

JUNE'S GARDEN

NATURE'S HARMONIOUS COMPOSITIONS

After learning how to plant a flower, prepare the proper soil for each plant, and everything else that pertains to gardening, eventually gardeners become obsessed with fine-tuning their awareness of harmonizing planned color combinations in their gardens.

Quoting a garden columnist, Rob Proctor, whose column appears in Country Living Garden magazine, "It shouldn't require a degree in fine arts to choose color combinations. Forget the color wheel. I majored in fine arts and never paid attention to the damn thing (most of my professors would no doubt concur). Brights go with brights, pastels go with pastels. Anybody who can sort and wash clothes properly can handle color in the garden. Worrying too much about color combinations can wring joy out of gardening."

It is satisfying to plan and plant color harmony in a garden, but why weed out self-seeding plants? Bright orange California poppies might appear in an all-pink garden; orange can enhance the pastel pink, or a purple pansy that found its way into a pot of orange begonias. These combinations make the garden more interesting. Sometimes nature dictates its own way, giving the garden unplanned surprises. I was given a flat of pansies that were not yet blooming when they needed planting. Having already planted all the pots on the deck with planned color combinations and with little space left to add more to the garden, I randomly planted the whole flat in every available space I could find. That was a summer of surprises, color combinations I'd never thought of nor had before. Since then I save seeds from many different plants to scatter throughout the garden each spring: columbine, pansies, poppies, forget-me-nots, fever-few and lychnis, fuchsia-colored flowers that contrast with the silvery-wooly leaves of the plant, all self-seed without my help. I'm always rewarded with a more colorful garden than I ever could successfully plan.

MOTHER NATURE'S
NATURAL FOODS

218 Lanada Avenue
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The B & D lily catalog from Port Townsend, Washington arrived in February. This catalog now also includes Snow Creek daylilies they grow at their home farm. The farm is located at the foothills of the Olympic mountain range in Washington State. They list almost a hundred different cultivated daylily varieties. Some are scented; colors range from white, all shades of yellow, peach, pink, shades of orange to deep burgundy. Some are two-toned, single-petaled, others double or deeply ruffled flowers. Many produce blossoms throughout the summer. A few are miniature sizes. Most plants grow to the height of 18' to 25'. Four or more varieties grow to 34' to 36' tall.

Lilies and daylilies are both easy to grow in our climate as long as they are planted in an area that has proper drainage. Lilies can also be successfully planted in pots. Each year I can never resist ordering more lilies. They take very little space, the bulbs will last for years requiring minimum care other than using proper fertilizer. B & D also sells fertilizer that comes in tablet form which is buried next to the bulbs each spring and fall.

This nursery has been shipping lily bulbs for over 20 years. The catalog also gives information on the care of all plants and bulbs you order.

To order Snow Creek daylilies and B & D lilies, the address is:
P.O. Box 2007, Port Townsend, Wa. 98368
Order desk: 360-765-4352 (FAX 360-765-4074)
Web sites: www.snowdaylily.com
www.Lilybulb.com

Delivery starts in April.

The lilies I couldn't resist ordering this year are called Regal Red. The description indicated 7-10" upfacing blooms of deep violet-red on 18-24" stems; highly fragrant, the aroma overwhelming.

I can visualize these lilies blooming in front of a deep-purple Jackmanii clematis that climbs a trellis on the wall of my gray-shingled woodshed. The foreground of this flower-bed is planted with a variety of golden, burgundy-red and green-leaved shrubs and plants. Last year self-seeding nasturtiums climbed the trellis with the clematis. The nasturtiums' yellow and orange blossoms were a bright contrast with the purple flowers of the clematis.

Ever since years ago I washed a red sock with my husband's white shirt and he wore the pink shirt like a banner of war, I've become pretty good at sorting and washing clothes properly.

I too majored in fine arts and studied the elements of color. The joy I find in gardening, however, is to relax and let nature have its way, neither of us paying much attention to planned color combinations. After all, nature invented the color wheel.

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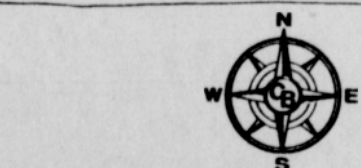
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