

The background of the central portion of the cover is a lush garden scene. A large, multi-petaled pink rose with yellow-orange variegation is the central focus, in sharp focus. It is surrounded by green leaves and clusters of small, light green hydrangea flowers. The background is softly blurred, showing more greenery and hints of other flowers.

Gardening

IDEA BOOK 2024

TIPS & IDEAS TO INSPIRE THE GARDEN OF YOUR DREAMS



1025 Ridge Road • Mt. Airy, MD 21771
 Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5 • Sunday 10-5
www.drsnellnursery.com

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*“Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers.
Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul.”*

– LUTHER BURBANK

WELCOME TO D.R. SNELL NURSERY

As a family owned and operated business, we enjoy seeing our customers being inspired by the natural beauty of plants. Our goal is to supply our community with locally sourced, superior quality plants and the knowledge to be successful. We have friendly experts on hand to inspire and teach, no matter what your experience level. Let us help you beautify your surroundings with our diverse selection of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, houseplants and home decor.

Take some time this season to stop in and wander through our lush filled aisles and experience the tranquility of plants.



*'Double Play'
Spirea*



*'Early Evolution'
Hydrangea*



*'Yuki Cherry Blossom'
Deutzia*



*'Spilled Wine'
Weigela*



*'Spice Island'
Viburnum*

Photo courtesy of Proven Winners – www.provenwinners.com



DESIGNING WITH

Beautiful Roses

Roses are one of the most beloved and iconic flowers in the world. It's no wonder why, with their alluring fragrance, exquisite beauty, and diverse range of colors. Roses have unrivaled versatility due to the many different types you can find, from adorable miniatures, tidy landscape roses, towering climbers, to romantic English roses. Utilize our design tips to bring these beauties into your yard this year!



Choose Your Style

Roses fit in any garden design or style you can think of! Roses look fabulous in a formal garden; achieve this by enclosing roses in boxwood hedging. Great varieties to create this look include 'Olivia Rose Austin' or 'Queen of Sweden.' If you enjoy cottage gardens, there are many roses that are more rounded or arching to create a relaxed feeling. Using roses in a tidy landscape planting? Choose low-growing and smaller roses such as Drift roses or Knock Out shrub roses. Roses can even fit a contemporary style by being placed in modern planters and set around a patio, porch, or even in the landscape bed.

DESIGN TRICKS

- Plant Roses close to paths or seating areas so their beauty and fragrance can be enjoyed up close.
- Plant in mass color for drama! Group three of the same roses 18" apart so they will grow to look like one big, beautiful shrub.
- Color block with roses and perennials for a big impact. Grow groups and clusters of each to create blocks of color. A favorite combo is pink 'Olivia Austin' rose with purple 'Cat's Meow' Catmint.
- Make rose blooms stand out by planting contrasting perennial flower colors and shapes (think spike-shaped flowers like lavender).
- Have a specimen plant already? Make it stand out even more by planting a ring of roses around it!
- In small gardens select a few special rose specimens rather than trying to crowd in a lot of different varieties.
- Limit the color scheme to one or two hues so the design doesn't look too busy.
- For smaller areas, choose roses with lighter-colored flowers in hues of soft pink, yellow, or white to make the space look larger and brighter.





Allium



Catmint



Salvia



Lavender



7 GREAT Companion Plants

- Allium
- Catmint
- Foxgloves
- Lavender
- Lady's Mantle
- Salvia
- Yarrow



CARE TIPS

- Select a spot where the rose will receive at minimum 4 hours of direct sunlight, 6-8 hours is best.
- Roses like rich, loamy soil (our native soil is clay). To achieve this at the time of planting, incorporate generous amounts of **Bumper Crop**® compost and pine fine mulch onto the planting hole.
- Roses are heavy feeders and love being fertilized with **Rose-tone**®. Apply in early March and early May.
- Roses benefit from yearly pruning; be sure to shape and prune out dead wood in March.



Proven Winners®
Reminiscent® Coral Rose

Photo courtesy of Proven Winners - www.provenwinners.com



DISCOVER THE TRANQUILITY OF

Shade Gardening

While you won't find tons of bright and bold flowers in shade gardens, they can be one of the most beautiful and serene places to relax. Shade gardens are rich in textures and peaceful with their analogous cool colors. The key to having a successful shade garden is to understand your shade. It is beneficial to mark where your shade is during the various seasons and times of the day; this can be done on paper or in the garden with stakes. Also, note the type of shade – Full Deep Shade or Filtered Shade. In shade gardens, foliage and form will dominate your design, and the flowers will be the icing on the cake! Stop in for our list of perennials and shrubs for Dry Shade, Moist Shade, Deep Shade, and Deer Resistance!



