

2009

the magazine for success in the garden

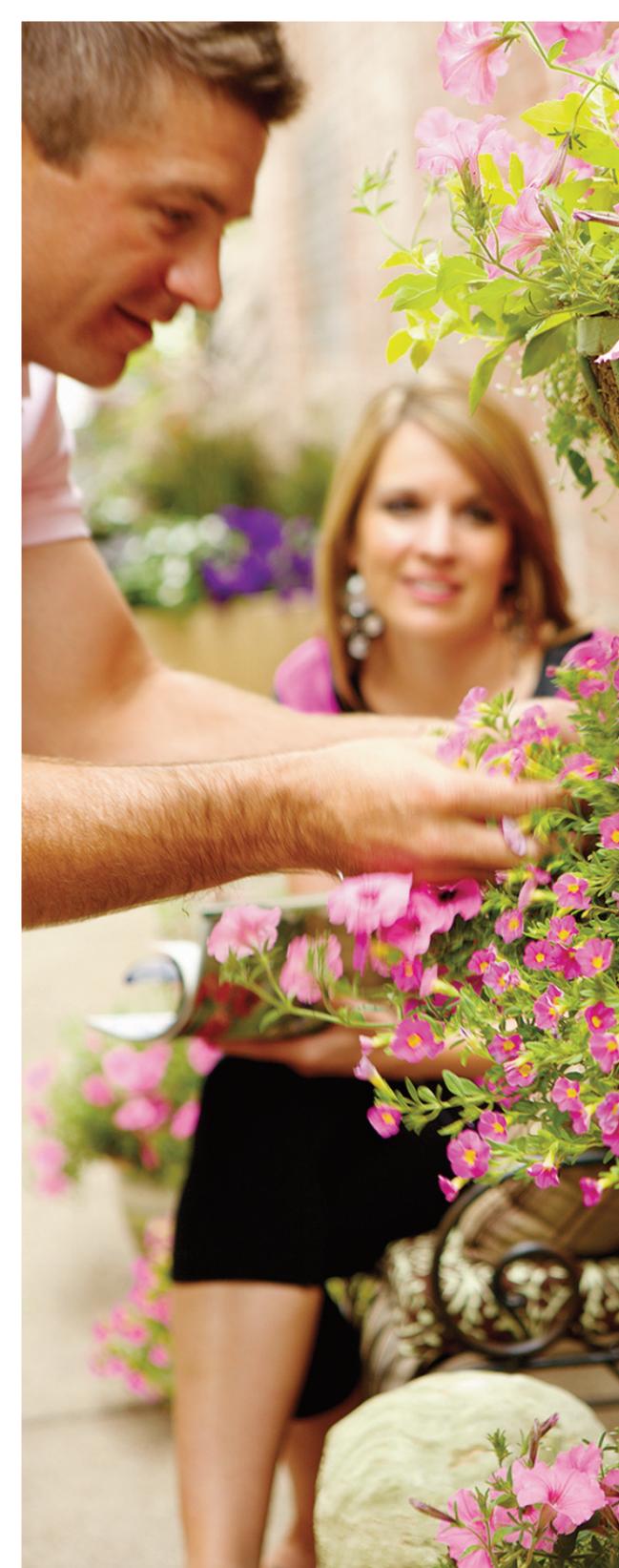
PROVEN BEAUTY

Q&A with
P. Allen Smith

Regional Growing
Tips and Events

Host a
Perfect
Garden Party





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You can create a garden setting even when there isn't a blade of grass in sight. The brick and iron of an urban environment make a dramatic backdrop for containers filled with colourful, vigorous plants.

Welcome to Proven Beauty

Success in the garden is easy, especially with tips, trends, and advice from the experts. And that's just what this issue of PROVEN BEAUTY brings you. From information on how and when to water and prune your plants to ideas for creating a hummingbird-friendly garden to recipes for designing beautiful containers, this issue of PROVEN BEAUTY provides practical help to make gardening easy. Whether you're a master gardener or a novice, you'll find the inspiration in these pages to create a beautiful garden that reflects your personal style. Enjoy the gardening process and the results – and enjoy this issue of PROVEN BEAUTY!

The Proven Beauty Team





To-Do List

for Gardeners in the Canadian Prairies

If you're looking for ways to ensure success for your containers and landscapes, follow these suggestions for a healthy, vigorous, and eye-catching garden in every season.

spring

- ✿ Seek inspiration by visiting gardening websites, such as <http://www.provenwinners.com>, which has a wide selection of plants designed to stay beautiful through harsh Prairie summers.
- ✿ For maximum impact and minimum fuss, choose plants best adapted to Prairie conditions, such as Supertunia® Petunias.
- ✿ Choose locations for hanging baskets, containers, and flower beds. Note which locations receive more than five hours of direct sun and which are shaded.
- ✿ Keep any purchased plant material away from frost until the last weekend in May.
- ✿ Create a container that sways by planting Graceful Grasses™ varieties, including Red Riding Hood and Purple Fountain Grass Pennisetums.



