

JUNE'S GARDEN

As when the rainbow, opposite the sun
A thousand intermingled colors throws.

With saffron wings then dewy Iris flies
Through heaven's expanse, a thousand varied dyes
Extracting from the sun, opposed in place.
Virgil

Like a rainbow, flowers bloom in thousands or more varied colors and it's no wonder the most-asked question by all gardeners is:

How to bring harmony of color into a garden?
In Elda Haring's book, *Color for Your Yard and Garden*, her suggestion is:

"The plants you choose will inevitably express your personality, judgment and taste, and the only sincere beginning is to plan for a color scheme that you want, regardless of any conventions. The problem then is to find the plants that will grow well together, and agreeably build up the desired effect. The fun is to gradually modify, refine or intensify the combinations and arrangements until you have an individual place of character and charm."

For a more unified effect without a haphazard look, the following suggestions may be helpful.

A simple solution would be to start with a monochromatic theme of all shades of one predominant color of perennials.

An all-one-color garden can be attractive if due consideration has been given to the tones and tints of that color, their juxtaposition and provision of varied textures and forms to prevent monotony.

Another plan could be to plant perennials of all white colored flowers interspersed with gray foliage plants, leaving spaces in between to seed with annuals of complementary color such as: reds from the palest pinks to deepest burgundies for contrast, or scarlet reds mixed with orange and yellow. The many shades of green and gray foliage help to harmonize the overall effect.

Planting in drifts of color unifies a garden by reducing the hodgepodge effect of many different individual plants. A good rule of thumb is to use three of the same kind of plants together. You seldom see in a natural landscape a single foxglove or one wild daisy along a roadside. Garden designers have taken this concept out of the wild and moved it into the garden.

The possibilities of color combinations are endless. Studying and understanding the principles of the color wheel can be very helpful such as: choose a color on the wheel, then look at the colors on either side of it. Adjacent colors are a sure way to obtain harmony, such as blue, blue violet, violet; or red, orange, yellow orange and yellow. Or mix the complementary colors together; they are opposite each other on the color wheel, red opposite green, orange opposite blue, yellow opposite violet. Warm colors advance, cool colors recede.

Don't be intimidated by choice of color. Plant the colors you really like. Nature has a way of softening the effects and you learn best by trying different combinations.

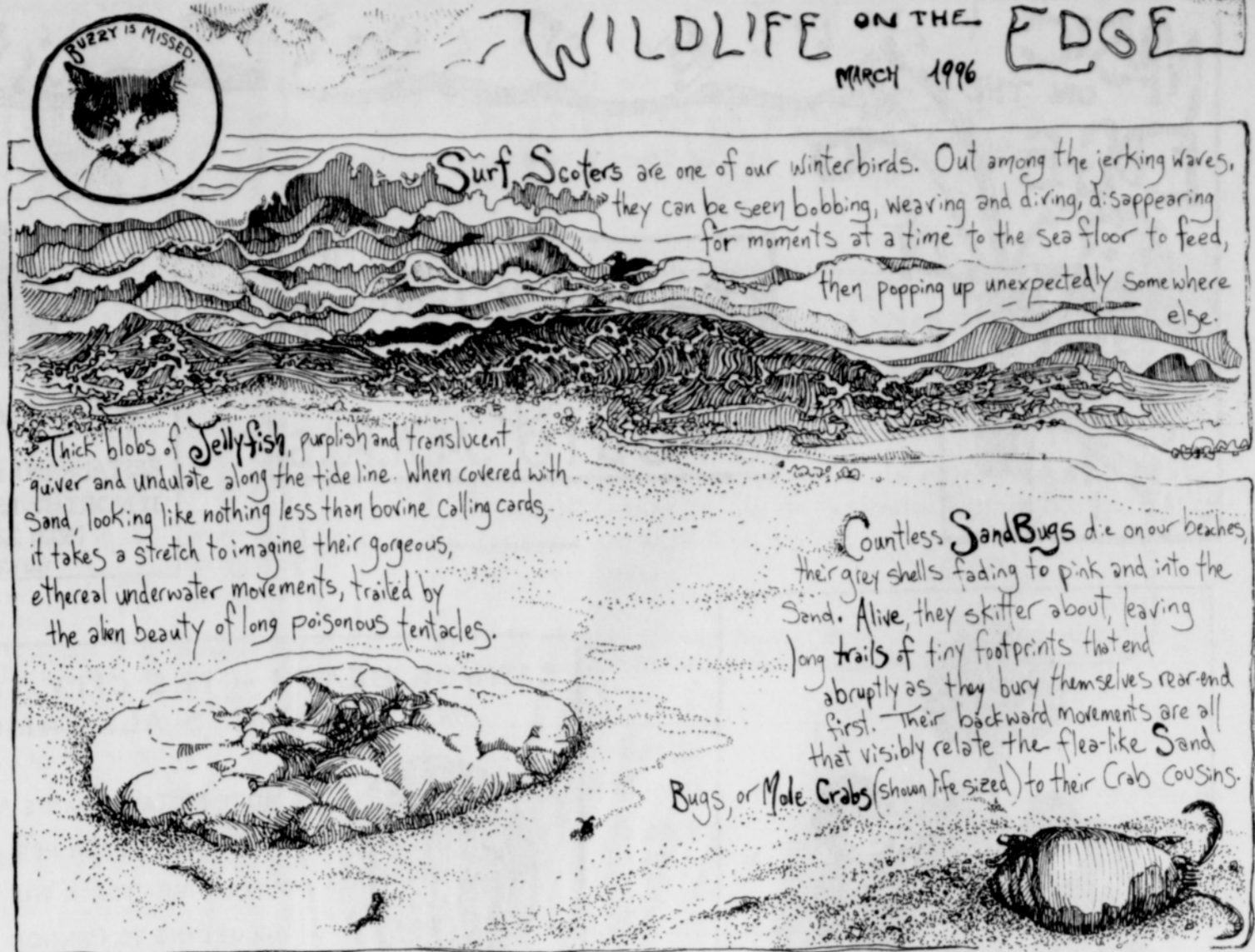
Do buy plants that are compatible to grow next to each other; that like sun versus shade, soil that has been prepared with humus and has good drainage. Consider the height and width when the plant is fully grown. . . and when is their peak blooming time.