DESIGN TIPS

- Understand the soil conditions so that you can plant accordingly; many shade gardens have root competition from large trees, so they are considered dry shade.
- Create visual interest by using pathways and planting in layers. Incorporate different heights with trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals.
- Bright or interesting foliage is king in the shade garden! Try Aralia 'Sun King,' Brunnera, Lamium, Lungwort, and Tiarella.
- Create excitement in the shade by combining plants with different textures and colors. Plant smooth-leaf Hosta or Heuchera next to strappy-leaf Japanese Forest Grass.
- Brighten up the shade with colorful containers, reflective water features, or landscape lighting.
- Add dazzling color with annuals: Begonia, Caladium, Coleus, Lobelia, Impatiens, Sweet Alyssum, or Torenia.
- For larger areas, use larger drifts for great impact and repeat drift to get your eye to flow through the landscape.

Bleeding Heart



Azalea



SOME OF OUR FAVORITE

Shade Perennials

(DS = Can handle dry shade, MS = Moist shade)

- Astilbe
- Bleeding Heart
- Brunnera
- Coral Bells
- Deadnettle (DS)
- Epimedium
- Foam Flower (MS)
- Ferns: Christmas, Maidenhair, Painted, Holly, Autumn (MS)
- Hellebore
- Hosta (DS)
- Lily of the Valley (DS)
- Toad Lily (MS)
- Wild ginger

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE

Shade Shrubs

(DS = Can handle dry shade, MS = Moist shade)

- Aucuba (DS)
- Azalea (MS)
- Boxwood
- Fothergilla
- Rhododendron
- Oakleaf Hydrangea (DS)
- Smooth Hydrangea (MS)
- Skimmia
- Yew (DS)
- Viburnum



Coral Bells



Aucuba



Hosta



Oakleaf Hydrangea



Hellebore



Rhododendron



GETTING

More Harvest OUT OF Small Spaces!

Growing more food in less space is so easy to do with a little bit of planning! Take time to think out what you would like to grow (i.e., what your family eats most of), and then create a calendar of what and when you are sowing or planting out seedlings. Follow these tips and tricks so you can grow more tasty food in less space, which usually means less effort, too!



SOIL

A good foundation for a bountiful harvest starts with good nutrient-rich soil. Vegetable crops are heavy feeders and will produce less if they are lacking in nutrients. We recommend topping garden beds with **Bumper Crop**® yearly or incorporating the compost at the time of planting seedlings. Extra heavy feeders, such as Tomatoes, will also benefit from a monthly application of organic **Tomato-tone**® or **Garden-tone**®.

SPACING

Spacing is one old rule that should be thrown out the window. Seed packets often talk about rows, and while this is useful with big gardens, it's a waste of space in small gardens or raised beds. It is much more space-efficient to plant in "bed" formations and skip rows. Also, when seed packets recommend a certain spacing, it is referring to center planting. For example, if they suggest 8" spacing, that really means the plant needs 4" on each side. So, while you may be placing a plant and then measuring 8" until you plant the next, you should really be measuring just 4". By following on center planting, this immediately gets you double the number of plants! Close spacing is also helpful since the plants will shade the soil, which is healthier for the soil and will help the soil retain more moisture.

INTERCROPPING

Intercropping is the act of cultivating different crops in the same space at the same time; a great example is growing peas on a teepee, while lettuce can be grown in the center and will enjoy the shade during the hotter months. Other great examples include tucking in basil around tomatoes, carrots with lettuce, or onions among your cabbage. Intercropping can also help prevent pests since the different scents of plants mixed together make it harder to find the plant they want to attack!



SUCCESSION PLANTING

Succession planting is another important practice when growing more food in less space. It usually takes a little bit of planning, but it is the key to ensuring an abundant harvest from a small garden. With succession planting, you enjoy multiple harvests from a single patch of ground in any given growing season. This is done by planting one crop immediately after an earlier crop has finished to keep the harvests coming. In March through May, we can grow cool-season crops, then, as they finish, transition to warm-season crops, and then, in fall, switch back to cool-season crops.



