

THE SELECTION OF FLOWERS FOR THEIR COLOR DESIGNS

By George T. Goike

Introduction

Before we go too far, I wonder how many of us have ever given thought to how much time, "hour-wise", is spent in planning a floral planting.

It is important to know much about the flowers we are selecting. Whenever I have questions, I've found my grower to be very helpful to me concerning a plant's growing habits, height and color schemes, and bed designs that are most suitable for beautifying a particular area, whether it be an office building or a feature in a cemetery.

Why Plant Flowers?

In the past few years, specialists have made the task of planting flowers less tedious and tiresome by designing flats with individual containers. Not only do individual containers reduce the shock to the plant being transferred from the flat to the bed, but it means one can enjoy continuous blooms from the time of planting until frost arrives.

Through skillful hybridization and study of plant genetics, these specialists have obtained nearly perfect flower size and color, as well as height of growth of the mature plants. Such plants can be arranged in any pattern or type of flower bed design.

With the increasing numbers of new homes, cemeteries and parks, both old and young persons are planting more flowers to enjoy and to ease the ever increasing pressures of our modern way of life. Automatic sprinklers, modern spray equipment and slow-release fertilizers have made flower-growing a favorite pastime, rather than a laborious task. The latest census shows bedding plant sales of over fifty million dollars a year.

Annuals are one of the most versatile plant types, being suitable for rock gardens, window boxes, hanging baskets or any other soil container which has good drainage. Flowers will grow in most soils if a fair amount of attention is given to drainage, watering and fertilization. Of course, the better the preparation given to the soil and the organic matter, the more rewarding the flowers will be to the gardener.

Here's a small list of flowers most suitable for full sunshine, in our area:

Petunias	Salvia St. John
Marigolds	Salvia (hot jazz, medium Dwarf)
Lemon Drop	Verbenas
Zennias	Alysuim
Asters	Periwinkle
Portuloca	Ageratum (Blue Mink)
President Cannas	Roses
Coleus (yellow & red velvet)	

More flowers could be added to this list.

These flowers are most suitable for partial shade:

Begonias

Pansies

Violas

Inpatiens

Vincas, Pinkie

Lobelias