on these ingredients and creative use of herbs and spices; suggestions for substitute ingredients are often provided. The result is a variety of healthy, mouthwatering dishes.

—Rita Pelczar, Contributing Editor

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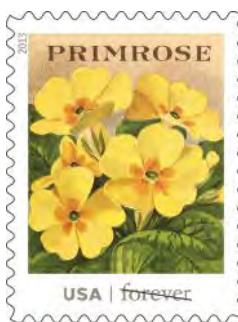
STAMPS CELEBRATE VINTAGE SEED PACKET ART

Honoring the past while capitalizing on the resurgence in popularity of antique seed packet art, the U.S. Postal Service recently issued a new commemorative "Forever" stamp design series featuring 10 vintage seed packet images. Originally, these images appeared on flower seed packets offered by several companies between 1910 and 1920.

Available starting in April, each colorful stamp depicts blossoms of one of the following flowers: cosmos, foxgloves, primroses, calendulas, asters, pinks (*Dianthus*), flax (*Linum*), alyssum, phlox, and zinnias. The images are also available as a set of note cards, first day covers, and digital color postmarks.

Barbara Melera, owner of the 229-year-old D. Landreth Seed Company, was a speaker at the first-day-of-issue ceremony in Oaks, Pennsylvania. "I find it intriguing that it was the United States Postal Service, the organization that was responsible for bringing these artistic images to more Americans than any other entity, that chose to recognize and celebrate this packet art," she noted.

At least four of the images were selected from Landreth seed packets from the early 1900s. The photos were cropped to highlight the floral detail and the final images were created digitally, a far cry from the labor-intensive original chromolithographs. For more information, visit www.usps.com.



RETURN OF THE CICADAS

Gardeners in the mid-Atlantic are bracing for the return of the 17-year periodic cicadas (*Magicicada septendecim*, *M. cassini*, and *M. septendecula*). The mature nymphs of the Magicicada Brood II cicadas started emerging from the ground from Virginia to Connecticut in April and May, and millions are expected to be flying around in their adult stage by May and June.

Because they are cold-blooded, cicadas rely on air temperature and direct sun-



Adult cicadas prepare themselves for flight by basking in the sun on iris leaves.

light to warm their bodies enough to fly; they won't even come out of the ground until soil temperatures reach a steady 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Soon after coming to the surface, the non-flying nymphs climb to an elevated site on trees or buildings for the next stage of their life cycle. Winged adults then molt, leaving the shells of the nymph stage behind.

What does it mean for gardeners? Well, you don't need to be afraid of cicadas, because they don't bite or sting—although it's always a bit shocking when one sud-

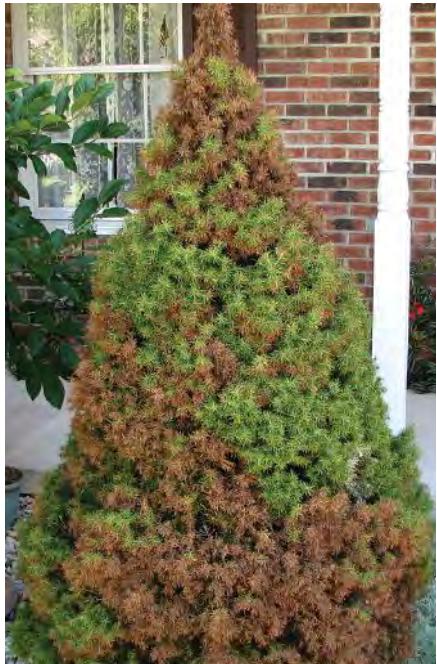
denly flies into your face. And, unlike the more omnivorous locusts, they won't eat or otherwise damage foliage or fruits. However, they do cause damage to the branches of some trees and shrubs when females "cut" a groove into the undersides of branches with their sawlike ovipositors so they can lay their eggs under the bark. They tend to select branches roughly the diameter of a pencil, so young trees and shrubs are most prone to severe damage. Later, the eggs hatch and the nymphs drop to the ground, where they bury themselves a foot or so deep for a 17-year nap.

To minimize damage, Eric Day, an entomologist at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, recommends avoiding planting new fruiting and ornamental trees in the years of a cicada emergence. "Young trees already planted can be covered with fine netting to keep the cicadas from reaching the small tender twigs," he says. "Secure the netting around the trunk to stop them from climbing up into the tree, then remove the netting at the end of June." Any 'flagging' branches—branches with a visible groove and wilting/browning foliage—should be pruned and destroyed to reduce the number of nymphs that will survive. Day advises against using insecticides. "Insecticides will give limited control," he says, "but often the sprays will cause worse problems. Blooming trees and shrubs should not be treated, because this may kill pollinating insects."

If your plants escape unscathed, your ears may not. Reaching up to 108 decibels—as loud as a lawn mower at three feet—the painfully loud and shrill mating song emitted by the males may be more tolerable once you realize that their next chance to mate won't be for another 17 years. More information may be found at www.cicadamania.com.

IMPRELIS SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED

In a settlement approved in Federal court in January, DuPont, makers of Imprelis herbicide, set aside \$750 mil-



An Alberta spruce displays Imprelis damage.

lion to compensate customers for tree damage caused by the herbicide. Tens of thousands of customers are expected to be included in the class-action lawsuit.

Widespread reports of damage to coniferous trees followed soon after the product was released for use by commercial applicators in the spring of 2011. White pine (*Pinus strobus*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), and Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) are among the trees that appear to be particularly affected, exhibiting twisted and curling needles, followed by browning of needles, shoots, and branch tips. As part of the settlement, DuPont has agreed to remove damaged trees and pay for replacements, maintenance, and warranties.

