



Volume #10, Sheet 4

April 4th , 2009

Great Perennial Divide – Bowl Garden

Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center

2651 Barrett Station Rd.

Welcome to the April Meeting!

I would like to thank you all for coming and especially David for hosting again this month's meeting. How many were here last month?

How are your Carnivorous plants doing? Today we are going to learn all about the Great Perennial Divide, Tuesday April 28th–Saturday May 2, 2009.

This is a great St. Louis Project, as we approach spring and the awakening of our garden plants, it's time to get busy with the great perennial divide. Why do we divide perennials? It may be due to several reasons: plants have outgrown their space; plants aren't doing well in that site because of sun, shade or moisture requirements; the plant got way too big; flowers were not the color you anticipated; or maybe you have decided it would look so much better in another spot due to its flower color or leaf texture. For some plants the center tends to die out. Dividing can be an invigorating process for plants. Now is the time to make moving plans. Get your spades sharpened and go for it!

As you know we are always looking for Fun & Creative ways to Educate and Learn about Plants-Gardening and Horticulture. Today we will see and do another way to make a living perennial floral display in a container, and information about a great St. Louis Gardening project. Container gardens can give you this opportunity plus bring them into the spot light or great garden accents. These freewheeling containers can immediately be striking with their dazzling flowers,



graceful foliage, and use of plant forms giving a different perspective than growing them in the ground. You need to remember that they are being surrounded by air on all side so they dry out quicker.

Today we are going to discuss Perennials (also called herbaceous perennials) are non woody plants whose roots live through the winter. The foliage emerges in the spring and dies at the end of the growing season. Familiar examples include Hosta, Autumn Joy sedum. Noting that the Hosta is Shade loving and the Sedum is Sun loving plants.

Unlike annual flowers, which bloom, set seed, and die in a single growing season, perennials are more permanent plants. Some are short-lived, surviving only two or three growing seasons. But most are long-lived, thriving for decades. Some are evergreen. Many, however, are herbaceous, which means that their foliage goes dormant and dies down to the ground (usually in fall), but reappears the next spring. Selected for overlapping bloom, perennials can create waves of color from early spring until the first frost.

While most perennials bloom for shorter periods than annuals (a few all-stars bloom for two months or more), many boast handsome foliage that creates a strong and lasting contribution to the garden picture. Some perennials have summer-long leaves as colorful as any flower. And many can be as structural as any shrub or small tree.

Perennials are an excellent way to achieve quick effect in the landscape – often by the second season after planting. Grown in beds and borders, perennial flowers, ferns, grasses and ground covers, can be massed in colorful drifts that emphasize potent contrasts of leaf size, texture, and color. In mixed borders – which may contain trees, shrubs and vines, as well as bulbs and annuals – perennials soften the stiffness of evergreens, mask dying bulb foliage, and fill in empty bays between shrubs with color. Perennials can burst out of the border as well, spilling from pots and containers at patio or entryway, pouring across the ground in richly textured carpets, weaving into dainty or bold tapestries. You can grow perennials effectively in your home landscape. We will explore and learn about these plants and do a container planter. Thanks David



THE GREAT PERENNIAL DIVIDE

The Great Perennial Divide is St. Louis' largest gardening volunteer event involving more than 2,500 individuals from across the metro area. Supporting the Divide means investing in people who are tending gardens on abandoned land in order to change the face of St. Louis neighborhoods. Here are the event's most frequently asked questions...

What is the Great Perennial Divide?

For the past five years, gardeners from the entire St. Louis region have turned their trowels into weapons against urban decline by donating thousands of plants dug from their own yards during the Great Perennial Divide. Plants donated by these gardeners are shared with 160 Gateway

Greening community gardens and citizen-managed green spaces in the inner city core. These beautiful gardens are located on formerly abandoned land in the heart of neighborhoods, boulevards, schoolyards, and street entrances.

Why do we do it?

