

Pickles Fabrics

(Continued from Page B12)

Step One

Prepare Fabric

• If you are using fabric on hand, wash in hot water to which has been added 3 tablespoons Synthrapol soap to scour away any chemical residues or finishes. Fabric from dye companies do not need this initial washing. In either case, the dyeing process will preshrink the fabric.

• Cut or tear fabric into fat quarters (½ yard fabric split in half), and soak them into the following solution for at least 15 minutes: 3 gallons warm water plus 1½ cups dye activator or soda ash. (You can save this solution indefinitely for future dye projects)

• Put on gloves. Squeeze fabric into balls and transfer to dye area using a plastic bin.

Step Two

Prepare Dye Solution

• Keep gloves on. Make Chem Water: fill gallon jug ¼ full with warm water and add 3 cups urea granules and 4 teaspoons Calgon. Stir thoroughly to dissolve.

• Fill 3-quart-size containers with 4 cups each Chem Water. Add yellow, turquoise, and red dye to respective quart containers as follows (uneven amounts are because of different weights of dye).

For dark batch, put in separate quart jars:

- 8 teaspoons yellow
- 5 teaspoons turquoise
- 3 teaspoons red

For medium batch:

- 5 teaspoons yellow
- 3 teaspoons turquoise
- 2 teaspoons red

1 teaspoon turquoise
½ teaspoon red

You may remove the dust mask after mixing the dye solutions. If the dye powder clumps, add a drop of dish detergent. You now have 3-quart containers of dye solution: yellow, turquoise, and red — enough for one 24-color batch.

Step 3

Prepare Jars of Dye

• Unscrew lids and set aside in a bin. Leave jars in box they came in. Add salt to the jars as follows:

- For dark batch:
1 tablespoon salt to each jar
- For medium batch:
1 teaspoon salt to each jar
- For light batch:
½ teaspoon salt to each jar

Following the color wheel recipe, fill each jar with dye solution. Each jar will be about half-way filled—some a little more, some a little less. Stir each jar until salt is dissolved, rinsing spoon or chopstick between jars so dye solution does not intermix (not every grain of salt needs to be dissolved).

Step 4

Fill Jars With Fabric

One by one, scrunch the wet fat quarters you have prepared. Try to

get as many small wrinkles and crevices in the fabric as you can, squeezing it down into a small ball. Carefully insert the fabric into the jar, using a chopstick or spoon to push the fabric down and around in the jar to completely soak it with dye solution.

Put lids on jars and replace in box with top on box so you can turn whole box upside down.

After Step Four, allow fabric to remain in dye jars for 24 hours up to two weeks, turning jars several times.

Wearing gloves, remove fabric. Wash in washer in hot water with Orbus soap. Dry in dryer and iron. This steps makes it colorfast.

Color Wheel Recipe

Using the dye solution from the 3-quart containers as indicated, fill the jars with these amounts:

- Jar 1: ½ cup red
- Jar 2: Scant ½ cup red + 1 tablespoons yellow
- Jar 3: ½ cup red + 2 tablespoons yellow
- Jar 4: Scant ½ cup red + ¼ cup yellow
- Jar 5: ½ cup red+scant ½ cup yellow
- Jar 6: 2 tablespoons red + ½ cup

yellow

Jar 7: 1 tablespoon red + ½ cup yellow

Jar 8: 1 teaspoon red + ½ cup yellow

Jar 9: ½ cup yellow

Jar 10: Scant ½ cup yellow + 1 teaspoon turquoise

Jar 11: ½ cup yellow + 1 tablespoon turquoise

Jar 12: ¼ cup yellow + 1 tablespoon turquoise

Jar 13: 2 tablespoons yellow + ½ cup turquoise

Jar 14: 2 teaspoons yellow + ½ cup turquoise

Jar 15: ½ cup turquoise

Jar 16: Scant ½ cup turquoise + 1 teaspoon red

Jar 17: ½ cup turquoise + 1 tablespoon red

Jar 18: ½ cup turquoise + 2 tablespoons red

Jar 19: Scant ½ cup turquoise + ¼ cup red

Jar 20: ¼ cup turquoise + ½ cup red

Jar 21: Scant ¼ cup turquoise + ½ cup red

Jar 22: 3 tablespoons turquoise + ½ cup red

Jar 23: 1 tablespoon turquoise + ½ cup red

Jar 24: 1 teaspoon turquoise + ½ cup red

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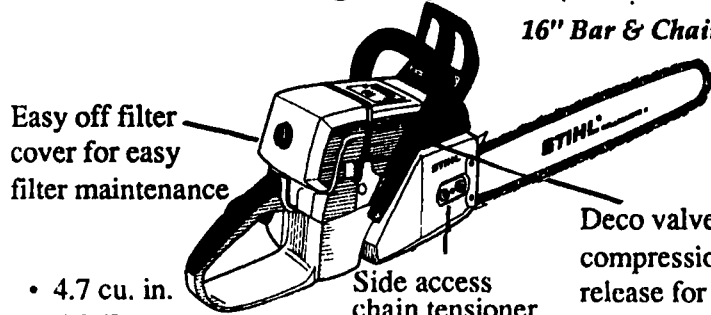
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Deadheading Perennials

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — If your garden is looking overgrown and messy, it is probably time to do some deadheading and trimming back. According to Susan J. Goldsworthy, Penn State Cooperative Extension horticulturist, deadheading is the practice of removing spent flower heads just above a node. This may help a plant to rebloom, help maintain a continuous bloom, or just improve the overall appearance of the plant. Cut just above a node to

remove individual spent flowers from plants that bloom over a period of time. New flowers will grow from the leaf axils at the node.

Shape plants that bloom in a single flush into a rounded form after they have bloomed. Their neat, structured appearance anchors the garden while later-blooming plants fill out and flower. Cut back some leggy plants to the ground after they have

bloomed. They will produce a compact mound of foliage in a couple of weeks.

Some perennials should not be deadheaded because their seed heads are of winter interests. These include: Anemone x hybrida (Japanese anemone), Caryopteris (Blue mist shrub), Cimicifuga (Snakeroot), Kalimeris pinnatifida (Orphanage plant), Perovskia (Russian sage), Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan), Sedum, and Ornamental Grasses.

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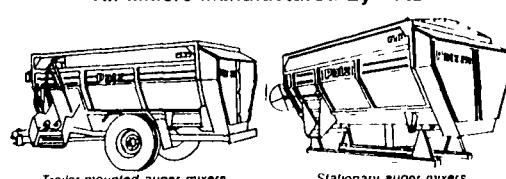
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