Participants in the class-action settlement may also file separate claims for environmental or personal injury damage. More information can be found by calling the Imprelis Hotline at (866)796-4783, or at www.imprelis-facts.com.

RAISING THE SALAD BAR

Anyone who's grown lettuces knows they don't fare well in hot weather—in fact, lettuce seed won't even germinate when temperatures are too high. That could change, thanks to a discovery by researchers at the

University of California, Davis's Seed Biotechnology Center, who identified a gene and related enzyme in lettuce that prevents germination during hot weather. The exciting finding could influence development of heat-tolerant lettuces and has implications for other crops.

While cross-breeding commercial lettuce varieties with a wild ancestor, the research team used genetic mapping to identify the gene that governs production of abscisic acid, the hormone that regulates germination and is affected by high temperatures. The discovery is clearly significant to the lettuce industry, but the impact may be wider because the dormancy mechanism appears to be common to many plant species. "This could be increasingly important because global temperatures are predicted to rise," says the research team's leader, Kent Bradford, who is professor of plant sciences and director of the Seed Biotechnology Center.

The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Science Foundation.

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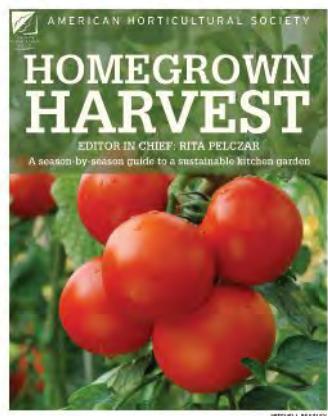
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ANNE FRANK TREE SYMBOL OF TOLERANCE

There was no last-minute reprieve—for Anne Frank as her family hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, or for the famous chestnut tree that she wrote about in her diary. The 200-year-old tree, riddled with disease, succumbed to wind and heavy rain in August 2010.



Anne Frank, left, wrote in her diary about a chestnut tree, shown above before it toppled in 2010, that she could see from her bedroom window.

With foresight, seeds from the tree had been saved for propagation purposes, and seedlings from the tree are being planted at 11 U.S. locations selected for the honor by the Anne Frank Center USA from among 34 applicants. The chosen sites include the White House in Washington, D.C., the 9/11 Memorial Plaza in New York City, and the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. "We chose the 11 sites because of their importance in American history and their commitment to continuing education about tolerance," says Yvonne Simons, executive director of the Anne Frank Center USA.

NEW JERSEY CLAIMS VICTORY OVER ALB

New Jersey is the second state to declare eradication of the Asian long-horned beetle (ALB). First discovered in the U.S. in 1996, the beetle has caused tens of thousands of trees to be destroyed in Ohio, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Illinois, including elm, maple, ash, willow, birch, and more. Once a tree is infested, it can't be saved and any other potential host tree in the vicinity is at significant risk.



An adult Asian long-horned beetle

ALB was successfully eradicated from Illinois in 2008 and the ALB-regulated area of Islip, New York, in 2011. An area is declared free of the ALB after all the infested trees are eliminated and surveys are negative for active signs of beetle activity or the presence of the beetle for several years. As this issue went to press, Canada reported it was ALB-free, and eradication announcements for Manhattan and Staten Island, New York, are expected this year.

"After more than a decade, we can declare New Jersey is free of this invasive pest," said Douglas Fisher, New Jersey's Secretary of Agriculture. "We could not have accomplished this eradication without this coalition of federal, state, and local agencies, and of course, the citizens of New Jersey, whose vigilance was critical in this fight."

The best defense, however, is early detection, and the public is crucial in this effort. USDA has declared August as "Tree Check Month," urging people to look for the beetle and signs of damage caused by it. Adult beetles are most active during the summer and early fall. For more information, visit www.asianlonghornedbeetle.com.

PEOPLE and PLACES in the NEWS

New Leadership at Santa Fe Garden

Santa Fe Botanical Garden (SFBG) announced Clayton Bass was named the garden's new Chief Executive Officer in February. The announcement came as



construction continues on a new 13-acre garden at the SFBG's Museum Hill location, scheduled to open in July 2013 (for more on the new garden, see "Regional Happenings," page 58). Bass previously worked for the Alexander Haas Fundraising Consultants of Atlanta, which played a major role in the New Mexico History Museum campaign. Bass was also president, CEO and capital campaign director of Alabama's Huntsville Museum of Art, where he led a \$10 million expansion campaign. He also has helmed arts institutions in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and at Emory Museum in Atlanta, Georgia.

Garden Conservancy Names New C.E.O.

Jenny Young du Pont was appointed president and chief executive officer of the Garden Conservancy in April. An attorney, du Pont recently served as a legal and strategic consultant on business development, marketing, legal issues and investor relations for various media, technology, and financial firms, and was also the executive director of Miracle House, a nonprofit social services agency in New York City. "I'm delighted about this opportunity to work with the Garden Conservancy and to build on its 23 years of accomplishments," said du Pont. "It's an exciting time for the organization to expand its garden preservation and education programs, including Open Days." For more information, visit www.gardenconservancy.org.



THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION RECEIVES MEDAL OF HONOR AWARD

The Garden Club of America (GCA) presented its prestigious Medal of Honor award to the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF), a nonprofit conservation organization based in Asheville, North Carolina, for its outstanding efforts to restore the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) to the eastern forests of North America. The tree, once common in woodlands and many towns, was decimated by fungal blight from Asia in the early 1900s. It may be making a slow recovery thanks to decades of special breeding by TACF researchers.