summer

- ✿ For dramatic hanging baskets, combine Supertunia® Mini Silver and Snowstorm® Giant Snowflake®. For shade, try mixing and matching the vibrant hues of Infinity® New Guinea Impatiens.
- ✿ Enjoy a whimsical container of Superbells® Scarlet Calibrachoa and Soprano® Vanilla Spoon Osteospermum.
- ✿ Design a scent garden for sultry days: Compact Innocence®, Opal Innocence®, and Compact Pink Innocence® Nemesia.
- ✿ Plan a border for your Canada Day BBQ: Plant Tukana® White and Tukana® Scarlet Verbena in the shape of our flag.
- ✿ Slow-release fertilization and watering are the keys to long-lasting blooms in baskets and pots. Mix water-retaining gel with the growing medium to reduce watering needs.



great garden discoveries

fall

- ☀ Refresh containers with the fall colours of Dolce® Heuchera.
- ☀ Enjoy your Garnet Brocade™ Sedum, which is in full colour now.
- ☀ Place Orange Symphony Osteospermum with Graceful Grasses™ Toffee Twist for a fall entryway display.
- ☀ Before frost, save Daredevil™ Geraniums by moving to the garage.
- ☀ Annuals such as Diamond Frost® Euphorbia can be brought inside to enjoy longer.



SUPERBELLS® Tequila Sunrise *Calibrachoa* hybrid, COLORBLAZE™ Royal Glissade *Coleus* hybrid, and GRACEFUL GRASSES™ Toffee Twist *Carex flagellifera*

GRACEFUL GRASSES™ Toffee Twist *Carex flagellifera*, GRACEFUL GRASSES™ Purple Fountain Grass *Pennisetum setaceum* Rubrum, and GRACEFUL GRASSES™ Fiber Optic Grass *Scirpus cernuus*

winter

- ☀ Fill urns with Arctic Sun™ Dogwood branches and low-wattage clear lights for holiday spirit.
- ☀ Brighten a snow-covered yard with Arctic Fire™ Dogwood.
- ☀ Decorate your dining table with Berry Nice® Winterberry holly.
- ☀ Leave your Graceful Grasses™ varieties uncut for visual interest.
- ☀ The berries of Cardinal Candy™ Viburnum will attract birds to your yard.



If you're looking for something new and distinctive to add to your garden, check out the foliage finds we've unearthed. The ColorBlaze™ Coleus and Graceful Grasses™ collections are two new introductions from Proven Winners. These exceptional performers are easy to grow and add interesting colour, texture, and height to landscapes and containers whether by themselves or in combination with flowering varieties.



COLORBLAZE™ Dipt in Wine *Coleus* hybrid

COLORBLAZE™ Royal Glissade™ *Coleus* hybrid

Top Picks for 2009

10 Great New Plants to Set Your Garden Apart



Daredevil™ Geraniums

This new line of zonal geraniums in a range of reds, pinks, and white (seven in all) boasts superior heat tolerance on upright plants to 24" tall. Mostly treated as annuals, they are ideal in sunny gardens or as "thrillers" in containers. Once established, the Daredevil series tolerates drought readily and even a touch of early frost.

Luscious™ Citrus Blend™ Lantana

produces plenty of exciting flower clusters all season long. Individual flowers range from brilliant red, flame, and paprika to clear yellow in an amazing array of tropical colours that attract nectar-searching butterflies and hummingbirds. This plant is treated as an annual.

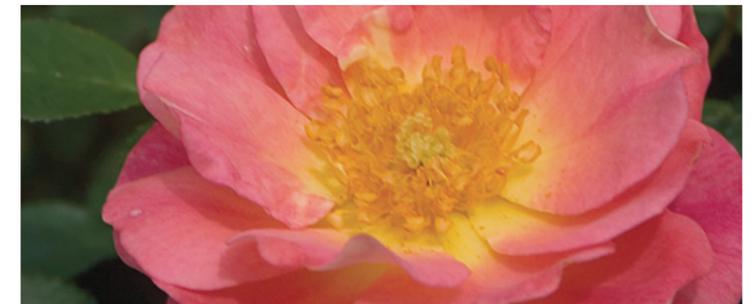


'Tuscan Sun' Heliopsis

This compact (18"-30") cultivar of our native perennial False Sunflower is ideal for containers or for the front or middle of the border in Zones 3-9. It's brilliant but not brassy yellow daisy-like blooms shine from mid summer on.

Oso Easy™ Strawberry Crush Rose

is the latest addition to the Oso Easy™ line of carefree, long-blooming shrub roses for Zone 5 and warmer. Trademark of the series, the glossy dark green foliage, is highly disease resistant and is the perfect foilage for the double strawberry turning creamy-pink flowers of 'Strawberry Crush.' It is "oh so easy" to grow in most sunny gardens.



