

Variety spices flower plantings

Good gardeners know that variety adds spice to the garden. Just as plants of all the same height tend to be boring, the same color, used in very large masses, can be cloying.

Instead, these thoughtful gardeners survey the planting area they have and plan for some artful surprises. They'll go to great lengths to create a landscape even in a small space - creating unified garden effects with rocks, berms and other topographical features which provide variation in planting possibilities.

Buy you don't have to go to such lengths to add this drama and surprise to your summer garden. You can do it more simply through an artful choice of summer flowering plants... and some imaginative staging.

First of all, use shapes to work for you. Vertical - such as the spires of 'Blue Springs' delphinium, 'Rocket' snapdragons, or Salvia farinacea 'Victoria'.

Mounding — such as 'Super Elfin' impatiens, 'Bonanza' marigolds, or 'Prelude' begonias. Trailing or

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draping - such as 'Magic Carpet' vincas or 'Showtime' verbenas. Edging - such as alyssum or 'Jewel Mix' portulaca.

Use other tricks to vary the landscape, with no basic modifications. Plant hanging baskets and suspend them from porch overhangs or posts. Even put hanging baskets on post tops. Do plant with varieties exuberantly effective in baskets and containers - 'Cascade' petunias, ivy geraniums, lobelia, Showstopper' impatiens.

Scatter containers through the outdoor living areas - on decks, by front doors, on porches, or balconies - any place where color would add zest to the summer. Plant these containers for variety, too: Plants which go up, combined with those which spread out and those that trail. Portulaca 'Wildfire' is a good example of vigorous trailer with floods of flowers.

In beds, plant taller varieties to the rear, medium-sized ones in the center and the compact varieties and edging plants in front. Use

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pockets of color, never less than three plants of a variety to provide enough mass for good effect. Do vary the texture of flowers and leavers for visual stimulation. You've a full catalogue of choices: The bellshaped blossoms of 'Summer Madness' petunias, the fluffy mass of 'Inca Yellow' marigold, the rose-like blossoms of 'Rosette' impatiens, the hot spikes of 'Red Hot sally' or 'Carabiniere'

Add some plants for foliage color and texture alone: heart-shaped many-colored 'Wizard' coleus or the fancifully cut leaves of 'Saber' coleus. Dusty Miller with silvery leaves. The round leaves of Creeping Charlie (Glecoma hederacea) or the smoky gray feathery foilage of Lotus Vine (Lotus bertholetii), both to trail down from container plantings.

You can weave a tapestry of color by combining flowers of the same tonal range: Pink, rose, red, scarlet, crimson. Yellow, gold, orange, red. Blue from the paleness of 'Sky Magic' petunia through increasingly saturated blues to the deepest tones of 'Royal Cascade' petunia.

White flowers will liven the landscape as dusk draws in, retaining their effect long after other flowers have faded into the darkness. Use white liberally near outdoor living areas used frequently in the evening.

This year, add surprises to your garden: The variety that spices up the summer planting scene.

Lebanon youth win 4-H Keystone Awards

LEBANON - Eight Lebanon County 4-H members have been named Keystone winners in 13 areas of the National 4-H Awards Program.

We are proud of our 4-H'ers and the super records that these awards signify," says Linda Siegel, 4-H agent.

Keystone winners are the semifinalists in the selection of state 4-H winners in each of 40 categories. The state winner in each category will receive an expense-paid trip to National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

Keystone winners will be in-

terviewed at Penn State on May 8. Final selection is based on poise and maturity as well as quality and depth of 4-H involvement.

Lebanon County's winners were Deb Bolles, outstanding 4-H'er: Troy Funk, health and photography; Ann Grumbine, food preservation and gardening; Regina Roof, poultry; Sylvia Royer, entomology; Damian Shiner, outstanding 4H'er, public speaking and home environment; Larissa Smith, forestry; and Wagner, home Natalie management and foods and nutrition.

New Castle County names new 4-H agent

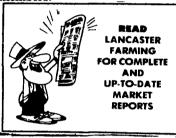
NEWARK, Dei. — Lynne D. Joshi has joined the staff of the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service as an assistant 4-H youth agent for New Castle County, according to Dr. Sam Gwinn, director. A native of Mobile, Ala., she previously worked as a 4-H agent in Louisiana and Illinois.

Joshi received a bachelor's degree in home economics and art from Auburn University, and a master's degree in home economics and extension education from Louisiana State University.

Three years ago Joshi moved to New Castle County with her husband and daughter, Kamini,

who recently celebrated her eighth birthday and will soon be joining a 4-H club.

Joshi is already preparing for several upcoming 4-H programs, including a county fashion revue, at which 4-H members will model clothing they've made, and a weekend camping experience at Bethany Beach for younger members.



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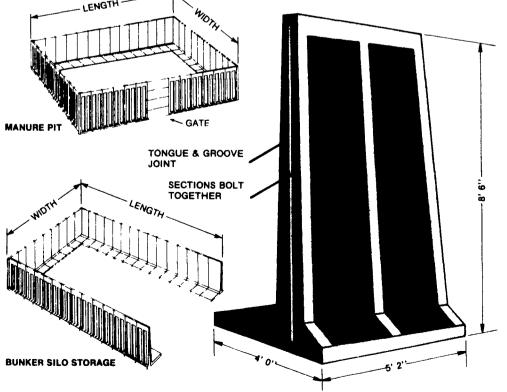
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