HAVE A CUTTING GARDEN

By James A. Fizzell Sr. Ext. Adviser, Horticulture

A cutting garden will provide flowers all summer for use inside the home as well as for display in the garden. Creating a cutting garden of your own is relatively simple.

To create a cutting garden just follow a few steps.

Select a site with full sun to partial shade. A site along a fence is ideal. Cutting gardens need not be large, a site a few feet in length will do fine. Cutting gardens can also be successfully grown in containers (pots and tubs).

Soil should be well drained. Adding peat moss, leaf mold or composted animal manure to the soil will help increase the organic matter content as well as improving the drainage.

Plant selection is important. Annuals tend to do best in cutting gardens. Sow seed indoors in early spring, or outdoors in May. Started plants should be set out in late May.

Any of these plants will work well in a cutting garden: Aster, Baby's breath, Bachelor's button, Bells of Ireland, Calendual, Chrysanthemum, Cosmos, Dahlia, Marquerite daisy, Marigold, Nicotiana, Pansy, Petunia, Snapdragon, Salvia blue or red, Scabiosa, Stock, Strawflowers, Verbena, Zinnia, Artemisia (silver mound), Dusty miller, and Ferns.

Cut flowers in mid-evening or early morning so they aren't wilted from the day's heat. Keep a container of warm water handy and plunge the stems immediately after being cut. If the flowers won't be arranged within a few hours after cutting, remove the lower leaves from the stems and return flowers to the container of water. Floral preservative definitely prolongs the life of cut flowers. Store the flowers in a cool dim place away from a draft.

The garden will need a regular feeding, watering and spraying program for best results. To encourage flowering use a fertilizer high in phosphorus and potassium. Keep the plants staked and provide access paths.

For a good supply of flowers throughout the summer try successive plantings of some varieties.

Cutting gardens do provide beauty for all to enjoy.

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Well Disinfection Requirements

C. E. (Scotty) Stewart

Where small diameter wells with hand pumps for drinking water purposes are constructed, repaired or reconditioned the golf course superintendent should insist that each installation be disinfected prior to going into service. A concentrated solution of chlorine and water is often used for this purpose; common laundry bleach which is sold at most grocery stores and which contains 5¼% chlorine is ideal for the disinfection of wells when used in the following amounts.

| Diameter of well casing | Depth of well | Cups of bleach | Total water solution |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2" | 50 ft. | 3/4 | 8 gals. |
| 3'' | 50 ft. | 13/4 | 18 gals. |
| 4'' | 50 ft. | 3 | 32 gals. |
| 5" | 50 ft. | 4¾ | 51 gals. |

The cups of bleach and water should be mixed in the above amounts and poured into the well casing and kept there for a minimum of two hours after which it should be pumped to waste, this usually takes a minimum of 20 minutes of pumping. A sample should then be collected for bacteriological analysis, bottles are available from all local health departments for this purpose.

"MAY"

What can be said of May,
That hasn't been said before?
Springtime in all of It's beauty,
What more can be said, We implore?
All of the beauty of Motherhood,
Mother Nature so grandly displays,
Such ravishing, dazzling, entrancement,
Wrapped up in a Month full of Days.

Kenneth R. Zanzig

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