Gateway Greening gardens erase criminal activity from vacant lots, increase property values, bring people together in safe places, teach children to be caregivers, and grow food for the table and food for the soul. How could we not do it?

Who is involved?

- More than 600 volunteer gardeners from the following areas actively participate:
- More than 80 garden clubs and plant societies (Please scroll down to see the list)
- Many of St. Louis' Master Gardeners
- 2,000+ St. Louis City and County gardeners
- Generous area nurseries donating everything from pots to plants

Gateway provides perennials to greening groups, including:

- St. Louis area schools with outdoor classrooms
- St. Louis City community gardens and groups
- St. Louis County community gardens and groups
- Jefferson County Schools
- Neighboring communities in Illinois

How does it work?

- Gardeners must divide perennials for healthy growth. They pot up and take extra divisions to one of 10 collection sites throughout the Greater St. Louis area. (Please scroll down to see the list) Collection sites are situated at private homes and staffed by volunteers, knowledgeable about plant care and identification. Donors receive information about the GPD plant sale at the collection site. Extra potting soil and pots are available at the sites.
- Digging crews are available for donors who cannot physically dig plants or have a large quantity of plants.
- Community gardeners fill out wish lists of plants needed in their community gardens and neighborhood green spaces. The lists are sent to Gateway Greening and matched with donations as closely as possible.
- Plants are amassed and sorted for distribution into "orders". Volunteers assist community gardeners in packing up the plants. Plants are planted immediately in community gardens in ornamental borders, butterfly gardens or entrance plots.
- Donors and volunteers are eligible to come to the GPD plant sale. Proceeds are used for waterlines, fences, and tools for Gateway Greening new and expanded projects.

Plants needed are hardy, Missouri natives, sun perennials, rock plants, ground covers, shady perennials, iris, hosta, daylilies (not orange) and all kinds of garden tools, hoses, wheel barrows, weed whips, mowers. Seeds and seedlings are also needed.

When does it happen?

- Tuesday April 28th , 2009 – May 02 ,2009 3815 Bell , St. Louis, Missouri 63108
- For more Information : (314) 588-9600 ex 28

Volunteers Needed

- Digging crews and potting crews
- Collection sites
- Van and truck drivers

Just as with stamps, coins, cars, paintings, and other collectibles, plants have their own attractions to the collector. Plant collectors collect for the same reasons as other collectors. The one exception is that plant collectors display their collectibles for all to see and enjoy in a place called a garden. To use and enjoy their attraction to the colors, styles, rarity, or just because they like them, in the world of plants, collecting is also a passion and has drawn together its own loyal following, such as the wide selection of Hosta, Bulbs, and Heuchera.

Heuchera, or as they are more commonly known, coral bells, have seen an explosion of new cultivars since the very first ones came on the gardening scene in the early 1990s. Since then, every new gardening season has seen new Heuchera arrive to satisfy the taste of plant lovers worldwide.

No plant has undergone such a dramatic resurgence in the garden. Ever since Heuchera 'Palace Purple' became a household word in perennials, the plant has made its presence known, as Perennial Plant of the year in 1991.

What makes the plant so attractive is its color, achieved mainly through foliage, as well as its neat habit, diverse leaf shapes, relatively low maintenance, and its ability to find a place in almost any garden.

Heuchera prefers a semi-shaded site with some cultivars doing very well in sun locations, provided soil moisture is not limiting. Soil that is well-drained, yet retains some moisture for good growth and foliage appearance, is preferred. These plants have a neat mounding habit, making them great as companions with other shade-loving plants. They will also provide a nice display of flowers in colors of red, pink, and white above the foliage. These flowers are displayed in large panicles lasting four to eight weeks. Removing old flowers often results in re-blooming. The plants are also a nice addition to mixed containers, adding colors and textures to enhance the container.

With a color palette ranging from near black to orange to reds, purples, silver, and chartreuse, there is no reason for the garden to be without color from spring to fall. Many Heuchera also tend to be semi-evergreen during the winter months, thus providing some color even through the snow.