SEASON EXTENDERS

Season Extenders are cold frames, row covers, and hotbeds, which allow your garden to produce earlier and later into the season, therefore allowing you to grow more in your small space. Cold frames can be purchased or thrifted by using old windows. Row covers can be lighter-weight fabric or heavy-duty plastic. Hotbeds are warm growing environments created using the heat that's given off during the decomposition of organic matter such as manure. A quick YouTube search will help you build your own!

GROW VERTICALLY

Growing vertically is a fabulous way to get more vegetables out of a small garden! By utilizing Trellises, Teepees, Stakes, and Arbors, you can train vegetables such as pole beans, peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, and melons vertically. This allows you to plant more around the bases of these vegetables. Think out of the box, even zucchini can be trained to grow more vertically with a tomato cage!



VEGETABLE VARIETIES

The varieties of vegetables you grow can also impact your harvest size. While heirloom vegetables tend to have more flavor, they typically won't produce as big of harvests compared to hybrid vegetables. It can also be helpful to choose dwarf varieties so that you can fit more vegetables into your small garden. When choosing seeds, also take a look at days to maturity; when possible, pick faster-maturing varieties so that you can have more succession planting!

REGULAR HARVESTING

Regular harvesting can help to encourage more growth and higher yields. Many vegetables, especially beans and peas, will stop forming new flowers if pods are left too long on the plant. Even tomatoes and peppers benefit from regular harvesting because taking off the fruit or vegetable allows the plant to direct its energy into producing more. Be sure to harvest your crops as soon as they are ready to prevent them from becoming overripe or spoiling.



Container Gardening

WITH ANNUALS & MORE

Container gardening is the new rage! Not only is it easy, fun, and rewarding, but you can practically garden anywhere! Create eye-catching displays of color with annuals or culinary delights with edible plants grown in containers. Containers lend themselves to blooming bulbs, herbs, vegetables, and even larger fruit plants or flowering shrubs. Container gardens can screen the unsightly and elevate outdoor living. Check out our keys for success so that you will be growing bountiful plants in containers with ease!

Keys for Success

CONTAINER

When it comes to choosing a container, bigger really is better if you want large billowing plants filled with blossoms. Larger containers also mean less watering. A bigger container allows the plants to grow a bigger root system, which in turn guarantees a healthier, happier plant that provides more blooms or harvest. When choosing a container, make sure it has holes in the bottoms so that water will drain. When growing dry-loving plants such as herbs or succulents, utilize terra cotta pots. For everything else, any container will work as long as it's large enough to accommodate the plant's root ball and has drainage.

POTTING SOIL

When plants are solely living in containers, it's important to use quality potting soil. It may be tempting to use cheap soil, but your plants won't perform as well. It's an old horticultural saying, "If you have \$20 to spend, \$19 of it should be on soil and \$1 on the plant." This is to exaggerate that if you keep the plant's roots healthy by providing nutrient-rich soil, the top will follow. When choosing potting soil for herbs and annuals, you will need a lightweight and well-draining mix; we recommend **PRO-MIX® Premium Potting Mix**, **FoxFarm® Happy Frog® Potting Soil**, or **Fox Farm® Bush Doctor® Coco Loco® Potting Mix**. When growing vegetables in containers, we recommend a soil that is a bit heavier and has more nutrients, such as **Bumper Crop® Organic Potting Soil** or **Coast of Maine® Tomatoes and Vegetables**. Shrubs and trees also like a bit heavier soil, such as the **Bumper Crop® Soil Builder**.

FERTILIZING

Containers need regular fertilizing as the small amount of soil will become depleted of nutrients quickly.

Annuals

At the time of planting, we use a slow-release fertilizer (**Osmocote®**). Then follow up with **Jack's® Classic Bloom Booster** every third watering.

Herbs & Vegetables

Espoma® Tomato-tone®

Perennials

Espoma® Flower-tone®

Shrubs

Espoma® Plant-tone® or
Espoma® Flower-tone®



Container Design



MONOCULTURE

This is a simple way to show off a stunning pot or create a large pop of color. Monoculture couldn't be easier; it means a single variety is planted in the container. It's a beautiful way to display small Hydrangeas, but it also encompasses planting three 'Supertunia Bordeaux' Petunias.



