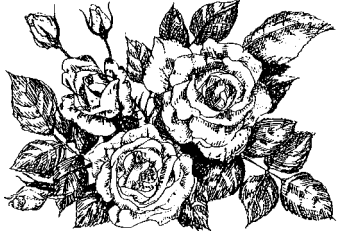


Horticulture

Color your landscape with 1999 rose winners



The four All-America Rose Selection (AARS) winners making their debut in 1999, would make a colorful addition to any landscape. Consider adding one to your rose garden.

'Candelabra'

Set against dark green, glossy foliage, the coral and orange flowers of this All-America winner, flicker brightly. The lightly-scented grandiflora lights the garden with its 4 inch flowers with numerous petals. 'Candelabra' grows to a height of 4 feet. It is an upright, well-balanced plant with its colorful flowers present in large clusters. The plant is disease-resistant which translates to easy care for the gardener.

'Kaleidoscope'

As each turn of a kaleidoscope presents an abundance of different colors thanks to the glass prisms locked inside, so does 'Kaleidoscope', the landscape shrub rose AARS winner for 1999. The tan and lavender petals fade to lavender pink along the tip creating color variations with each movement of the sun or the flower itself. The mixture of prism colors include the medium dark green,

glossy foliage which grows to a height of 3 to 4 feet. The pointed buds open to reveal 3 inch flowers and a slight, sweet scent.

'Fourth of July'

'Fourth of July', the first climber to win the AARS award in 23 years, reaches skyward with a burst of vibrant colors just like the fireworks that inspired the name. This velvety red and white striped climber features long canes of 10 to 14 feet with medium to long stems wrapped in glossy, deep green foliage. Unlike other climbing rose varieties in color and style, 'Fourth of July' brightly bursts forth with clusters of strikingly large, 4 1/2 inch flowers. Gardeners will celebrate all summer long as repeat flowers explode in a shower of sweetly fragrant blossoms.

'Betty Boop'

'Betty Boop', the fourth AARS winner for 1999, is an ivory yellow with a red edge floribunda that likes to flower early and often during the growing season. The brightly colored clusters of flowers shine among deep green leaves. 'Betty Boop' is a naturally rounded, medium to tall plant with flowers and foliage to the ground, making an ideal landscape plant. The plant also offers an attractive, moderately fruity, sweet fragrance. Long, elegant and pointed buds mature into 4 inch flowers. (MJM)

Basil in the garden

Basil is one of the most popular herbs grown in the world. It is native to Asia and can be found growing wild in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world.

Basil has many uses, the most common of which is its culinary use. As a fresh herb, it is used to flavor foods such as vegetables, poultry and fish. Basil can also be used dried. The flowers of basil are also edible and can be an attractive addition to salads and other dishes.

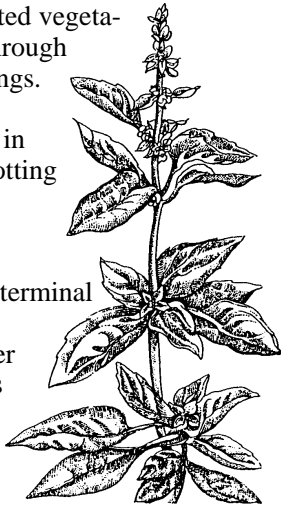
Besides its edibility, basil is an aromatic herb and is often used in potpourri and sachets. As an ornamental in the flower garden, basil has attractive foliage and flowers.

Basil is a tender perennial grown as an annual. It can be grown easily from seed. Start seed indoors 4 or 5 weeks before the last frost date. It likes warm temperatures (about 75° F) for germination. Seed can also be sown directly in the ground outdoors after it has warmed in the spring. Plant basil outdoors after all danger of frost is past. Basil does not tolerate cold temperatures. Plant in full sun. Water regularly with an inch of water a week. Basil can also be

propagated vegetatively through tip cuttings. Root cuttings in moist potting soil.

To harvest, remove terminal growth whenever four sets of true leaves can be left on the plant. This encourages bushier growth and increased yield. For best foliage flavor, cut before flowering. After cutting, wash and pat leaves dry. Use immediately or store in perforated plastic bags in the refrigerator. When drying the leaves, harvest early in the day but after dew has dried. Spread leaves on screens or loosely bundle and air dry.