For most plants April or September are ideal times to move/divide most perennials. However, peonies should be divided only in September. Bearded iris are divided in July and August. Plants that form underground rhizomes or multiple crowns are easy to divide.

Some plants do not like to be moved or divided. These include baby's breath, monkshood, blue indigo, gas plant, sea holly, lupine and butterfly weed.

Dividing can be done with different tools. It is gardener's preference on use of a spade or garden fork. Whichever size or tool you choose, they should be sharp. Some people prefer digging the clump and dividing it by using two garden forks to split the clump apart. Others just use a sharp spade. The whole clump does not have to be lifted. A section of the clump can be removed while leaving the mother plant intact.

Container Gardening offers a fresh, unique approach to freewheeling innovation design. Consider when planting how the plant/s will grow in the container being aware of the height and trailing options. Container gardening provides convenient solution to many enhancements to the landscape or interior decoration of softening harsh surfaces of walls, overhangs, define walkways, street lamp post and fill a empty corner.

This brings us to the point to consider the location and what you wish to accomplish and growing conditions (sun – shade). Think about the strength/structure, wind, and how close the nearest water, and the convenience of the location for you.

Planning, Planting and caring for a garden or container can provide a keen sense of connection with nature in fact the garden need to be planned to suit your needs. Within your garden design and color are two distinct yet inseparable elements of a beautiful and functional garden. Color can complement a garden or detract from it, so a understanding of how design and color function separately and together will help you understand a garden you and other will admire and enjoy. Individual plants vary considerably in their color, foliage can vary and different cultivars should be considered. This excitement of when you walk up to or drive by a garden for the first time filled with flowering plants and lush foliage, is your most enduring memory. Your first impression is always lasting...

Estimate Sun – Shade – and Wind – Remember different plants require varying amounts of sun, shade, heat so you need to choose the location before you choose the plants. Also check to see that it isn't exposed to potential extreme heat or strong winds. Walls and fences, particularly those painted a light color, can reflect the sun's rays and greatly increase their intensity, even burning or wilting specimens that tolerate direct sunlight. Locations not protected by fences and walls may be subject to winds that will rapidly dry out a plant and possibly disturb or break stems or even knock plant down. Try to avoid location where the hanging plant would be in the way of traffic or block a view. Be considerate of water dripping from baskets and drainage holes onto carpet or patio/terrace were water or stains should not be.

Consider the larger – upright plants for the center of the pot/container for there attractive foliage or magnificent blossoms. Choose anything you personally like color, texture, boldness, which is your personal taste. Generally, Plants with long trailing stem are a favorite for the edge/border of the container/garden, but always feel free to experiment and be creative.

Color – work together to create different Styles; Mood and Energy. Color can work together and react with each other in complimenting the surrounding environment or landscape.

Colors are classed as primary or secondary, based on their purity of hue. The primary colors Red, Blue and Yellow which all colors stem from. Most flowers come in shade and tints rather than in pure hues. Hot colors or Cool colors

Consider the effects of light and position color form flowers can help make a most effective garden or landscape. As the intensity of the yards angle of the sunlight changes throughout the day, so too does the look of color. In the early morning and at twilight there leaves or low and so do colors gain prominence seeming to glow - flow...

Plant White, pastels and blue flowers near areas where you might entertain in the evening to show off a patio, terrace, or outdoor dining area. Choose bold bright colors for areas most often viewed during the day light hours.

Colors seem fainter and grayer the farther they are from the eye. Place flowers of stronger, bold, warmer - hot in the foreground and low tones and greens in the back ground. The arrangement satisfies the eye's expectations and deeper perspective.

