

- ⇒ Plant Spring / Summer Color
- ⇒ Mow, Edge and Trim Turf
- ⇒ Finish Spring Pruning
- ⇒ Fertilize Shrubs, Trees, Turf
- ⇒ Scout For Early Insects
- ⇒ Adjust Sprinkler Systems
- ⇒ Apply Pre-Emergent to Beds
- ⇒ Pull Weeds in Beds
- ⇒ Spring Clean-Ups (Leaves etc.)

**It's all about
Color this
month!**

Distinctive Color Designs

“Change” Is Good For Your Home and Office

Are you tired of the same old annual color you've had for years?

We are blessed in Oklahoma to have some of the finest nursery producers in the country right here in our state. In fact, Tulsa is blessed to have a few very good growers who produce top quality annuals and perennials.

Why do we settle for the same old standbys we have always used as seasonal color? It usually comes down to what we know has worked.

*What if we could design a new look for you that would “change” your thinking about **Color in the Landscape?***

Forget about using only Begonias or Impatiens.

Branch out into new and more interesting color combinations and tropicals that will set your landscape apart from the usual.

Let us design a new look for your beds. If you're uneasy about a really bold statement consider mixing tropical plants with your usual color planting for a slightly different look.

Palms, Tropical Hibiscus, Bougainvilleas and other distinctively different plants make for beautiful accents or center pieces to any seasonal color planting.

One idea would be to use colorful vines like the very popular sweet potato vine (green and blackie are great compli-

ments to most any color planting.) Add perennials like Silver King Artemisia, Yucca glauca, and Ligularia for colorful foliage. The Oklahoma State Wild Flower “Blanketflower,” (Gaillardia) is a great addition to any sunny garden spot wherever orange and yellow are useful.

Everything old is new again!

There are many old standbys that you may not remember that have been improved or enhanced. Coleus, Chrysanthemum, Petunia, and many others have been recently improved and now more than ever offer new options.

Come on...Let us design a “Change” for you this spring!

(See the back page for more interesting plant ideas.)

4 Steps to Great Container Gardening

When mid-April rolls around, I get the urge to plant pots and baskets with lots of color, herbs, and texture. I love to experiment with new color combinations and tropicals that let me forget for a few months that I live in the temperate region of the midwest. Gone are the cold winter days of March.

Here are four ways to narrow the field and make sure you have a few sensational con-

tainer gardens this summer.

1. Consider the growing conditions. Make sure the right amount of sun or shade needed is available to the plants you choose. Don't place moisture loving plants in the same pot as desert loving portulaca for instance. If you fill a pot with shade loving tuberous begonias and locate it on a sunny, west-facing patio, your begonias will not be very happy. Nor will you be successful growing sun-loving ivy geraniums on a

pot will be located and then find plants that will like that location. You want your plants to look good together, but they also need to have compatible interests. You may even want to tailor your soil mix to the type of plants that will be in the container. A container of rosemary, bay and thyme would be happiest in a sharply drained soil mix that mimics their Mediterranean homeland. For instance when I plant fuchsia, I mix water absorbing granules into the soil.

(Continued on back page)

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Excellence!
Never settle for anything
less than the best!***

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If It's ALL About Great Color ...

Why is this newsletter printed in Black and White?

Imagine how dull our world would be if everything were black and white.

No color of any kind would visit our eye. We would miss the beautiful yellow daffodils and forsythia, the purple blooms of the redbud and wonderful white and pink dogwood flowers of spring. God's creation would be little more than black, white and half tones. What a dull place this would be.

Let me suggest some specific plant ideas for your garden plantings wherever they may be.

Bold Plants that Look Good Alone:

Yucca, Bamboo, False Cypress, Dwarf Alberta Spruce, Bougainvillea, Fuchsia, Sweet Bay, Common Boxwood, Fountain Grass, Tufted Fescue, Feather Reed Grass, Arborvitae and Bears Breech.

Plants For Dry Sunny Locations:

Lantana, Zinnia, Sedum, Ivy Geranium, Sun Coleus, Gomphrena, Texas Sage, Marigold, Dusty Miller, Celosia, Alyssum, Periwinkle, Sweet Potato Vine, some types of Begonias, Asparagus Fern, Yarrow, Moonbeam Coreopsis, Scented Geraniums, and one of my favorites, Mexican Heather.

Plants for Semi-Shade Locations:

Impatiens, Begonias, Hosta, Caladium, Elephant Ear, Candy Tuft, Astilbe, Lambs Ear, Coreopsis, Coleus, Salvia, and Ferns.

Plants for Moist Sun Locations:

Petunia, Verbena, Mums, Yarrow, Lambs Ear, Peony, Silver King, Bugloss, and Candytuft.

Express yourself with color this season. Try something new and different. You might be surprised at the

4 Steps to Great Container Gardening (Continued)

(Continued from front page)

I know that their roots like to be continually moist and these granules help keep the soil properly moist.

2. Think about the architecture.

The architecture of your container plantings, that is. When you're selecting plants, stand back and consider their height, shape and growth habit. Most plants exhibit one of 3 forms: upright, broad or trailing. One way to create a strong architectural statement is to place just one bold plant in the container. Imagine a strong, upright clump of bamboo or the perfect symmetry of a single agave. Consider flanking an entryway with a pair of dwarf Alberta spruces or false cypresses. A clump of ornamental grass such as feather reed grass or fountain grass makes a bold statement. Or focus attention on a trailing form; envision a tall urn filled with nothing but a

burgundy-colored sweet potato vine. A more common approach is to combine all three forms in one pot. Start with the tall upright plant such as Dwarf Alberta Spruce or a fancy-leaved canna-lily. Add one or two broad, mid-height plants such as dwarf dahlias. Then select a trailing form such as ivy geranium or vinca minor.

3. Think about texture. Foliage is just as important as color in creating a successful container planting. Leaf textures range from waxy portulaca to shiny canna-lily, prickly asparagus fern and velvety dusty miller. As a general rule, you want most of the foliage in a pot to be harmonious, but remember that it's contrast that really grabs the eye.

4. Think about color. As far as I am concerned, a great-looking container planting is just as artful as a great painting. The same considerations apply. For visual excitement, experiment with bold contrasting colors such as purple and orange or yellow and blue. Or paint a harmoni-

ous composition by limiting yourself to related colors such as blues and pinks or reds and yellows. Or you can skip the bright colors entirely and focus your container planting on a calming combination of greens, whites and silvers.

When selecting colors of flowers and foliage, you may want to think about the color of your house, the color of your deck or patio pavers, and other colors in surrounding gardens. That said, containers present a great opportunity to experiment with dramatic color combinations that you'd probably never dare to use in your gardens.

Use your imagination as you consider planting pots and annual color displays.

Don't have the time for this? Give us your ideas, no matter how general and we'll design your ideas into reality. We'll "design distinctively beautiful