In 2005, TACF produced the first potentially blight-resistant trees called Restoration Chestnuts 1.0. These trees are hybrids, the result of crossing American chestnut with the more blight-resistant Chinese chestnut (*C. mollissima*). With the help of 6,000 members and volunteers from 18 states, the

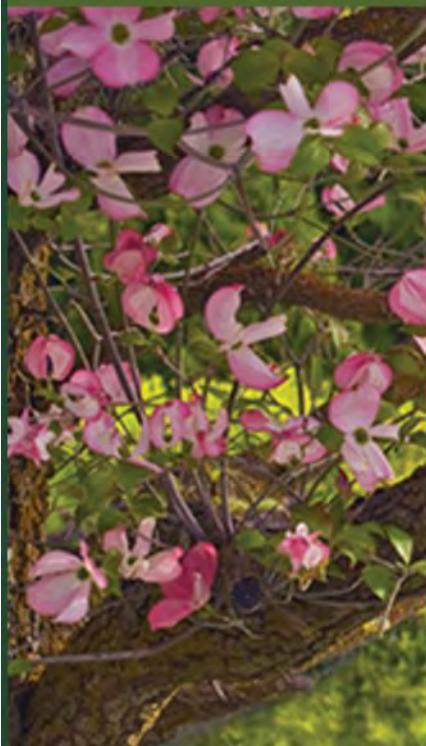
organization is test-planting the new trees in select locations throughout the eastern United States in the hopes of eventually re-introducing it to forests in the natural range of the American chestnut.

The Medal of Honor was presented to TACF President and CEO Bryan Burhans on May 2 at GCA's Awards Dinner in Philadelphia. "TACF is deeply honored to receive this award," says Burhans. "Gardeners and garden clubs have been a very important part of TACF's success story. Without the hearts and hands of dedicated, hardworking gardeners, we never could have achieved all that we have."

(For more about current chestnut restoration efforts—including those of TACF—see "The Return of the American Chestnut" in the May/June 2011 issue of *The American Gardener*.)

News written by Editorial Intern Lynne Hoffman and AHS staff.

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GREEN GARAGE®

Contributing editor Rita Pelczar reports on products she has found useful or innovative in her garden, with an emphasis on earth-friendly products and supplies. Here she focuses on products for making gardening more productive.

Tools, Tunnels, and other Garden Gear

This spring has given me lots of opportunities to trial a few long- and short-handled tools designed for a variety of garden chores. I've also discovered a new organic fertilizer and a few useful contraptions to make my kitchen garden more productive. And while I was giving these new products a try, I kept myself protected from the sun in style.

I recently had 20 cubic yards of mulch delivered to my North Carolina property, and the thought of spreading that massive pile over my gardens (in addition to our vegetable garden and ornamental beds, my husband and I grow organic hops, which need a lot of mulch) was a bit daunting. A new tool in my arsenal, however, has been a big help. It's called an **All Poly Scoop Fork**,

Fork, and for its size—huge compared to most garden forks—it's very light, only four pounds. Constructed entirely of rigid polyurethane, it's incredibly sturdy. The tips of the tines are beveled so it slides into the mulch pile with little resistance, and the fork has a deeply scooped shape so it takes fewer scoops to fill my wheelbarrow. I really like the large-diameter, textured grip, which is quite comfortable, even after a lot of use. Made in the USA, the All Poly Scoop Fork is available from Gardeners Edge. www.gardenersedge.com.

A few years ago I wrote about a long-handled tool from Lee Valley Tools called the **Spork**—a hybrid between a spade and a fork (*The American Gardener*, November/December 2009). I still find this tool incredibly useful; it is, among other things, my go-to tool for removing sod. So I was pleased to see that a smaller, angled version of the Spork is now



available. The **DeWit™ Hand Spork** has the same sturdy construction, with a carbon steel head, and that oddly shaped, toothed business end. It is much smaller, of course, with an overall length of 14½ inches, and its head is bent at a significant angle. It has just enough heft for the sharp, pointed teeth to easily penetrate soil and grab deep weed roots. When you pull back on the ash handle, the weeds usually lift intact so you get the whole root system. It really does the job on plantain, chickweed, white clover, and a lot of other unwanted invaders of my gardens. Available from www.leevalley.com.

Whether you're planting trees and shrubs or dividing perennials the **Spear Head Spade™** can reduce the effort required for all that digging. This spade was designed by Daniel Mathieu of Windsor, Connecticut, an 85-year-old inventor with a passion for gardening. His aim was to design a heavy-duty but lightweight spade with a profile and angles that assist soil penetration, particularly in rocky and compacted soils.



Although the high carbon manganese steel blade is thicker and harder than most shovels, it has a narrower overall profile and its edges are sharpened at 35 degree angles to ease the way through heavy soil and roots. An epoxy powder coating minimizes friction and inhibits corrosion. I like the long socket that attaches the handle to the blade, making that union less likely to break, and the wide, forward-bent foot rest that lets you put a lot of force behind your digging efforts. The spade is available in two lengths: the shorter version has a cushioned D-grip, the long handle version has a cushioned grip along the handle. www.spearheadspade.com.



I like using organic fertilizers to nourish my plants, and I've recently become acquainted with **Sustane Natural Fertilizers**. Although the company has been producing natural fertilizers to commercial nurseries and greenhouse growers for 25 years or so, it only recently introduced a product line to home gardeners. Derived from composted turkey litter, these fertilizers are rich in beneficial microorganisms and humic acids and contain all essential nutrients for plant growth.



Its granular form makes application easy and it has little odor. The All Natural Fruits, Flower & Vegetable Fertilizer has a N-P-K (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) ratio of 4-6-4; the All Natural Lawn & Landscape Plant Food has a ratio of 8-2-4. The nitrogen and micronutrients in both formulations are slowly released, so they become available to plants over time, rather than being lost by leaching. And in case you're an organic farmer, both products are approved for organic production by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). www.sustane.com.