It's helpful to keep a notebook of color combinations and plant names that you see in other gardens and the conditions you see them growing in. Keep your notebook with you when you buy your plants. You'd think you could remember them, but I can guarantee you that you won't when you shop for plants.

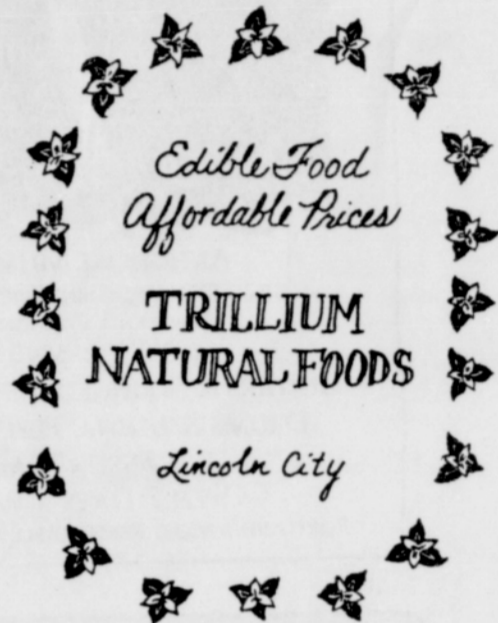
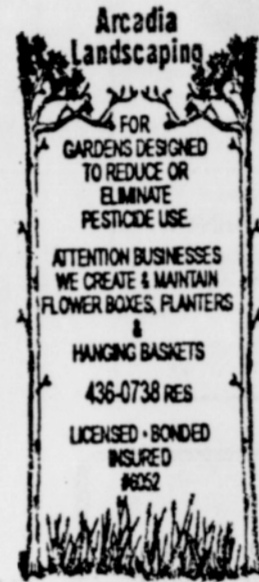
Your color scheme and planning ideas may change, but your notebook will remind you of why you liked what you had noted in the first place.

Last month I wrote about using Latin names for flowers. Here are the Latin names for the colors of flowers that you might find listed on the plant tags:

- Alba = white
- Argentea = silver
- Aurea = gold
- Autopurpurea = purple



The flower movement was like a valley of thousands of plump white rabbits surrounded by wounded coyotes.
Ed Sanders



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- Azurea = sky blue
- Cardinalis = red
- Fuscousea = brown
- Lutea = yellow
- Nigra = black
- Fulva = tawny
- Versicolor = various colors

Please send your gardening comments and questions to June's Garden, P.O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR, 97110.

