



# The Resource Collection Landscaper's Almanac

A Quarterly Publication from **The Resource Collection**

Summer 1999

For many of us summertime means a real bonanza time in the vegetable garden. It's still not too late to add more to your garden this season depending, of course, upon the intensity of the summer heat.

## Gardening Activities

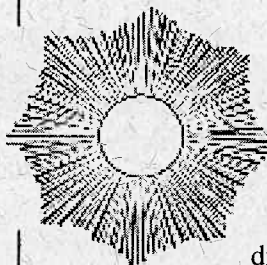
As the summer season progresses it often becomes more difficult for plants to become established. However, it's still worth a try if you'd like to attempt a lengthier harvest time. When August arrives and your green thumb is itching, start plants from seeds; when mid-September arrives you'll be ready with plenty of seedlings to plant. Be sure to keep them moist and in a shady spot until they sprout.



This summer try some of the following in your edible garden: sweet lima beans, beets, carrots, chayote, corn, cucumbers, endive, leaf lettuce, melons, okra, onions, potatoes, salsify, New Zealand spinach, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, turnips, and watermelons.

Verbena, Vinca, and Zinnia.

For bold summer color try Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, and other subtropical vines that can be planted in June. During August you can enjoy the Naked lady (*Amaryllis belladonna*), a lovely plant with big pink trumpet flowers that blooms after the foliage has withered. When the end of August arrives remember to dig up your bearded irises, cut off the healthy rhizomes that have a good set of leaves, trim the leaves and roots to about six inches long, and replant the rhizomes.



## Summer Thirst

This season delivers a big payoff to those with drought tolerant gardens and efficient irrigation systems. Monitoring your garden's watering needs ranks top in the landscape priority list. Try to water early in the morning or in the evening when evaporation will be minimal. In the middle of a very hot day try misting your plants, clamping your thumb over the hose to refresh them. It's better to water less often but for longer durations, rather than frequent, shallow waterings. With the deeper watering method, the water is safe from evaporation and the roots stay cooler. Rotting and fungus disease are also discouraged with this method. Know your specific plant's water needs so that you can properly water it. If you overwater a plant during hot summer weather you might promote root molds and rots. However, if you underwater a plant it will also suffer.

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To add floral charm and color to your summer landscape you could plant: Ageratum, Alyssum, Amaranthus, Bachelor's Buttons, Asters, Bells of Ireland, Celosia, Coleus, Dahlia, Hollyhock, Marigold, Morning Glory, Niotiana, Petunia, Phlox, Salvia, Scabioso, Strawflower, Sunflower,



### Roses are Red...

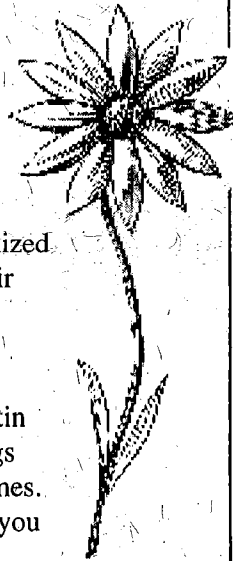
"Roses are red, violets are blue; But they don't get around like dandelions do."

Slim Acres  
(American Poet)

Keep an eye on your trees this summer. Look for signs of drought stress, particularly if it's a hot, dry summer. Symptoms include wilting leaves, dead branches, scorched leaf edges, grayish green leaves with a lack of luster, smaller than usual new leaves, yellow, thinning foliage, and dry soil. Trees weakened by drought stress are also more vulnerable to disease. If you suspect that a particular tree is suffering from drought stress, check the soil at several locations beneath it. Go down to a depth of eight to twelve inches in the soil with a soil probe or shovel; if it's dry, irrigate the area well.

### Plantspeak

Plants are identified by universally recognized botanical names and by common names. While common names are often charming, it's always a good idea to learn universally recognized botanical names for their specificity.



Here are a few useful, common descriptive Latin terms and their meanings often found in plant names. In regard to geography you will find "anglicus" (of England), "gallicus" (of France), and "japonica" (of Japan). The form of a plant's growth is often indicated by terms "arborescens" (tree-like), "repens" (creeping), and "scandens" (climbing). Clues to a plant's habitat can be found in the words "arenarius" (growing in sand), "campestris" (of the fields), and "fluviatilis" (of the rivers). A plant's structure is often reflected in its name, such as "penstemon" (indicating five stamens), "amabilis" (lovely), "campanulatus" (bell-shaped), and beware of "foetidus" (foul-smelling). Let these Latin clues help to find just the right plant during your next visit to the nursery.

### Summer

"A spell lies on the Garden. Summer sits. With finger on her lips as if she heard the steps of Autumn echo on the hill."

Gertrude Huntington  
McGiffert

### Just Outside

Even if you have a very limited space for gardening, you can make creative use of the space outside of your windows, doorsteps, railings and terraces. That's right. Do what they do in the Alps. Put a Blumenkasten on your Fensterbrett (or in other words, put a flowerbox on your windowsill!) And don't limit yourself by thinking that these festive displays are just for spring and summer, but delight in them every day of the year.



Consider your planter box as an architectural detail of the whole of your structure. It can alter the mood with color or soften lines. Your container can be of wood, plastic, metal, stone, or cement. Just be sure that it has at least 8 inches of depth, and 8 to 12 inches of width with adequate drainage holes in the bottom, covered with wire or broken pottery. In beginning your planter box try to start with plants that have already begun flowering. Consider the location of your planter and choose your plants in accordance with the amount of sunlight they'll receive.

For sunny locations we recommend: Lantana, Petunia, Nasturtium, Dwarf marigold, Heliotrope, Geranium, Ever-blooming begonia, Candytuft, Sweet alyssum, Ageratum, Coleus, Dusty-miller, Begonia semperflorens, Cigar plant, French marigold, Golden feverfew, Lobelia, Forget-me-not, and Nierembergia. Especially nice trailing plants are Asparagus plumosa, Asparagus sprengeri, Trailing geranium, Trailing lantana, Vinca, German Ivy, English Ivy, and Wandering Jew.