One of the first crops I plant in my kitchen garden each spring is sugar snap peas. This year, my peas are climbing a spiffy new trellis from Gardener's Supply Company. The **Pea Tunnel** is a sturdy, plastic-coated steel support that is suited for three to four foot wide raised beds or rows. It's roughly two feet wide by four feet long, and depending on how deeply you sink the hoop supports into the ground, about four feet tall—just enough to grow the peas I use fresh. If you like to freeze some of your harvest, or your family includes a lot of pea lovers, you may want to use two tunnels so you can grow more. The peas are planted on the outside of the tunnel. For efficient use of space, plant the area beneath the tunnel with fast-growing greens—I planted lettuce and arugula beneath mine. Assembly was very simple and the tunnel stores flat so once my spring



sugar snap peas are finished, I can store it until I'm ready to plant my fall garden. www.gardeners.com.

I am using a different sort of tunnel from Gardener's Supply to protect my spinach from the flea beetles that attack every year. The **Insect Netting with Hoops** is such a good idea I



wonder why I've never used it before. Given my windy hilltop site, floating row covers can float—or fly—right out of the garden, unless anchored so securely that it's a nuisance to access the crop for harvest. But this netting has channels through which the sturdy metal support hoops are threaded. Not only does this system secure the netting, the plants are more accessible for tending and harvesting—you simply slide the netting up the hoops. The fine mesh also protects plants from rabbits, birds, and damage by drying winds. www.gardeners.com.

If you, like most gardeners, spend a lot of time in the sun, it's important to safeguard yourself from damaging rays.



This spring, I have enjoyed the UPF 50+ sun protection afforded by Foxgloves' **C3 Cotton Crochet Hat**, which has a four-inch rim that shades my face without getting in my way. It's attractive, breathable, washable, folds flat—easy to pack when you're at a ball game or visiting a friend's garden—and comes in a variety of colors. www.foxglovesinc.com.

A contributing editor for The American Gardener, Rita Pelczar lives in North Carolina.

REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Horticultural Events from Around the Country

NORTHEAST

CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT

RAP JUNE 15. **Bird Walk.** Vermont Bird Place & Sky Watch. Hildene. Manchester, Vermont. (802) 362-2270. www.hildene.org.

RAP JUNE 15. **Annual Plant Sale.** The Fells Historic Estate & Gardens. Newbury, New Hampshire. (603) 763-4789. www.thefells.org.

RAP JUNE 16. **Rose Show.** New England Rose Society. Tower Hill Botanic Garden. Boylston, Massachusetts. (508) 869-6111. www.towerhillbg.org.

Looking ahead

JULY 14. **Gardens in the Watershed Tour.** Georges River Land Trust. Rockland, Maine. (207) 594-5166. www.georgesriver.org.

RAP JULY 20. **Orchid Judging.** Plant show. Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens. Stamford, Connecticut. (203) 322-6971. www.bartlettarboretum.org.

MID-ATLANTIC

DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV

RAP MAY 23. **Linnaeus Day.** Lecture. Laurelwood Arboretum. Wayne, New Jersey. (973) 202-9579. www.laurelwoodarboretum.org.

RAP MAY 25 & 26. **Richmond Rose Society Show.** Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Richmond, Virginia. (804) 262-9887. www.lewisinginter.org.

RAP MAY 25. **New World Natives: Bromeliads.** Lecture. U.S. Botanic Garden. Washington, D.C. (202) 225-1116. www.usbg.gov.

JUNE 4. **Excursion: Central Park Gardens and the High Line.** Tour. Scott Arboretum. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. (610) 328-8025. www.scottarboretum.org.

RAP JUNE 15. **Richmond Area Daylily Society Show and Sale.** Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Richmond, Virginia. (804) 262-9887. www.lewisinginter.org.

RAP JUNE 18. **Water Use Workshop.** Greenwood Gardens. Short Hills, New Jersey. (973) 258-4026. www.greenwoodgardens.org.

JUNE 21. **Flowering Trees of Summer.** Seminar. Scott Arboretum. Swarthmore

Botanical gardens and arboreta that participate in AHS's Reciprocal Admissions Program are identified with the RAP symbol. AHS members showing a valid membership card are eligible for free admission to the garden or other benefits. Special events may not be included; contact the host site for details or visit www.ahs.org/rap.

College. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. (610) 328-8025. www.scottarboretum.org.

JUNE 23. **Town & Country Garden Tour.** Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (412) 444-4464. www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.

Looking ahead

RAP JULY 13. **Butterfly Festival.** Hershey Gardens. Hershey, Pennsylvania. (717) 534-3492. www.hersheygardens.org.

RAP JULY 13 & 14. **BlueBEARy Blast and Celebrate New Jersey Day Family Festival.** Camden Children's Garden. Camden, New Jersey. (856) 365-8733. www.camdenchildrensgarden.org.

SOUTHEAST

AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN

MAY 24. **Mushroom Log Cultivation.** Class. Memphis Botanic Garden. Memphis, Tennessee. (901) 636-4128. www.memphisbotanicgarden.com.

RAP JUNE 21–29. **Dazzling Daylilies.** Festival. Western Kentucky Botanical Garden. Owensboro, Kentucky. (270) 852-8925. www.wkbg.org.

RAP JUNE 29. **The Ancient Forests of Alabama.** Class. Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Birmingham, Alabama. (205) 414-3950. www.bbgardens.org.

Looking ahead

JULY 17–20. **Cullowhee Native Plant Conference.** Western Carolina University. Cullowhee, North Carolina. (828) 227-7397. <http://nativeplantconference.wcu.edu>.