Let's Dance™ Hydrangeas

bloom and rebloom reliably even in Zone 5 because they produce flower clusters on both new and old wood. Let's Dance™ Starlight is a lacecap form with heads of bright pink (blue in acid soils), flowers that age green, and vibrant green foliage. Mophead Let's Dance™ Moonlight has rich pink (or blue) flowers that age to green. Both these new shrubs reach 2' to 3' tall.



Supertunia® Vista Silverberry

is the perfect annual for filling large areas. This vigorous, self-cleaning Petunia in soft pink grows about 2' tall but may spread to 4' across by the end of the season, easily covering those areas left vacant by spring blooming bulbs or summer dormant Oriental poppies.

Sugar Tip™ Hibiscus

sparkles with variegated cream-edged, blue-green foliage even when not in bloom. Its double sugary pink flowers look charmingly old-fashioned and begin to bloom on 10-foot tall shrubs in midsummer continuing into fall. Zone 5.



Laguna™ Heavenly Lilac Lobelia

This annual pale lilac trailing Lobelia defies the heat and humidity of summer, and the self-cleaning flowers bloom until frost. Its well-branched, cascading habit makes it superb for hanging baskets and other containers, and at 8" to 10" tall, it also serves well at the front of sunny beds and borders.



Catalina® Gilded Grape Torenia

is one of a handful of annuals that tolerates shady locations as well as summer heat. All season long the sunny yellow blooms of this wishbone flower, accented with deep purple centres, bloom on 16-inch mounds. They are seldom browsed by deer but are often visited by hummingbirds.



Lo & Behold™ 'Blue Chip' Buddleia

is less than 24" tall and just doesn't know when to stop blooming. From July onward in Zone 5, 'Blue Chip' continues to produce its mini spikes of lightly fragrant lavender blue flowers that attract butterflies like a magnet.



Not sure what zone you're in?
Click here to find out.

Top Ten Canadian Prairies Gardening Events

Mark your calendar, grab friends, and hit the road for "must-go" gardening events. Stroll through flowers for fresh, innovative green ideas to enhance your living space in 2009.

Calgary Horticultural Society: Hole's Annual Garden and Greenhouses Bus Tour

Calgary, Alberta
May 3, 2009
www.calhort.org

Bring lidded boxes to place your purchases in.

Beautiful Plains Horticultural Society: Hints and Tips with Richard Kulbacki

Neepawa, Manitoba
May 11, 2009
Contact: 204-476-2108

Devonian Botanic Garden: Xeriscape Gardens

Edmonton, Alberta
May 12, 2009
www.devonian.ualberta.ab.ca

Saskatoon Horticultural Society: Garden Plant Sale Fundraiser

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
May 23, 2009
18/22 Churchill Drive; 9 am - 2 pm
Bob: 306-374-6990 or
Frank: 306-249-4522

Calgary Horticultural Society: Spring Plant Share

Calgary, Alberta
May 23, 2009
www.calhort.org
A rain or shine event held on the field west of the Society office.

Calgary Rock and Alpine Society: CRAGS Annual Plant Sale

Calgary, Alberta
May 23, 2009
www.CRAGS.ca

A free event held at the Lakeview Community Association Hall.

Regina Floral Conservatory, Royal Tea Party

Regina, Saskatchewan
May 24, 2009 – 1-4 pm
www.reginafloralconservatory.ca
Celebrate the Queen's Birthday!
\$5.00/family, \$3.00/each

Edmonton Horticultural Society: Spring Plant Exchange

Edmonton, Alberta
May 30, 2009
http://www.edmontonhort.com

Devonian Botanic Garden: Canada Day and Art in the Garden

Edmonton, Alberta
July 1, 2009
780-987-3054
www.devonian.ualberta.ab.ca

Olds College Hort Week

Olds, Alberta
July 19-24, 2009
www.oldscollge.ca/hortweek
For over 40 years, gardeners have gathered at Olds College for a week of courses, workshops, and events. Everyone from beginner to expert and hobbyist to professional can learn something and experience summer camp all over again!

Q & A

with P. Allen Smith



Q: What rules do you recommend for watering plants?

A: The most important thing to remember about watering plants is simply: "Do it!" Since you've already invested both time and money in your garden plants, keep them growing by following a few basic guidelines.

- 1. Make it part of your routine.** With our busy lifestyles, it's easy to forget to water. Since some plants require daily watering while others weekly, it's important to get them on your schedule.
- 2. Water early.** The best time to water the garden is during the morning, as this will minimize evaporation. Watering at night may promote disease.
- 3. Water thoroughly.** Soak the soil so the water reaches the root zone. Light watering encourages the plant roots to grow near the surface of the soil, making plants more susceptible to drought. But don't overwater. Most plants' roots will die if they sit in soggy soil.
- 4. Test for soil moisture.** Place your finger into the soil and feel for the moisture level. For established plants, if the first four inches of soil is dry, watering is needed. For new or recently transplanted plants, water them when the first two inches of the soil is dry.
- 5. Know your plant's needs.** Annuals may need to be watered more frequently than perennials or shrubs as their root systems aren't usually as developed or deep. All new plants need to be watered about once a week (if it doesn't rain) for at least a year until the root system can become established. Containers, window boxes, and hanging baskets need to be watered frequently, often daily, particularly if they are in full sun locations. And even plants labeled "drought tolerant" must be watered occasionally.
- 6. Mulch your plants.** A three-inch layer of mulch will act like a protective coating over the ground, holding in moisture longer so you won't need to water as often.