MONO COLOR

This is an elegant design that uses different shades of a single color and with different plants, such as pink Petunias, pink Geraniums, and pink Angelonia. These designs tend to have a calming effect due to the harmonious color, but interest is created with the different textural plants.



ANALOGOUS COLOR

This is a design that utilizes colors that are similar to each other, or are either all hot colors or all cool colors. Hot colors such as red, orange and yellow tend to draw attention and are great for planters that are seen in a distance. Cool colors such as blue, purple and pink are tranquil and are better enjoyed up close.

COMPLEMENTARY COLOR

These are opposite on the color wheel: red and green, orange and blue, yellow and violet. Complimentary colors create contrast and excitement because the colors pop against each other. Don't forget to pick colors of similar intensity, or the desired effect may not be achieved.





Native Plants

FOR OUR Pollinators

Native plants provide food and shelter to help butterflies and pollinators thrive. With native plants, you will enjoy more birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects in your garden. Not only are pollinators beautiful to look at, but they will also help pollinate your vegetables to ensure you have a bountiful harvest. When designing a garden or adding to existing beds, try to incorporate 3 seasons of blooming natives, which ensures a plant haven for nectar-seeking pollinators.

Early Season

SHRUBS

- Amelanchier
- Blueberry
- Chokeberry
- Pussy Willow
- Snowberry
- Spicebush
- Viburnum
- Redbud

PERENNIALS

- Creeping Phlox
- Golden Groundsel
- Wild Ginger
- Woodland Phlox
- Columbine
- Jacobs Ladder

Mid-Season

SHRUBS

- Black Elderberry
- Honeysuckle Bush
- Red Twig Dogwood
- Button Bush
- Smooth Hydrangea

PERENNIALS

- Milkweed
- Coneflower
- Cardinal Flower
- Black-Eyed Susan
- Blazing Star
- Woodland Sunflower

Late Season

SHRUBS

- Clethra
- American Witch Hazel
- Winterberry
- Viburnum

PERENNIALS

- Aster
- Blue Lobelia
- Joe Pye Weed
- Mountain Mint
- Goldenrod



Goldenrod



VIBURNUM



HONEYSUCKLE BUSH



CLETHRA



REDBUD



BUTTON BUSH



WINTERBERRY



CREeping PHLOX



MILKWEED



ASTER



COLUMBINE



CONEFLOWER



JOE PYE WEED



KEEP YOUR HOME BEAUTIFUL WITH OUR
March & April
TIMELY *Garden Tips*

GET PLANTING

- Plan your vegetable and herb garden, taking notes of seeds and supplies you will need.
- Start flower and warm season vegetable seeds – our average last frost date is April 30th.
- Cool season vegetables such as Cabbage, Broccoli, Lettuce, Kale, and Spinach can be planted in March when soil temps are 40-50 degrees.
- Plant color with Pansies, Violas, Primroses and Hellebores.
- Plant cool-loving perennials such as Bleeding Heart, Creeping Phlox, and Candy Tuft, to name a few.



FEED YOUR PLANTS

- Fertilize Roses with **Rose-tone®** and Perennials with **Flower-tone®**.
- Fertilize Trees & Shrubs using **Flower-tone®** for flower-prevalent plants.
- Feed **Holly-tone®** to evergreens such as Azaleas, Boxwoods, Hollies, and Yews.
- Feed Lawns with a fertilizer that contains a Crabgrass Preventer; our favorite is **GreenView® Fairway Formula Spring Fertilizer**.

PRUNING

- Prune landscape roses back to the size of a basketball and rounding the crown of the plant.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and herbaceous perennials that were left standing over winter.
- Shrubs that bloom in spring (i.e., Azaleas, Forsythia, Lilacs, and Rhododendrons) should only be pruned right after they finish flowering.
- While evergreens (Boxwood, Hollies, and Yews) can be pruned almost anytime, early spring is the best time.



ODDS & ENDS

- Amend vegetable or garden beds with **Bumper Crop® Soil Builder**.
- Mulch and edge garden beds – **Pine Bark Mulch** is the healthiest for plants!
- Apply Pre-Emergent such as **Snapshot®** or **Specticle®** to prevent weeds from growing in your landscape bed.
- Place grow-thru rings and supports over Peonies, Foxgloves, Asters, and any other perennials in need of support.





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