NORTH CENTRAL

IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI

RAP MAY 24–AUG. 25. **Looking East, Facing**

West: The World of Zhang Huan. Exhibit. Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Grand Rapids, Michigan. (888) 957-1580. www.meijergardens.org.

RAP MAY 25–SEPT. 2. **Butterflies & Blooms.** Exhibit. Chicago Botanic Garden. Glencoe, Illinois. (847) 835-5440. www.chicagobotanic.org.

RAP MAY 25 & 26. **Iris Show.** Grand Valley Iris Society. Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Grand Rapids, Michigan. (888) 957-1580. www.meijergardens.org.

JUNE 13–15. **Escape to Wisconsin.** National Convention. American Hosta Society. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. www.2013ahsconvention.com.

RAP JUNE 22 & 23. **Spring Rose Show.** Grand Valley Rose Society. Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Grand Rapids, Michigan. (888) 957-1580. www.meijergardens.org.

AHS JUNE 27–29. **Annual Convention.** Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America. Springfield, Illinois. (515) 278-0295. www.tgoa-mgca.org.

RAP JUNE 29 & 30. **Sogetsu School of Illinois Ikebana Sogetsu Exhibition.** Chicago Botanic Garden. Glencoe, Illinois. (847) 835-5440. www.chicagobotanic.org.

Looking ahead

RAP JULY 6 & 7. **Wisconsin–Illinois Lily Society Show.** Annual plant show. Chicago Botanic Garden. Glencoe, Illinois. (847) 835-5440. www.chicagobotanic.org.

JULY 13. **Annual Garden Walk.** University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners at McHenry County College. Crystal Lake, Illinois. (815) 479-7570. www.mchenry.edu/gardenwalk.

JULY 13–16. **OFA Short Course.** Conference. Ohio Florists Association. Greater Columbus Convention Center. Columbus, Ohio. www.ofashortcourse.org.

SOUTH CENTRAL

AR, KS, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX

RAP MAY 23. **Late Spring/Early Summer Shrubs.** Workshop. Garvan Woodland Gardens. University of Arkansas. Hot Springs, Arkansas. (501) 262-9300. www.garvangardens.org.

RAP MAY 25. **NativeNOW: Wild walk with naturalist Tyrone Foreman.** Longue Vue House & Gardens. New Orleans, Louisiana. (504) 488-5488. www.longuevue.com.

RAP MAY 30. **Perennials.** Workshop. Garvan Woodland Gardens. University of Arkansas. Hot Springs, Arkansas. (501) 262-9300. www.garvangardens.org.

RAP JUNE 27. **How to Identify Pests and What to Do About It.** Workshop. Garvan Woodland Gardens. University of Arkansas. Hot Springs, Arkansas. (501) 262-9300. www.garvangardens.org.

RAP JUNE 29 & 30. **Henry Shaw Cactus Society Show and Sale.** Missouri Botanical Garden. St. Louis, Missouri. (314) 577-5100. www.mobot.org.

Looking ahead

RAP JULY 6 & 7. **Mid America Regional Lily Society Show.** Missouri Botanical Garden. St. Louis, Missouri. (314) 577-5100. www.mobot.org.

SOUTHWEST

AZ, CO, NM, UT

RAP JUNE 2. **Home Garden Tours & Picnic Lunch.** Santa Fe Botanical Garden, Santa Fe, New Mexico. (505) 471-9103. www.santafebotanicalgarden.org.

RAP JUNE 6. **Fountains and Falls: Water in the Garden.** Class. Desert Botanical Garden. Phoenix, Arizona. (480) 941-1225. www.dbg.org.

RAP JUNE 24. **Creating a Native Pollinator Garden.** Lecture. Red Butte Garden and Arboretum. Salt Lake City, Utah. (801) 585-0556. www.redbuttegarden.org.

Looking ahead

RAP JULY 11–13. **American Horticultural Society's 21st Annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.** Denver Botanic Gardens. Denver, Colorado. (703) 768-5700. www.ahs.org/nccys.

RAP JULY 13. **Summer Plant Sale & Penstemon Festival.** The Arboretum at Flagstaff. Flagstaff, Arizona. (928) 774-1442. www.thearb.org.

RAP JULY 27. **Gardener's Guide to Cactus.** Class. Desert Botanical Garden. Phoenix, Arizona. (480) 941-1225. www.dbg.org.

WEST COAST

CA, HI, NV

RAP MAY 21. **Organic Vegetable Gardening.** Class. Descanso Gardens. La Cañada Flintridge, California. (818) 949-4200. www.descansogardens.org.

New Native Plant Garden at NYBG

THE OPENING OF THE new Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in May completes the final phase of NYBG's "Heart of the Garden"



Black gum and pin oaks frame this water feature, which was under construction last fall at the new Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden.

restoration projects. The three-and-a-half-acre installation was designed by Sheila Brady, principal of Oehme, van Sweden & Associates in Washington, D.C., who was one of the speakers at the garden's dedication ceremony on May 3.

The contemporary design incorporates a dramatic 230-foot-long water feature as its centerpiece. Meant to inspire and teach, the garden also showcases sustainable practices such as a pool fed by recycled stormwater captured on site and filtered by aquatic plants, and benches and buildings constructed of salvaged, recycled, and sustainably harvested materials.

"What makes this garden special is that it was not only designed to be a beautiful and inspiring garden, but it was also designed to teach our visitors the essential role that plants play in the living ecosystem all around us," says Jody Payne, curator of the Native Plant Garden. "The many habitats throughout the garden will transport our visitors well outside of New York City."

AHS members can save 20 percent on All-Garden Pass Tickets by using Code 9942 online at www.nybg.org (limited to six tickets).

—Lynne Hoffman, Editorial Intern

Looking ahead

JULY 22–25. **American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) Conference.** Marriott Resort & Spa, Palm Desert, California. (703) 836-4606. www.ashs.org.