Basil is a member of the mint family which is characterized by square stems. They belong in the genus *Ocimum*. Over 150 different species and varieties are available. These are



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Annuals or perennials? Many factors to consider

Many factors help determine whether to plant annuals or perennials. Look at the adaptation and the ease of growing. According to Don Steinegger, horticulturist, NU/IANR, "both perennials and annuals can be found to do well in any situation. Look at the characteristics of each to determine what works best."

An annual is a non-woody plant that completes its life cycle in one season, ending with seed production. Herbaceous perennials are non-woody plants that live three years or more.

Some examples of annuals include four-o'clocks, dusty miller, impatiens, pansies, moss roses and statice. Perennials include flowers like baby's

breath, columbine, hardy chrysanthemums, hostas, herbaceous peonies and yuccas.

Annual flowers grow from seed, come into flower and die in a single growing season.

Perennials above-ground parts generally are frozen and killed in late fall, but the crown, roots and/or underground parts live through the winter. Growth renews in the spring and the cycle begins anew. While perennials don't require replanting each year as do annuals, they still require care. For best results, initial planning, proper soil preparation and occasional maintenance are necessary. With proper attention to these details, a perennial garden can provide color and interest in the land-

scape throughout the growing season. Although perennials are thought to last forever, they occasionally must be replanted.

Annual flowers are a prime source of color that can accent and liven up a home landscape. Annuals begin blooming within a month of planting and continue until frost. Perennials have a shorter blooming period, giving more attention to foliage.

Growing habits of annuals and perennials can get confusing. For example, an annual plant reseeds itself and may appear to be a perennial. Or a perennial may bloom one season but fail to over winter, so it might appear to be an annual. (DJ)

1999 April/May Garden Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Turn compost pile	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Plant cool season vegetable seeds outside	9	10
11	12 Power rake or aerify bluegrass	13	14 Apply fungicide to pines for tip blight	15	16	17
18	19 Fertilize bluegrass	20 Fertilize tall fescue	21 Apply preemergence	22 Apply fungicide to crabapples for cedar apple rust and scab	23	24 Spring Affair State Fair Park
25	26	27	28 Control iris borer	29	30 Arbor Day	1
2	3 Apply fungicide to pines for tip blight	4 Control euonymus scale	5 Apply preventive fungicide to bluegrass	6	7 Check pines for sawfly	8
9 Average date of last frost	10 Control billbugs in bluegrass	11 Put out rain gauge	12 Apply fungicide to pines for needle blight	13 Plant wildflower seeds	14	15 Plant buffalograss
16	17	18	19 Plant gladiolus bulbs	20 Fertilize zoysiagrass	21 Plant cannas	22
23	24	25	26 Plant warm season transplants	27	28	29
30	31					

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MJM)

Ground covers- The landscapes quilt

Ground covers are low-growing plants that spread quickly to form a dense cover. They add beauty to the landscape and at the same time help prevent soil erosion.

Grass is the best known ground cover, but grass is not suited to all locations. Other ground cover plants should be used where grass is difficult to grow or maintain.

Unlike grass, most ground cover plants cannot be walked on. They can be used effectively to reduce maintenance work and to put the finishing touch on any landscaping project.

Ground covers can be found to fit many conditions, but they are used most frequently for the following locations:

- Steep banks or slopes
- Shady areas under trees and next to buildings
- Underplantings in shrub

borders and beds

Where tree roots grow close to the surface and prevent grass from growing

Very wet or very dry locations

When planted under trees, ground covers reduce the possibility of mower damage to the base of the tree. Some ground covers may be used to protect the roots of shallow-rooted trees. They shade the soil and keep it from drying out rapidly. Some ground covers don't require as much moisture and nutrients as grass. Therefore, they are in less competition with trees and shrubs.

Selection of a suitable plant for ground cover depends on the area where it will be grown. Some ground cover plants prefer partial shade; others thrive in deep shade or full sun; and a few grow well in either sun or shade.

Some, however, prefer moist soil, while others need dry or well-drained soil. The NebGuide, "Selecting a Ground Cover", (G84-698), available at your local Cooperative Extension office, will help you select adapted ground covers for Nebraska First, select types best suited to the conditions existing where the ground cover is needed. From these selected types, choose one that ornamentally blends best with surrounding plantings.

A well-prepared planting bed is necessary to develop a dense, healthy ground cover planting. The soil should be worked to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Take care to eliminate perennial weeds and grass that might compete with the ground cover during establishment. Organic materials such as peat

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