ANGELFACE® Blue Angelonia



SUPERBELLS® Plum Calibrachoa



SUPERBELLS® Red Calibrachoa



SUPERBELLS® Yellow Chiffon Calibrachoa



SEÑORITA™ Rosalita Cleome hybrid



COLORBLAZE™ 'SEDONA' Coleus hybrid



TOTALLY TEMPTED™ Cuphea llavea



DIAMOND FROST® Euphorbia



DOLCE® Key Lime Pie Heuchera



ROCKAPULCO™ series Impatiens



LUSCIOUS™ CITRUS BLEND™ Lantana



BROADWAY LIGHTS™ Leucanthemum



LAGUNA™ Sky Blue Lobelia



SNOW PRINCESS™ Lobularia hybrid



Opal INNOCENCE® Nemesia



Lemon SYMPHONY Osteospermum



CHARMED® Wine Oxalis



SUPERTUNIA® Bordeaux Petunia



SUPERTUNIA® Royal Velvet Petunia



SUPERTUNIA® Vista Bubblegum Petunia



NEW WONDER® Scaevola



SNOWSTORM® GIANT SNOWFLAKE® Sutura



LO & BEHOLD™ Blue Chip Buddleia



SUNSHINE BLUE® Caryopteris



PINKY WINKY™ Hydrangea

P. Allen Smith's

TOP 25 PICKS

combo design made easy

You can create this *glory days* combination for your porch or patio by following this simple five-step design recipe.

step 1: Find an area in your outdoor space that receives plenty of sun and choose a container that fits the look of that space. Be sure your container has drainage holes or drill them yourself.

step 2: Plant Diamond Frost® Euphorbia, Supertunia® Royal Velvet Petunia, and Superbena® Large Lilac Blue Verbena in the container according to the diagram shown here, using 4.5" plants.

step 3: Fill the container with premium potting soil, but leave 2 to 3 inches of room so that water will penetrate the roots rather than run off the top of the container.

step 4: Water only when the top of the soil is dry, but remember that containers will require more frequent watering than landscapes. Soak until water drains from holes. Containers benefit from weekly waterings with a food high in nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and iron such as Proven Winners® Premium Plant Food. In addition, apply a continuous-release fertilizer once a season.

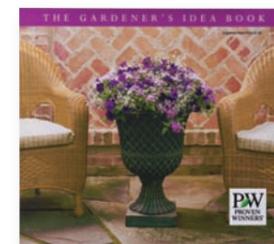
step 5: Don't be afraid to prune the plants. When they start to look overgrown, give them a good trimming. They may look like they got a haircut for a week or two, but they will come back even more beautiful and vigorous.

Glory Days

- 1 DIAMOND FROST® Euphorbia hybrid
- 2 SUPERTUNIA® Royal Velvet Petunia hybrid
- 3 SUPERBENA® Large Lilac Blue Verbena hybrid



NO WORK. ALL PLAY.



Glory Days
DIAMOND FROST® Euphorbia hybrid
SUPERTUNIA® Royal Velvet Petunia hybrid
SUPERBENA® Large Lilac Blue Verbena hybrid

Creating a beautiful setting is simple when you choose plants from Proven Winners. With combinations like Glory Days and inspiration from our *Gardener's Idea Book*, it couldn't be easier to design an outdoor living space that reflects your sense of style.

Order your **FREE** 28-page *Gardener's Idea Book* by visiting www.provenwinners.com/idea105 or by contacting us at 1-877-865-5818.



We Plant Ideas.

Proven Winners – The #1 Plant Brand™ – is available across the country at independent garden centers and The Home Depot.



Story by Megan McConnell Hughes

Something to Hum About



Enticing hummingbirds to your garden, patio, or balcony is as easy as planting a riot of colour.

You'll do a double take the first time you spy one. Feathered packages of energy, hummingbirds are tiny and virtually silent, but they're prized garden jewels. Amid a blur of beating wings they float from flower to flower noshing on nectar and feeding on insects. Beckon a host of hummers to your garden with these quick tips.

Go red. Hummingbirds fall fast for the colour red. The brilliant hue is more visible to them than many other colours. Bright pink and orange are also favourites and act as hummingbird-calling-cards in your garden. Plant clusters of flowers sporting these bold, bright hues in the garden or containers.

Plant a nonstop show. Make your patio or yard a hummingbird habitat from spring through fall by planting a nonstop nectar-smorgasbord. Early-blooming perennials, such as Pagoda™ Rose & Ivory Hybrid Columbine (*Aquilegia hybrida*), provide a sumptuous meal in spring. Follow the spring show with summer-blooming and fall-blooming beauties. While the hummers drink in the delicious delicacies, you'll revel in the months-long parade of posies.