NORTHWEST

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

RAP MAY 21–JUNE 1. **Organic Food Gardening.** Class—Choose two dates. Alaska Botanical Garden. Anchorage, Alaska. (907) 770-3692. www.alaskabg.org.

RAP MAY 29. **A Passion for Penstemons.** Class and plant walk. Idaho Botanical Garden. Boise, Idaho. (208) 343-8649. www.idahobotanicalgarden.org.

RAP JUNE 2. **Ethnobotany Tour.** Plant walk and class. Kruckeberg Botanic Garden.

Santa Fe Botanical Garden

STROLLING TROUBADOURS, mariachi music, and sangria will add to the festivities at the gala opening night reception on July 19 for the Santa Fe Botanical Garden (SFBG) at Museum Hill. A



The hard-to-miss Kearny's Gap Bridge over the Arroyo de los Pinos connects the various gardens to one another.

members-only day will follow on July 20, with the garden opening to the public on July 21. The Botanical Garden at Museum Hill, which is being completed in stages, supplements the garden's existing facilities, including the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve, a 35-acre marsh south of Santa Fe, and the Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve, a 1,350-acre site 30 miles southwest of Santa Fe.

Designed by Toronto-based landscape architect W. Gary Smith, the 12-acre site at Museum Hill will feature four separate but integrated garden experiences: The Orchard Gardens will be the first to open on July 21, followed later this year by the Arroyo Trails system, designed for bikers and hikers. Construction of the Naturalistic and Courtyard Gardens is slated for 2014.

A planned outdoor classroom that is part of the Naturalistic Gardens will support SFBG's goal of educating children and adults about the world of plants, biodiversity, and water conservation. "Although our USDA Zone 6 climate allows a wide choice of plants, we also have very low humidity, high wind, and alkaline soil," says Linda S. Milbourn, the Garden's managing director. "Many people move here from other areas of the country, and we want to teach them how to have a beautiful garden."

For more information, visit www.santafebotanicalgarden.org.

Shoreline, Washington. (206) 546-1281.
www.kruckeberg.org.

RAP JUNE 23. **Garden Tour and Garden Gala 2013.** Idaho Botanical Garden. Boise, Idaho. (208) 343-8649.
www.idahobotanicalgarden.org.

Looking ahead
JULY 21. 19th Annual West Seattle Garden Tour. Seattle, Washington. www.westseattlegardentour.org.

Living Museum in Los Angeles

IN JUNE, the Nature Gardens exhibit opens at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles (NHM). The new three-and-a-half-acre living laboratory, the last phase of a \$135 million makeover at the NHM, is designed to be both a nature destination in and of itself, as well as the public's "front yard" approach to the museum. The Nature Gardens are also intended to complement and support the indoor Nature Lab, which opened in 2012. The Lab encourages citizen scientists of all ages to build their observation skills through multi-media experiences using live animals, plants, specimens, and hands-on activities.

"The Nature Gardens are all about building habitats for the diverse wildlife that already exists in this urban environment," says Carol Bornstein, director of the NHM's North Campus



The waterfall spills into a pond at the Nature Gardens.

Gardens. A constructed creek with a waterfall and pond makes up one garden section, while an adjacent woodland planting featuring native California trees provides a different habitat. A living wall is planted with a mixture of exotic and native species, providing yet another habitat with its nooks and spaces between the stones. "We're excited to be able to provide this living landscape for local residents and school children to get up close and personal with plants, to explore, and to learn about the relationships between plants, animals, and people," says Bornstein.

As each section of the Nature Gardens is planted, the progress can be followed on the NHM website's blog at <http://naturegardensnhm.blogspot.com/p/what-is-north-campus.html>.

—Lynne Hoffman, Editorial Intern

CANADA

RAP JUNE 1. **Propagation from Cuttings.**

Class and hands-on workshop. Gardens at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. Victoria, British Columbia. (250) 479-6162.
www.hcp.ca.

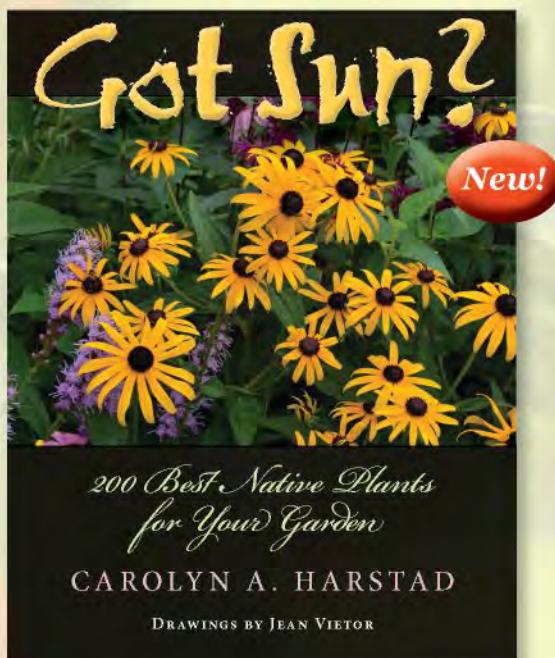
RAP JUNE 8 & 9. **Through the Garden Gate:**

Forest Hill. Self-guided tour of private gardens in Toronto. Toronto Botanical Garden. Toronto, Ontario. (416) 397-1341. [www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca](http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca).

JUNE 17-19. International Symposium on Medicinal Plants and Natural Products. International Society for Horticultural Science. Montreal Botanical Gardens. Montreal, Quebec. (339) 368-3868.
www.ishs.org.

