

Secrets For A Bloomin' Garden

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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
— "Pick the right plant for the right conditions and save yourself a lot of trouble," said Dr. David Sanford to about 200 people attending the Penn State Garden Symposium held recently at the Farm and Home Center.

The day-long seminar touched on design, selection, and disease control of flowers, shrubs, and trees. Often problems with disease stem from the wrong amount of sun, moisture or soil conditions.

Most problems with dogwood trees stem from "lawn mower disease," according to David Sanford, horticulture professor. Bumping a tree with the lawn mower causes stress.

Plant varieties selected from northern climates are usually more vigorous than those purchased from the south. Scab, powdery mildew, leaf spot, and brown canker are other problems that can be

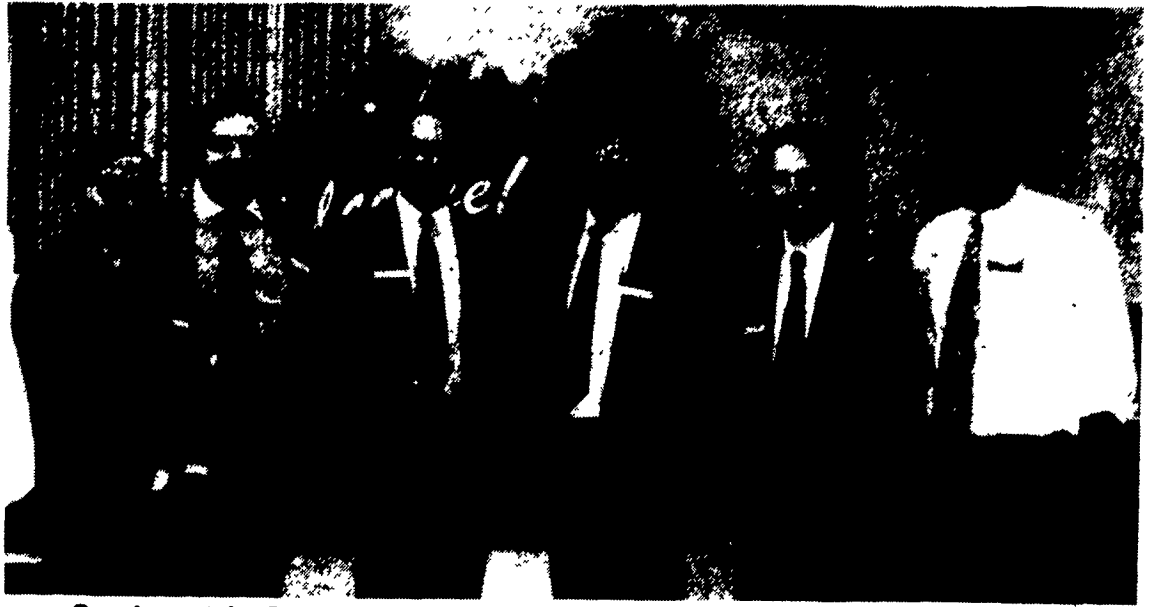
diagnosed by an extension agent if a sample leaf is submitted.

One of the big attractions of the day was learning how to create a flower garden that looks entirely natural but in reality is planned in detail. Brent Heath of the Daffodil Mart of Gloucester, Va., told how bulbs can be used to create visual design. He said that his first daffodil blooms in January and the last one in May.

He encouraged the audience to think of their lawn as a large canvas for painting with flowers.

For visual impact in large areas, plant 50 to 100 bulbs in a group or plant in clumps.

After the flowers of bulbs die, the leaves and stems must be left to mature the bulb for the next growing season. Do not knot or tie the leaves with a knot or rubberband. Instead, interplant perennials in front of the dying foliage to hide it. Peonies and daylilies are good choices for hiding the dying foliage. Another possibility is to



Speakers at the Garden Symposium, from left, are Wolfgang of Oehme Van Sweden & Associates Inc.; Dr. Irwin Richman, professor; Dr. David Sanford, professor; Brent Heath, The Daffodil Mart; H. Bruce Hellerick, extension agent; and Alan Michael, extension agent.

plug in impatiens or other annuals between the daffodil foliage.

While spring seems an easy season to fill with color by using daffodils, tulips, and azalea bushes, other seasons are a bit more difficult to plan and people often rely upon annuals. But Mr. Wolfgang from Oehme Van Sweden & Associates, Inc. in Washington, D.C., said that as a landscape architect, he introduces perennials for four season interest.

Strive for low maintenance and plants that cover the area quickly to solve weeding problems.

Wolfgang and many of the speakers demonstrated their talks with colorful slides.

Water gardening is the newest fad in gardening. Virginia Crum of Lilypons Water Gardens explained the requirements to plan, stock, and maintain a water garden.

Go with as much sunlight as possible. At least six hours or more

of direct sunlight a day give more options for blooming. It works best in a level area, away from trees with falling leaves.