Space does not limit your potential to play host to hummingbirds. They're just as apt to visit a nectar-filled container garden as they are a roving perennial patch. Condo dwellers rejoice!

Say no to pesticides. Pesticides and hummingbirds don't mix. Sipping nectar from plants that have been sprayed with pesticide can sicken and kill birds. Plus, pesticides kill the insects hummers need for protein.

Provide some H2O. Hummingbirds love to splash. A shallow birdbath – no deeper than 1/2 inch – is all hummers need. If you already have a deeper birdbath, make it shallower by scattering rocks on the bottom.

Invite birds to rest. Hummingbirds are a whirl of activity when they are gathering nectar. Provide plenty of perches for them to rest their wings in anticipation of their next flight. Hummers spend 80 percent of their time perching on plant stems, twigs, or in bushes. Small woody shrubs, such as Lo & Behold™ 'Blue Chip' Butterfly Bush and Wine & Roses® Weigela, make great hummingbird perches.



SUMMER WAVE® Blue *Torenia* hybrid

DOLCE® Mocha Mint *Heuchera hybrid*

Hummingbird Buffet



These plants are among a hummingbird's favorites.

Annuals

- Artist® *Ageratum (Ageratum hybrid)*
- Superbells® *Calibrachoa (Calibrachoa hybrid)*
- Spirit™ *Spider Flower (Cleome hassleriana)*
- Totally Tempted™ *Cuphea (Cuphea llavea)*
- Luscious™ *Lantana (Lantana hybrid)*
- Laguna™ *Lobelia (Lobelia hybrid)*
- Supertunia® *Petunia (Petunia hybrid)*
- Catalina® *Torenia (Torenia hybrid)*
- Summer Wave® *Torenia (Torenia hybrid)*

Perennials

- Pagoda™ *Columbine (Aquilegia hybrida)*
 - Dolce® *Coral Bell (Heuchera hybrid)*
 - Garnet Brocade™ *Sedum (Hylotelphium hybrid)*
- ### Shrubs
- Bronze Anniversary™ *Abelia (Abelia x grandiflora)*
 - Chiffon™ *Rose of Sharon (Hibiscus syriacus)*
 - Lo & Behold™ 'Blue Chip' *Buddleia (Buddleia hybrid)*
 - Bloomerang™ *Purple Lilac (Syringa hybrid)*
 - Wine & Roses® *Weigela (Weigela florida)*



Megan McConnell Hughes

Megan gardens, writes, and chases her 2-year-old all over the Iowa farm she and her husband call home. Megan has a horticulture degree from Iowa State University and is a freelance writer for several publications including *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Country Gardens*, *Midwest Living*, and *Organic Gardening*.

