

Horticulture

Night Blooming Flowers Offer Evening Enjoyment



During the day, most people are hard at work and don't have time to enjoy their gardens. Evenings may be the only time you get a chance to sit back and relax. What could be more relaxing at the end of a long day than a fragrant, luminous garden?

Gardens designed for evening enjoyment are called moon gardens. Plants used in moon gardens have one or more of the following characteristics: evening bloom time, fragrance, and white flowers or foliage.

Plants that bloom in the late afternoon or night allow for evening enjoyment. Fragrant flowers provide aromatherapy at the end of a hard day. Illuminated only by moonlight, white or pale flowers and foliage add a celestial quality to a garden.

Several night-blooming flowers are ideal for a moon garden and are listed below. Night blooming flowers rely on a strong fragrance, rather than bright colors, to attract pollinators. Other plant possibilities for a moon garden include artemesia, lamb's ear, fragrant roses, dusty miller, and white flowered annuals and perennials.

Moonflower (Ipomea alba)— This fragrant flowering vine has large heart shaped leaves. Showy flowers open in the evening and last until the next morning. Moonflowers have a sweet fragrance and can be up to five to six inches across. Closely related to morning glory, this quick growing annual may climb up to 15 feet. Although, it takes a longer and warmer soil condition to become established, it is every bit as vigorous as the morning glory.

Four o'clocks (Mirabilis jalapa)— This flower is appropriately named. Its blossoms open in the late afternoon, scenting the air with a sweet fragrance before closing the next morning. Plants grow up to three feet tall with a bushy habit and blossom continuously from late spring through fall. The one inch trumpet-shaped flowers come in shades of red, yellow, white or rose.

Yucca (Yucca filamentosa)— Flowers of this spiky perennial are open all day but at night the

See NIGHTBLOOMING on page 11



2000 Rose Winners for The New Millennium



Attention rose lovers!! Here are the 2000 All America Rose Selections (AARS) winners: Knock Out, Crimson Bouquet, and Gemini. AARS is excited to preview the beauty and versatility of its top picks for the best roses of the new millennium. Available to rose fans for the 2000 planting season, the 2000 winners were evaluated by rose experts during rigorous trials across the United States.

Knock Out — Knock Out is a breakthrough rose shrub showcasing carefree, cherry red blossoms. Knock Out is a glowing example of disease resistance at its best. The cycle of bloom and growth provides a continuous show of color from spring until late fall. This maintenance free, flowering shrub thrives in all climates with a petal count of five to seven. The deep, almost fluorescent cherry red blooms are three

inches in diameter and give off a light tea rose fragrance. The medium rounded, bushy plant grows three feet by three feet. Clusters of 3 to 15 flowers bloom alongside glossy foliage tinged in purple with a touch of burgundy.

Crimson Bouquet — A thousand words can not convey the simple, timeless beauty of Crimson Bouquet. This is a vigorous grandiflora exhibiting bright red blooms. Crimson Bouquet flowers open to reveal a four inch bright red blooms with a petal count of 20 to 25. The handsome rounded plant is a classic variety, which grows four feet by three feet. Deep glossy, green leaves provide the perfect back drop for the showy blossoms and will have gardeners applauding this scarlet grandiflora. Disease resistance, hardiness and 14 to 18 inch stems make this rose a must

have. **Gemini** — While 2000 is a sign of new beginnings, blended shades of coral pink and rich cream are a sign of Gemini, a hybrid tea with large double blossoms of these complimentary tones. This upright and vigorous plant features healthy dark green foliage that contrasts nicely with the thick coral blooms for a constellation of color. Blooms slowly spiral open to reveal a 4 inch flower with a petal count of 25 to 30. The outlook for this classic rose is excellent disease resistance and long cutting stems.

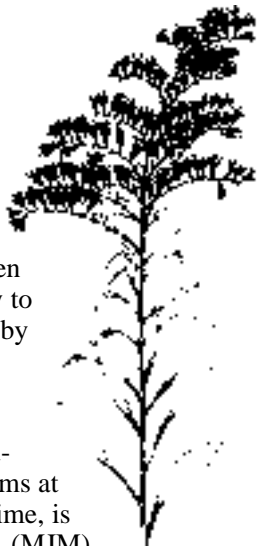
AARS judges scored the rose plants for 15 traits including color, fragrance, disease resistance, bud and flower form, vigor, hardiness, growth habit, and foliage. Only truly outstanding entries earn the high marks necessary to become AARS award winners. (MJM)

Goldenrod, Our Nebraska State Flower

As you know the Prairie goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis*) is our state flower. This widespread summer and fall blooming perennial of the Compositae family is native to North America, where there is well over 50 species. They have wand like stems, variously shaped leaves and heads of small yellow flowers. Besides Nebraska, species of this flower have been adopted as the state flower by Alabama and Kentucky.

Because they are such common plants in rural areas, most people think of goldenrods as weedy and unsuitable for the flower garden. Most of these plants are striking in appearance. There are certain hybrids developed in England which make beautiful garden plants. These low maintenance, nearly pest free plants deserve a place in your garden. Goldenrods make nice border plants or do well in a wildflower or prairie garden setting.

Goldenrods do not cause hayfever. Their pollen is too heavy to be carried by the wind. Ragweed, which inconspicuously blooms at the same time, is the culprit. (MJM)



Horticulture information center

NUFACTS
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
1-800-832-5441; or
441-7188 in the Lincoln area



To listen to a NUFACTS information center message, call the number above on a touch-tone phone, then enter a three-digit number listed below. Call 441-7180 to receive a brochure with all the NUFACTS message topics. (MJM)

- NUFACTS
- 112 Euonymous Scale
- 114 Mulches
- 125 Needle Blight of Pines
- 126 Pine Sawfly
- 130 New Trees and Shrubs Care
- 150 Perennials in the Landscape
- 154 Wildflowers
- 182 Seeding a Lawn
- 185 Sodding a Lawn
- 199 Fertilizing Lawns
- 237 Strawberries
- 263 Herb Gardens
- 264 Vegetables in Containers
- 265 Vegetable Transplants
- 266 Composting
- 275 Asparagus Harvesting and Care

2000 May/June Garden Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Apply preventative fungicide to bluegrass	2 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	3 Apply fungicide to pines for tip blight	4 Control euonymus scale	5 Check pines for sawfly	6
7 Average date of last frost	8 Control billbugs in bluegrass	9 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	10	11 Put out rain gauge	12	13 Plant wildflower seeds
14	15 Plant gladiolus bulbs	16 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	17 Apply fungicide to pines for needle blight	18 Fertilize zoysiagrass	19 Plant cannas	20 Plant buffalograss
21	22	23 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	24	25 Plant warm season transplants	26	27
28	29	30 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	31 Power rake zoysiagrass	1	2	3
4	5 Plug zoysiagrass	6 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	7	8	9 Watch for cabbage worms	10
11 Garden Gala, UNL East Campus 1 p.m.	12 Control apple maggot	13 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	14	15 Prune spring flowering shrubs	16	17 Check bluegrass for sod webworm
18	19 Control bagworms	20 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	21 Apply fungicide to pines for needle blight	22 Watch for bean leaf beetle	23 Take softwood cuttings	24
25	26 Watch for squash vine borer	27 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	28	29 Check roses for black spot	30	

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)