Looking ahead

JULY 21-27. Perennial Plants & Design: A Perfect Combination. Symposium. Perennial Plant Association. Vancouver, British Columbia. www.perennialplant.org.



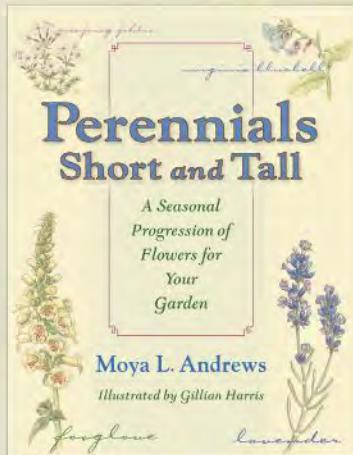
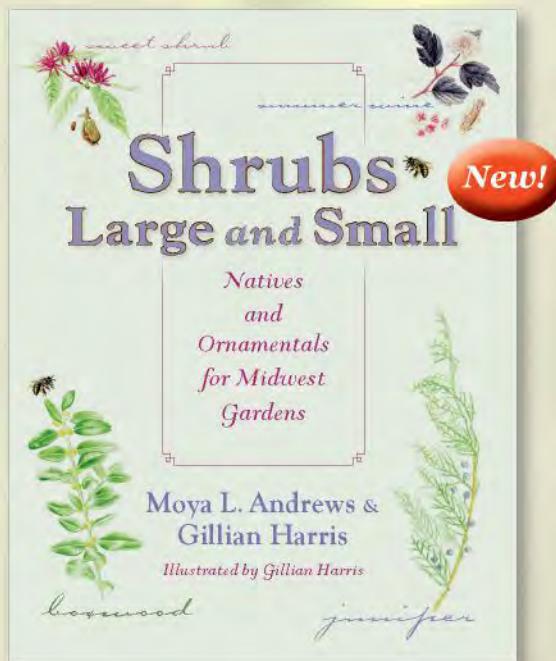
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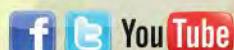
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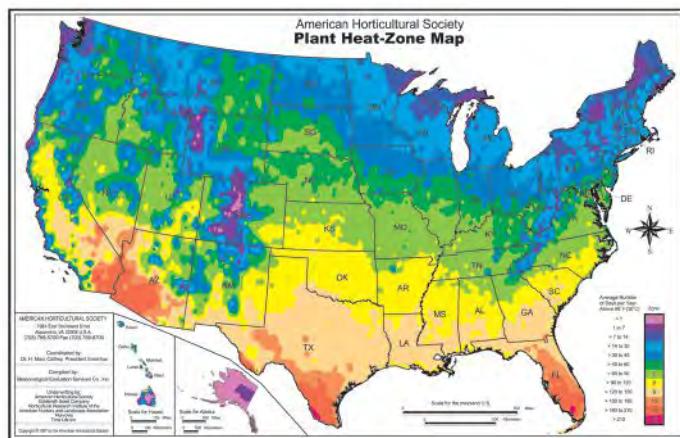
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PRONUNCIATIONS AND PLANTING ZONES



Most of the cultivated plants described in this issue are listed here with their pronunciations, USDA Plant Hardiness Zones, and AHS Plant Heat Zones. These zones suggest a range of locations where temperatures are appropriate—both in winter and summer—for growing each plant. USDA Zones listed are still aligned with the 1990 version of the USDA's map.

While the zones are a good place to start in determining plant adaptability in your region, factors such as exposure, moisture, snow cover, and humidity also play an important role in plant survival. The zones tend to be conservative; plants may grow outside the ranges indicated. A USDA zone rating of 0–0 means that the plant is a true annual and completes its life cycle in a year or less.

Abelia ×grandiflora uh-BEEL-yuh gran-dih-FLOR-uh (USDA Zones 6–9, AHS Zones 9–6)

Callicarpa dichotoma kal-lih-KAR-puh dy-KOT-o-muh (5–8, 8–6)

Caryopteris ×clandonensis kair-ee-OP-tur-iss klan-doh-NEN-siss (6–9, 9–1)

Cotinus coggygria ko-TY-nus ko-JEE-gree-uh (5–9, 9–3)

Diervilla sessilifolia dy-ur-VILL-uh ses-sih-lih-FO-lee-uh (4–8, 8–4)

Hydrangea aspera hy-DRAN-juh ASS-per-uh (6–9, 9–5)

H. involucrata H. in-vol-yew-KRAY-tuh (7–9, 9–7)

H. quercifolia H. kwer-sih-FO-lee-uh (5–9, 9–5)

H. sargentiana H. sar-jen-tee-AN-uh (7–8, 8–7)

H. villosa H. vih-LO-suh (7–9, 9–7)

Hypericum kalmianum hy-PAIR-ih-kum kal-me-AN-um (4–9, 9–1)

Kalimeris pinnatifida kal-ih-MAIR-is pin-ah-TIF-ih-duh (4–9, 9–1)

Leucosceptrum stellipilum loo-ko-SEP-trum stih-LIP-ih-lum (5–8, 8–5)

Melianthus major mee-lee-AN-thus MAY-jer (8–11, 12–8)

Physocarpus opulifolius fie-so-KAR-pus op-yew-lih-FO-lee-us (3–9, 8–1)

Polygonum orientale pah-LIG-o-num or-ee-en-TAL-ee (8–9, 9–8)

Rhus typhina RUS TY-fee-nuh (3–8, 8–1)

Rosa glauca RO-zuh GLAW-kuh (2–8, 8–1)

Solanum melongena so-LAH-num meh-LON-gee-nuh (11, 12–1)

Zinnia elegans ZIN-ee-uh EL-ih-ganz (0–0, 12–1)

