

Merrifield's Gardening Advisor
Saturday, April 28, 2012
Vegetables, Herbs and Flowers

Block A: This week we will be talking about vegetables, herbs and flowers that are edible for cutting and drying and the diversity that creates a healthier environment for us and the birds, bees and butterflies.

Pic 01: Growing in containers – with sun (minimum 5-6 hrs direct sun)
-it can be done anywhere

Pic 02: Closer view- Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Peppers, Basil, Bay, Thyme, Zinnia,
Lavender, Heliotrope

Lots of great ideas to share today, so no phone calls

Announcements:

Merrifield's Free Gardening and Landscaping Seminars (above)

"The Exciting World of Perennials"

Saturday, April 28

1:30 pm

Gainesville Location

703-368-1919

Andre Viette, Renowned Horticulturist

Merrifield's Free Gardening and Landscaping Seminars (above)

"Landscaping with Exotics"

Sunday, April 29

1 pm

Gainesville Location

703-368-1919

Joe Seamone, Tropical Plant Specialist

Merrifield location update – intersection of Lee Hwy and Gallows Road will be closed this weekend. Don't worry – Merrifield is open with plenty of parking available!

Arlington Rose Foundation members will be at Fair Oaks location Sat & Sun 11-3.

Topic of the day-

Pic 03: A larger garden – tradition and teaching. Peg's brother, and his grandchild and great grandchild. Corn requires space!

Pic 04: Harvesting- note Okra, along with Corn, Peas and Squash requires lots of space

Pic 05: Lots of Sunflowers

Block B: Finding the space for a few vegetables:

Pic 06: Side yard with sun! Liam learns about growing and the responsibility of caring for his crops.

Pic 07: Eamon grew potatoes in baskets.

Pic 08: Neighbor – side yard garden

There are many varieties of tomatoes, both hybrid and Heirloom. Plant tomatoes deeply and rotate them.

Pic 09: At Chanticleer Gardens, a large hanging basket – Parsley, Chives, Swiss Chard and Thyme. Note that the Willow branches have taken root. Peg's Harry Lauder's Walking Stick branches have taken root. She hopes they will live when she redoes those containers.

Pic 10: A large container at the base of the hanging basket. The size of the container matters! Need 14-18" or larger for this one. Vegetables and herbs can be beautiful. The rooted Willow branches and art on the wall contribute to make it quite creative!

Pic 11: Another large container – 24" or more provides space for vining Beans, Swiss Chard, Basil, Rosemary and Kale. A trellis could be used in lieu of branches.

Pic 12: Using trellises and bamboo would allow space for climbing vegetables, Cucumber, and Beans. Space below for other herbs and vegetables.

Pic 13: A larger garden, again at Chanticleer. An arbor of living plants (Blue Atlas Cedar) trained as an arch. Other cut branches (perhaps grapevine) repeat the arch. Creative and beautiful.

Pic 14: Within that garden, vegetables, herbs and flowers give food and diversity for the birds, bees and butterflies.

We will speak to more diversity when we continue.

Block C: *Peg at chromoscreen*

Pic 15: Peg's herb, vegetable and flower garden. Sage in the container, with Kale, Parsley, Nasturtium, Strawberries, Marigolds and Salvia

Pic 16: Diversity and no large blocks of one type of plant confused the bad bugs - narrow paths of pine straw and VA Fines Pine Bark. Borage is here also.

Pic 17: Clematis vine, Roses, Yarrow and gray Lamb's Ear.

Pic 18: Clematis with white, tall Valerian

Pic 19: A place to sit! Nasturtium, annual Lavender, and Arundo Donax

Pic 20: Flowers for cutting: Snapdragon and Strawflower join Allium, Iris and Foxglove.

Pic 21: Sage, Burnett (a taste of cucumber!), Strawberries and Nasturtium

Pic 22: Zinnia, Celosia, Rudbeckia 'Summer Sun', Basil

Diversity – interplant with your vegetables

Block D: *Back at desk*

Pic 23: Strawberry jar with herbs or strawberries. Explain how to use a channel of small stone down the center for even watering

You can use ever-bearing or once-bearing strawberries.

Pic 24: Trellis – use tomato cages, or a small section of fence for cucumbers and beans. Use cages for tomatoes.

Discuss different varieties of cucumbers

Discuss bush beans versus pole beans.

Pic 25: Lemon Verbena – a must have, plus Heliotrope.

Pic 26: Nasturtium, Sorrel

Pic 27: Calendula, Thyme, scented Geraniums

Pic 28: Strawflower – great for dried arrangements – Globe Amaranth good too.

Pic 29: Violets, Pansies, Violas – Nasturtium, Parsley

Pic 30: Salvias – both perennial and annual. Great for cutting and attracting birds, bees and butterflies.

Show plants

Pic 31: Gartenmeister Fuchsia – great for hummingbirds! Plus red and yellow stems of Swiss Chard ‘Bright Lights’.

Block E: Show other vegetables and herbs:
Bay, Terragon, Celery, Lemon Grass, Mints, Mt. Mint, Tomatilla, Squash, Peppers

Pic 32: Fennel, Dill, Parsley – caterpillar now – the Swallowtail Butterfly later!

Cabbage butterfly is not desirable – so use row covers – also for squash borers.
Diversity confuses! Also use a hard spray of water.

Pic 33: Row covers

Block F: Fertilizers - organic versus man made (or a blend)

Planting in containers

We shared a great deal of plants today. You can go to our website, merrifieldgardencenter.com and see our written outline and watch this episode by mid week. You can also watch many other past episodes.

Next Week: Plant Partners

Promo for May 5, 2012

Hi I’m Debbie Warhurst Capp. This week we will explore some great ways to partner plants for a beautiful effect – the gorgeous blooms of flowering trees accented with underplantings of lovely perennials and groundcovers. See you Saturday!