

Search For Blooming Plants That Tolerate Next Summer's Scorching Heat

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New Guinea Impatiens flower better in shade where soil temperature is lower. However, some varieties do well in full sun. Many varieties of Impatiens are grown for sun and shade. Those grown in the shade have larger flowers but fewer of them than those grown in full sun. The flowers last longer in the shade, about

3-4 days. Those in the sun last only one day and the plant leaves tend to curl in the sun.

Another plant growing in popularity is Ageratum, which has excellent flowers covered with showy flowers and is mite tolerant.

Angelonia, a snapdragon-like appearance, makes a good bedding and cut flower. It is gaining in popularity and is an excellent

cut flower.

An often overlooked flower, according to Michael, is the begonia. "Begonias started flowering in the greenhouse and never stopped throughout the summer, even in 100-degree heat. It's outstanding in both sun and shade."

Another variety was Bracteantha, which is an Australian flowering plant with outstanding displays of blooms on compact

plants. Coleus is making a strong comeback with attractive leaf color and sun tolerance. Ornamental sweet potatoes have gained popularity for their extreme vigor in containers and landscapes.

Container Gardening

Wendy Brister, River Valley Landscapes Inc., Wrightsville, taught a workshop on container gardening.

"The biggest boom in marketing is in container design and property management," Brister said to those who plant for profit. "It takes extra investment, but has the greatest markup potential."

Many consumers busy with careers like to come home to nice gardens. But they can't do the work themselves because of time constraints.

Whether you plan to plant in containers for yourself or for resale, Wendy offers these pointers:

- In container selection, terra cotta appeals to many, but it has its drawbacks. It absorbs moisture, and containers must be watered twice daily during hot weather. Do not leave terra cotta outside during winter weather.

- Wood planters are nice but do not hold up many seasons.

- Metal, lead, and copper containers are popular. They don't blow over easily and the rust that forms is appealing.

- Stone and fiberglass containers are booming. They last forever and are lighter to transport. Incredible advances have been made in the manufacture of fiberglass that can give the appearance of copper, rust, and stone finishes.

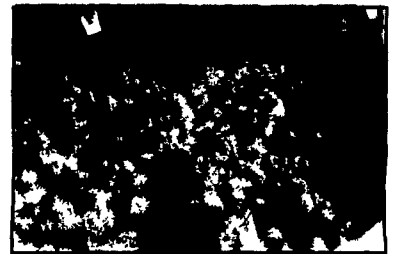


Look how large the blooms are on this Rocky Mountain geranium.

- Baskets, wheelbarrows, an old kitchen sink — be a garden artist. The more creative the idea, the more people love it.

- Cluster containers to make more dramatic displays. Brister recommends clustering three different varieties in different levels. Use color contrast and also leaf contrast in texture and shape.

- At the end of the growing season, leave the soil in the container and insert evergreens and twigs that have been spray-painted for holiday accents.



Summer blooming Agyranthemum (daisies) come in a variety of colors.



Visitors at the trial gardens read labels of each plant to determine its rating and the name. As a labor-saving measure, flowers are grown in pots instead of planted in the ground.

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