Getting to know your plants and what they do for you can be accomplished with your own Journal. In the Children's Garden Club we have created journal pages and sheets they fill out on there own of things they notice. You can use a 3 ring binder or just a spiral notebook as you read or purchase the plants keep there tags and note the blooming times the kind of plant it is, Sun/Shade amount of water and the things you liked about it and disliked. You need to beware of Annual vs Perennials, - Shrubs and Trees and how they effect your garden and what they add to your garden. You can create your own book

of knowledge. This will also help you be better organized in your gardening task to do list. Know what blooms when and for how long... (attached at the end).

Perennials are like faithful friends: trustworthy, reliable, and there when you need them. You can count on them to come early, stay late, and be there in between as the backbone of a mixed flower display. Perennials have a general set blooming time some or Spring bloomers, some Summer, and some Fall and some with deadheading (cleaning off spent blooms they will re-bloom) Native plants and wildflowers, previously found growing in wild areas, provide us with some of the hardiest, low-maintenance blooms spaced throughout the year. Biennials too, play an important, though brief, role in the continuity to any flower garden.

Drainage – You will note that your container has holes in the bottom this is very crucial so the plant can be able to drain and the amount of air space remains after water has drained will also determine how the plants survive.

Soil – Planting medium – You are given a standard soil less mix free of disease organisms, weed seeds and insects. Understanding there is a wide variety of “soil less mixes” available at your local garden stores & nurseries. This does not mean they are dirt free. When in fact, most are all natural ingredients, such as peat moss, bark, compost, vermiculite, perlite, and perlite or white sand. Plant with a moist soil not dry, be sure you have good drainage of the water through the soil mixture. This good drainage will allow good air movement in turn have good root development.

Watering – When you’re growing plants in containers, it helps to see it from the plants point of view. Remember the container is exposed on all sides. The plants roots are no longer able to search underground for life-giving moisture. Water the container thoroughly, let it drain evenly through the soil and out of the pot and then water again. Not just a quick sprinkle that wets only the top couple of inches. How frequently you should water depends on the mix type and size of the container, location, temperature, wind and humidity. I would highly recommend a morning watering if additional watering is needed in the evening, plants do advertise when they need water! Also be alert to late afternoon wilt due to heat and humidity check plants around 6:00 p.m. and just water once so that the next day the water is adsorbed and used well that day.

Fertilizing – Don’t overlook the need for a regular application of a complete liquid plant fertilizer. As you can see & hear there is a wide choose of fertilizers available to you. I highly recommend the use of Osmocote a granular fertilizer, which is a great slow release continual fertilizer every time you water.

Another Project You could consider on your own!!! It’s Fun!!!

Some Gardens are planted as a living work of art. Some gardens are beautiful just to look at and some are functional. In ground Garden or container can lend to follow a theme, of a Butterfly, Colonial, Cottage, Fragrance, Moon (night garden), Children’s Garden with Snapdragons & Sunflowers or a functional garden or one with a combo vegetable, herbs & annuals.

Your container can also be that of herbs outside a kitchen door or window will offer you a fragrant and unique foliage and texture. Just plant an assortment putting the upright growers in the center i.e. (parsley, chives, rosemary, basil) and i.e. (oregano, thyme,) on the side to grow over the container.

Perennials in a Container

L U P J S P T B A S Q M E L S
L E E N J S E V D P Q R G H A
A T R O L O C R M R H Y A U M
F J M R W N M Z E I D D I G G
M Q A S U M M E R N E L L L K
A J N S N S P F Q G N T O M W
W K E S W G P J K G B I F B S
S D N E P A C S D N A L A T D
I T T J Y R W J E F Q K R L E
C O N T A I N E R S L U R R S
R V V E P O R F B S C O U Y O
A Z Q A C D K J G T L T W Q O
D M V L N C Q O U R X N T E F
W T X J U D A R N E P G Q Q R
N X O O C O E T T P A P L J P

ACCENTS
CONTAINERS
FOLIAGE
PERMANENT
STRUCTURE
TEXTURE

BOLD
FALL
LANDSCAPE
SHADE
SUMMER

COLOR
FLOWER
PERENNIALS
SPRING
SUN

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