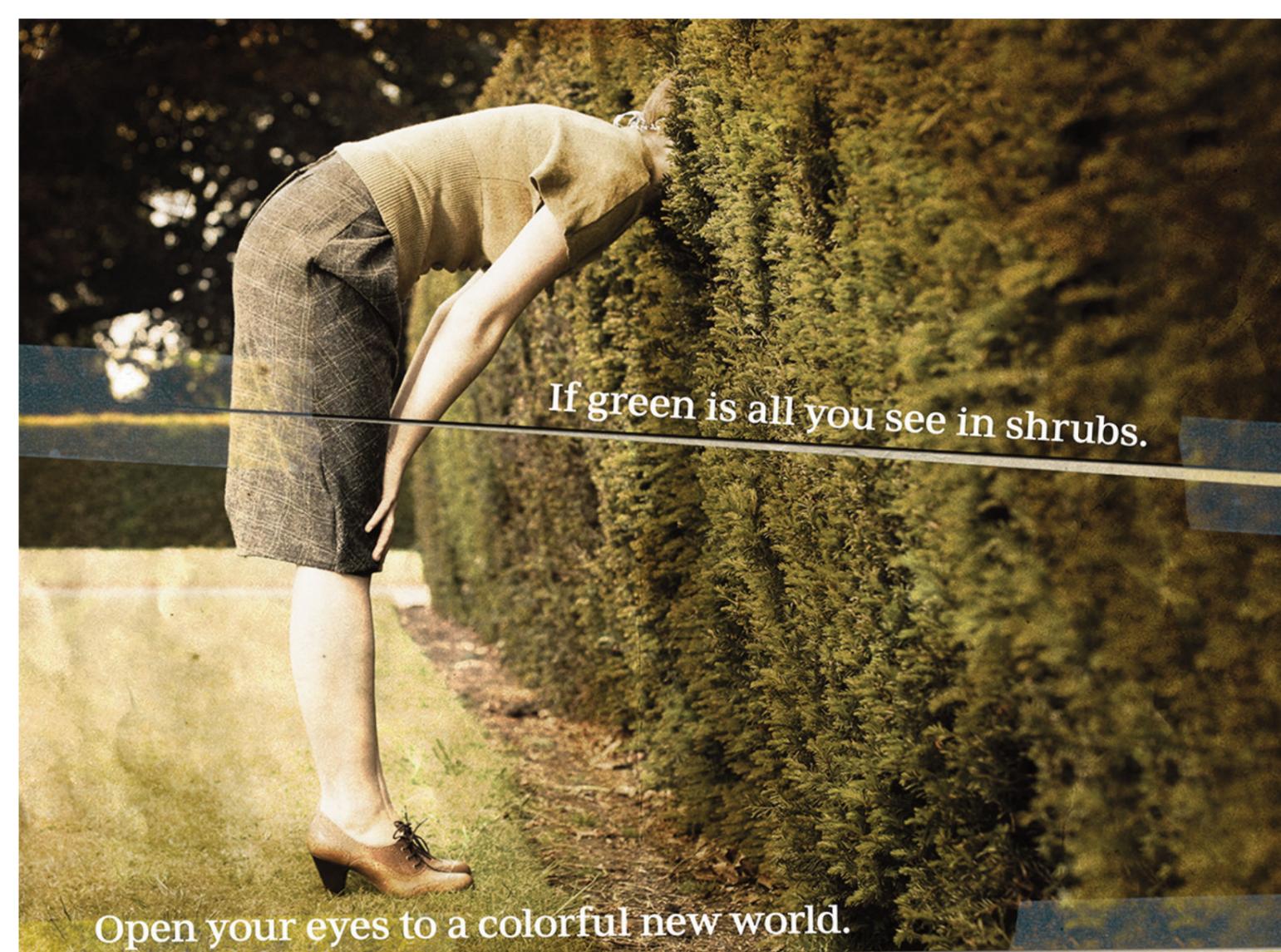
NO WATER WOES



\$29.99 plus S&H

Responsible gardening means watering wisely, and the WaterWise™ system helps you conserve water and easily manage your watering tasks. One WaterWise Kit contains everything you need to water up to 10 containers or 30 feet of landscape by just turning on your faucet. You can purchase the WaterWise kit online at www.provenwinners.com or call us at 877-865-5818 to order.





Open your eyes to a colorful new world.



Lo & Behold™ Blue Chip

Wine & Roses™

Pinky Winky™

Oso Easy™ Paprika

Limelight

If you've never considered shrubs a brilliant garden option, consider this: ColorChoice® flowering shrubs are a new generation – bred and selected by expert horticulturists to give you lots of color without all the work. They bear the Proven Winners® seal by meeting rigorous standards for color, health, hardiness and ease of care. A colorful yard can be easy. Just look for the white



Proven Winners pot at better garden centers. Visit www.provenwinners.com to learn more.



Q & A

on proper pruning



Q: How often should I prune my shrubs?

A: Most shrubs need only one significant pruning session a year, and many don't even need that. Pruning common shrubs like Lilacs, Forsythia and Burning Bush into tight mounds is not only unnecessary but isn't that great for the plants, either. Frequent shearing encourages surface branching, possibly resulting in an unhealthy structure and reduced flowering. If you really want a tightly sheared look in your garden, choose a plant that is suited to it, such as Boxwood.

Q: When should I prune flowering shrubs?

A: Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Plants that bloom in early spring usually produce their flower buds the year before. If you prune these spring bloomers in fall or winter you'll remove the flower buds and won't have flowers that year. Summer flowering shrubs, on the other hand, should be pruned in late winter or early spring for optimum flower growth. Don't be afraid to cut fast-growing plants, such as Lo & Behold™ 'Blue Chip' Buddleia or Petit Bleu™ Caryopteris, down to as little as 10-12" tall.

Q: What about Hydrangeas?

A: Hydrangeas are unique. You'll need to identify your specific Hydrangea and follow the appropriate rule. Hydrangea macrophylla, like the Cityline™ series, bloom on old wood. The little pruning they need should be done immediately after flowering. Hydrangea paniculata, like 'Limelight' and Pinky Winky™, bloom on new wood. They'll produce better flowers if cut back in late winter.

Q: What about stray or broken branches?

A: These can be trimmed back at any time.

For more information on pruning basics, visit www.provenwinners.com.

