

Horticulture Hints

May 2010

Preparing for All-Summer Color

To accomplish all-summer color, your best approach is to use annuals. Some of the new shrub roses provide great color, but you can't beat annuals for bright, beautiful colors in your landscape beds and containers.

Annual flowers will not come back next year, but that might not be a bad thing; next year you can change the whole color scheme.

Annuals do require more attention than perennials in the garden: they require more watering and fertilizing than shrubs and perennials.

However, with a bit of extra effort, you will be rewarded with maximum performance from your flowers.

When preparing your annual bed, till the soil and add adequate amounts of compost.

Include Fertilome Start and Grow, a special fertilizer to get those annuals going, at planting and again about every 30 days. Good bed preparation will go a long way to having the best plants with the biggest blooms.

Before selecting annuals, know if your spot is shady or sunny, wet or dry. Different annuals prefer certain conditions and might work better in your specific area.

When selecting your plants, look for a good sturdy plant (not leggy) with dark green foliage. This indicates the plant has had a healthy start.

Although it may be difficult, it is best to pinch off the blooms at planting to encourage growth in the roots and leaves. This will also encourage tons of blooms in the long run.

Don't forget heights, textures and color combination when planning. Many magazines have examples for container combinations, taking the guesswork out of what looks good together. Don't forget to use good potting soil when planting up containers.

There is a huge variety of annuals from which to choose, and it can be a bit overwhelming! Ask for advice in picking just the right plant for the right spot.

Following is a list of annuals for our area.



Sun

Profusion Zinnas
Evolution Salvia
Wave and Super Petunias
Geraniums
Marigolds
Sun Coleus
Lantana
Purslane and Moss Rose

Shade

Impatiens
Torenia
Caladiums
Begoinas
Fuschia
Lobelia

What to do in May

- Plant trees, shrubs, roses, tomatoes annuals and perennials
- Fertilize roses and begin spray program
- Spray for sawflies on pines, including Mugho pines
- Prune lilacs, forsythia and quince after they finish blooming
- Spray for borers in birch, lilac and ash
- Fertilize lawns with fertilome Southwest Greenmaker slow release fertilizer.
- Remember Mother's Day is May 10th!



Nancy's Notebook

Mother's Day is just around the corner, and we want you to give Mom a special gift. Many moms love to receive flowers, so why not get her a gorgeous hanging basket of annuals grown right here at Blueville?

We have taken special care to use quality potting soil, fertilize weekly and water daily so you may take home a healthy plant that will look beautiful all summer long.

We planted our baskets in larger containers this year than in past years, so they will not require as much watering. Don't forget, however, hanging baskets require daily water in most instances, especially in a sunny spot.

Just poke a finger into the soil and see if your soil is dry or moist to determine whether it requires watering. Use a water wand and breaker to evenly disperse water into baskets at a low pressure to prevent destroying blooms.

When picking a site to hang your basket, check if your plants are shade or sun loving and hang

in the appropriate area, out of the wind. Hang pots with a sturdy hook and hanger that will hold up to wind and weight.

Fertilize with Fertilome Blooming and Rooting every two weeks to ensure healthy blooms and growth. Picking off the spent blooms will also aid in continuous blooms thru the season.

If building your own hanging baskets, use the same principles as above: a larger container to retain more moisture, good quality potting soil, and water and fertilizer on a regular basis.

We hope to see you at our Potting Party all day on Saturday, May 8! We are really excited for our third year of this popular event. No need to sign up, just show up.

You may bring pots from home, or we can help you find a new one. We'll fill your containers with quality Fertilome Ultimate potting soil, and then help you design a container sure to give you enjoyment all summer long. ❁

POTTING PARTY

**Saturday, May 8
8am-5pm**

Pick out your plants,
pick out your pots
or bring your own pots.

We supply the potting soil
and help you plant!

MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

Don't forget, Blueville is a great place to find unique Mother's Day gifts. In addition to hanging baskets of annuals, we have tools, pots and gorgeous blooming roses, just to name a few.