Z. haageana Z. hah-jee-AN-nuh (0–0, 12–1)

Z. hybrida Z. HY-brih-duh (0–0, 12–1)

Z. marylandica Z. mair-ee-LAN-dih-cuh (0–0, 12–1)

Z. peruviana Z. pur-roo-vee-AN-uh (0–0, 12–1)

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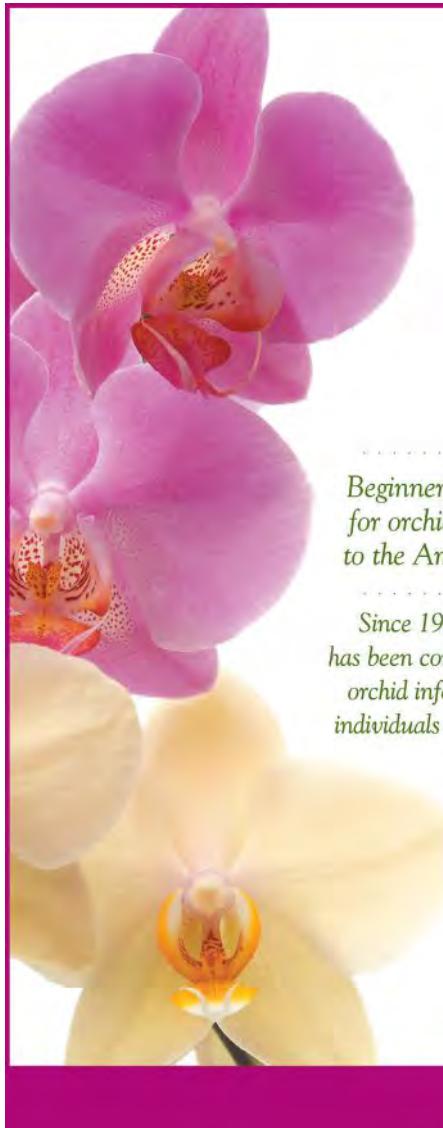


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PLANT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A Reliable Perennial with Mysterious Antecedents

by Patricia Taylor

TWENTY SIX years ago, I read the following description in the catalog of Allen Bush's former nursery, Holbrook, in North Carolina:

Asteromoea mongolica

This was a plant given to me by the late [North Carolina gardener and author] Elizabeth Lawrence...an excellent gardener and writer who kept detailed records... However, on this particular plant, I cannot find anything written listing this name... Be that as it may, I can describe the plant as having light green lanceolate leaves—only one-quarter inch long—forming an upright bushy plant which produces semi-double white daisies...from June until late September. We have it planted with morning sun and dappled shade the rest of the day. I like this plant and I suppose the name asteromoea will just have to do.

Much of the mystery surrounding the plant remains. There has yet to be a recognized common name. It is sometimes referred to as the Oxford Orphanage Plant, in the belief that it was originally found growing by an orphanage in Oxford, North Carolina. The Battery Conservancy at the tip of Manhattan refers to it as the “cast-iron plant” (although southern gardeners use that name for *Aspidistra elatior*). Others call it fall aster or double Japanese aster. My favorite name for it is Ghengis Khan aster.

What has been clarified in the intervening years is the plant’s botanical name and hardiness. It is now identified as *Kalimeris pinnatifida* (USDA Hardiness Zones 4–9, AHS Heat Zones 9–1), a perennial that hails from the hills and low mountains of Japan’s Honshu island.

Bush’s description of the plant, along with its aura of mystery, were enough to convince me to buy it. As he wrote, it produces one-inch-wide, mostly double, white flowers for a good three months—lasting from late May until early September in



Kalimeris pinnatifida produces white, asterlike flowers from late spring to early fall.

my Princeton, New Jersey, garden. The asterlike flowers are not terrific cut flowers (though some report they are); however, the frothy two- to three-foot-tall and -wide plants with one- to three-inch-long, pinnately-lobed leaves offer a wonderful apple-green filler from summer to early fall.

And what a fine workhorse of a perennial it is! It requires no care at all, making it a perfect addition to perennial borders or containers. I have never fertilized it, pests do not like it, and the disease-free clumps have grown moderately over the

years—enough so that I have divided the plant and passed along divisions to friends. I do water it during drought and, when I feel ambitious, I trim back part of the clump in August to increase the flowering time into early October.

It is most often propagated by cuttings or division, perhaps one reason why it remains so little known. Even so, I find it hard to believe that such a no-fuss, long-blooming, attractive perennial—one that has flourished in my garden for over a quarter of a century—is still rare.

If you decide to adopt one for your own garden, I think you will find it a delight no matter what name you call it. On the other hand, I’m still curious about how it ended up at the North Carolina orphanage. If anyone knows the answer, I’d love to hear about it.

Sources

Niche Gardens, Chapel Hill, NC.
(919) 967-0078.
www.nichegardens.com.

Plant Delights Nursery,
Raleigh, NC. (919) 772-4794.
www.plantdelights.com.

Freelance writer Patricia Taylor gardens in Princeton, New Jersey.



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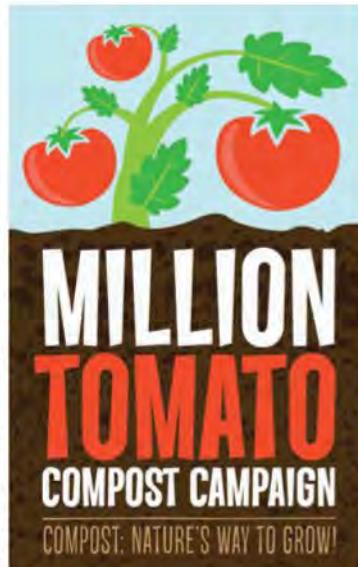
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