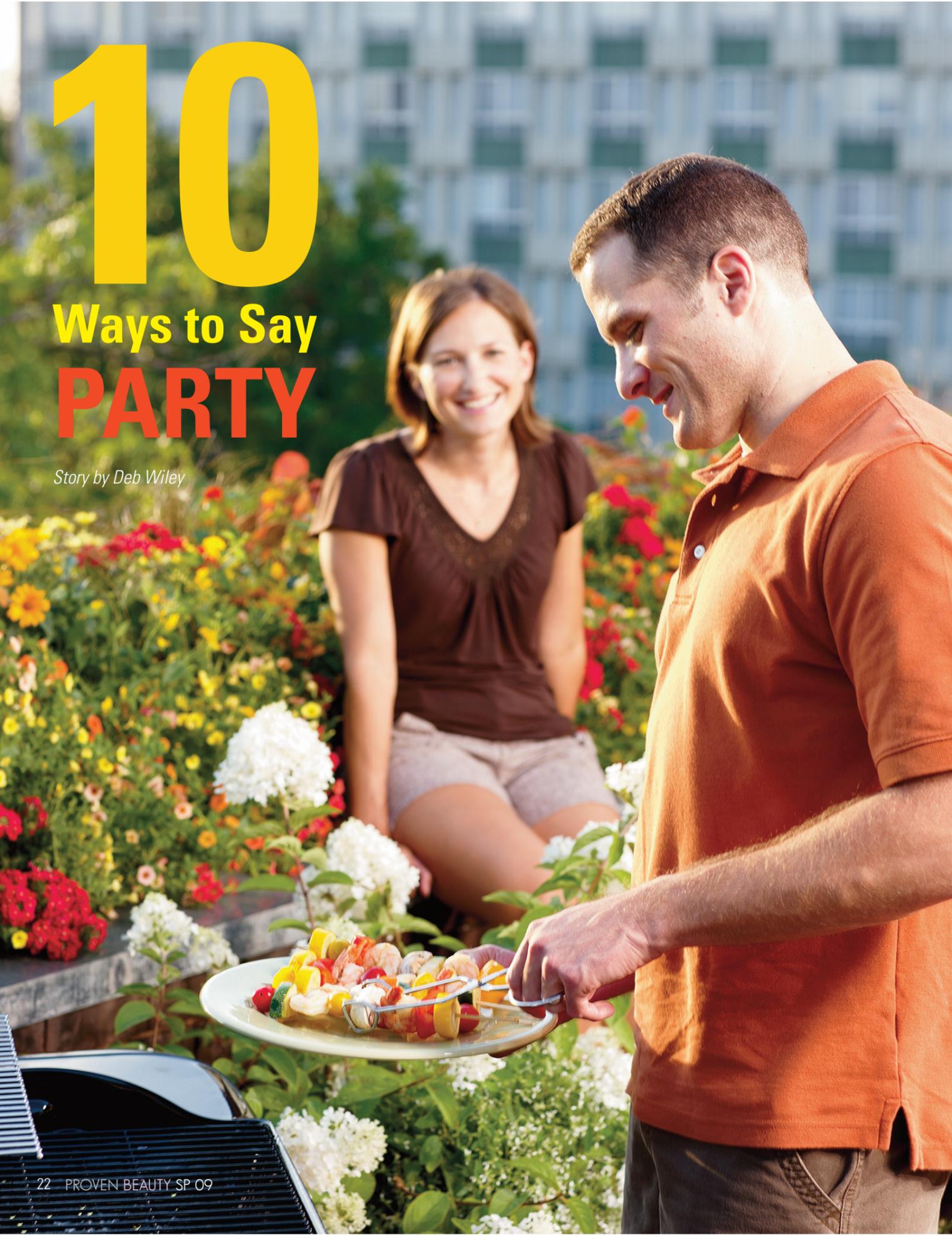


Jane Beggs-Joles has pruning shears and isn't afraid to use them. With a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's in agricultural economics, both from Michigan State University, Jane has worked in ornamental horticulture since college. She is a marketing specialist at Spring Meadow Nursery, the propagator for Proven Winners® ColorChoice® Flowering Shrubs.

10

Ways to Say PARTY

Story by Deb Wiley



1 Set the table.

Choose a colour theme, then coordinate with a luscious pot of blooming flowers as a centrepiece. For a sparkling summer evening look, go all white with your tablecloth, napkins, dishes, and flowers such as airy Diamond Frost® Euphorbia.

2 Assemble a buffet.

For larger groups, serve a casual buffet on long picnic tables covered with colourful beach towels. Place flatware in a child's beach pail and wash new plastic children's sand shovels to use as serving pieces. For a playful centrepiece, stuff a giant straw summer hat with disposable cameras, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

3 Manicure your yard.

For a no-cost improvement that yields big results, mow your lawn, remove spent flowers, and tidy up. Hide any bare spots with masses of flowers – Laguna™ Lobelia is a great filler choice for sunny spots and Rockapulco® Impatiens will brighten your shaded areas. You can leave them in their nursery pots for the party and plant later.



4 Scrub your grill rack.

Remove old cooked-on meat and carbon to prevent sticking. A clean grill also means no left-over flavors from last time.

5 Serve simple eats.

Make-ahead foods, such as skewers with veggies and meats, corn on the cob, and a simple tossed salad, allow you to spend time chatting with guests. To keep lettuce fresh, nest the bowl in a larger container of ice.

6 Light up the night.

Suspend lanterns or strings of white Christmas lights from trees or porch eaves. Citronella candles and tiki torches repel bugs and cast a warm glow.



▲ Simplicity is at the heart of a successful garden party. Choose a menu that is easy to prepare and decorate with plants that are easy to maintain.