Many different materials can be used for the construction, but fiberglass is the longest lasting. Polyvinyl chloride is the least expensive and more flexible for design.

Chose between tropical (frost tender) or hardy (survive winter)

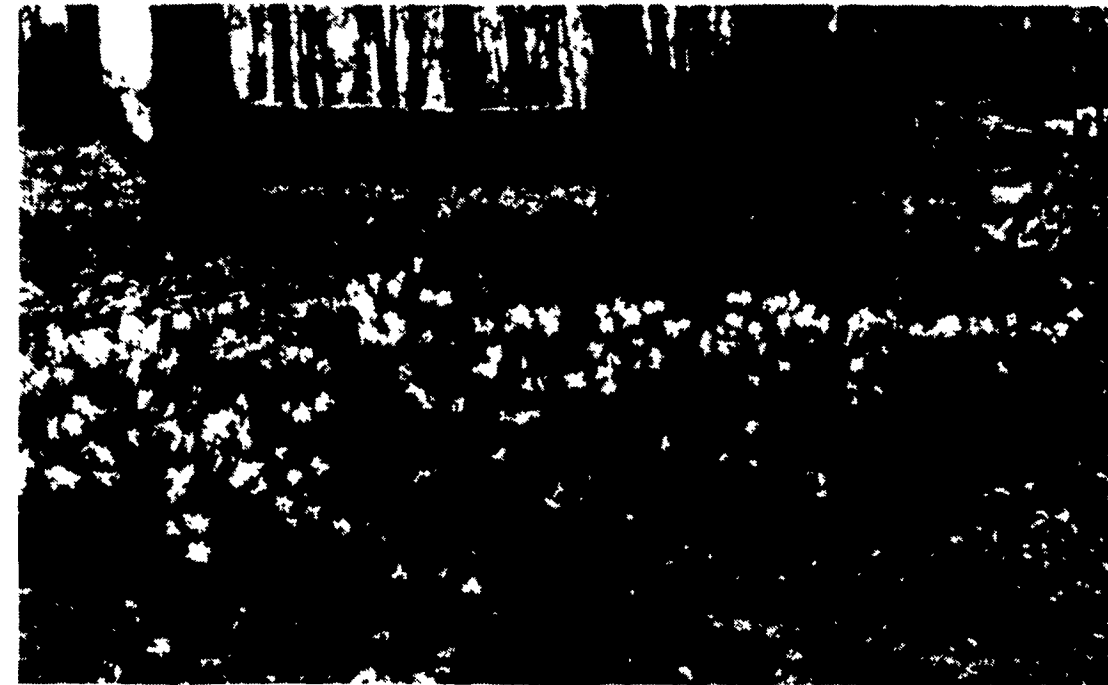
water lilies. All lilies open at 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m., but if it is desired to have a lily open for evening hours, Virginia suggested it be cut and put into the refrigerator until the party is ready to begin. Place it back in its position and it should remain open for several hours.

In addition to providing a good location, the balanced stocking is

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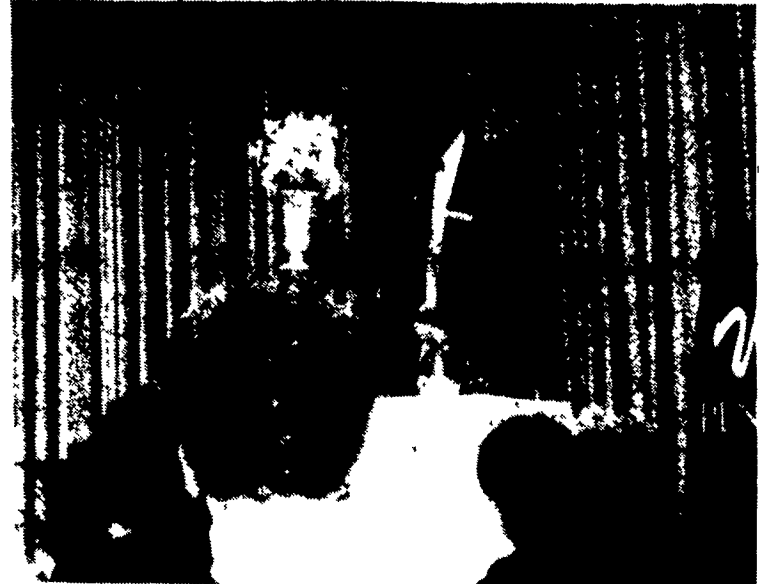
As a landscape architect, Wolfgang said that he restricts the use of annuals to containers. Bulbs, perennials, and shrubs are used for better weed control and easier maintenance.



Bulbs planted in groups create more of a visual impact than those planted sparsely.



Water gardens are easy to construct with the many new materials on the market, easy to maintain, and beautiful to look at.



Brent Heath shows some of the daffodils that he grows at the Daffodil Mart, where daffodils bloom for five months.



Daylilies hide the dying foliage of bulbs that should be allowed to stand 12 weeks to mature the bulb for the next growing season.