7 Ice the beverages.

A wheelbarrow makes an ideal mobile cooler. Just fill with ice, load with bottles and cans of your favourite drinks, and roll.

8 Make your own hedge.

On a patio or rooftop garden, group large potted plants, such as 'Limelight' Hydrangeas, near the table for a cozy atmosphere. Or move your table right into the garden, next to blooming plants. Getting away from the deck or patio creates a new and intimate feeling.

9 Plan for rain or sun.

A large umbrella over the table shields guests from late-evening sun. If a sudden rainstorm brews up, plan to duck into a tent or porch.

10 Send them away happy.

As a living reminder of a good time, tuck extra 3-inch pots of the same flowers that match your centerpiece into inexpensive clay pots bedecked with raffia or twine to hand out as party favors. Group them on a side table to serve as decorations until guests depart.

Visit www.provenwinners.com/combinations/ for hundreds of recipes you can use to design beautiful flowering containers to grace your party table, deck, or porch.



Deb Wiley is an award-winning writer who blogs at www.plantingqueen.com and gardens in Des Moines, Iowa. She was the garden editor at *Midwest Living* magazine for more than a decade and has written for other garden magazines including *Country Gardens*, *Landscape Solutions* and *Garden Ideas & Outdoor Living*. She also serves on the board of the Friends of the Des Moines Botanical Garden and is a certified master gardener.



▲ Beautiful plants create a relaxing atmosphere for the casual elegance of a garden party.



More Flash, Less Cash

Tips for Stretching Your Garden Dollars

Story by Ruth Rogers Clausen

Nothing lifts the spirit more than a beautiful garden, but with money so tight how can you create a colourful, lush outdoor living space that will fit your budget? A little ingenuity and some eco-friendly thinking can help stretch your garden dollars.

Water is a major but essential expense, so select plants that have lower water needs, such as Diamond Frost® Euphorbia, Intensia® Phlox, and Soprano®

Osteospermum. Group together water guzzlers for easy maintenance and minimum water waste. Install water barrels to collect rain, and plant a rain garden at the base of downspouts. Plant Dogwoods, such as Arctic Fire™ and Arctic Sun™, and other plants with moisture-loving roots to help slow soil-eroding runoff and reduce flooding. Recycle kitchen waste (coffee grounds, potato peelings, etc.) and garden waste (shredded

leaves, weeds, etc.) on a compost pile. Consider an efficient, easy watering system, like WaterWise®, which can help you conserve water and manage the watering of multiple containers or large landscapes. Apply a summer mulch of finished compost to reduce water loss and gradually improve soil structure and its water-holding capacity. In intensely dry, hot regions, use a gravel or pebble mulch to moderate soil temperatures and water loss. In northern areas, try a winter mulch of discarded Christmas trees to help insulate perennials and groundcovers.

“Selecting vigorous, top-performing plants increases the bang for your buck.”

Selecting vigorous, top-performing plants increases the bang for your buck. Extra long-blooming Rockapulco® Impatiens and Totally Tempted™ Cuphea, for example, are annuals that always look fresh and need no replacing halfway through the season, making them a great value. Choosing perennials and shrubs also means you have plants you can rely on year after year to grace your garden. Perennials with evergreen or colourful foliage, such as Pink Chablis® Lamium and the Dolce® Heuchera hybrids, are striking year round, in bloom or not, and shrubs like gilt-edged Golden Anniversary™ Abelia and purple-leaved Summer Wine® Dwarf Ninebark have the kind of exceptional foliage that enlivens mixed borders. Grown in containers when young, these shrubs transplant readily to the garden in fall.



Whirlwind® Blue and White *Scaevola aemula*

You can also make those garden dollars go farther by reducing the number of plants required. For instance, choose vigorous wide-spreading plants like Supertunia® Vista Petunia, which can cover two or more square feet quickly, or other great landscape growers, such as Whirlwind® Scaevola, Flambe® Chrysocephalum, and Luscious™ Lantana. These plants are invaluable for filling spots between shrubs and perennials vacated by earlier-blooming daffodils and tulips.

Your garden can be beautiful and affordable too when you think creatively and choose wisely.



Lemon Symphony
Osteospermum hybrid

Use less water with an Osteospermum.



Totally Tempted™
Cuphea Ilavea

Long-lasting Cuphea is a great value.



Dolce® Key Lime Pie
Heuchera hybrid

Try perennials with colour like this Heuchera. Supertunia Vistas give you more flowers for less.



Supertunia® Vista Bubblegum,
Fuchsia, and Silverberry
Petunia hybrids



Ruth Rogers Clausen gardens in Westchester County, New York (Zone 6), where she grows an eclectic range of annuals, perennials, and shrubs in containers and in the ground. Her recommendations reflect those plants that do well throughout the Northeast. She has been published in several Hearst magazines, *Better Homes and Gardens* Special Interest Publications, *Fine Gardening*, and *Horticulture* magazines.



Proven Beauty -

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