

Children's Garden Club
Volume # 7, Sheet # 9
September 9, 2006
Fall Dish Garden
Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center
2651 Barrett Station Rd.

Welcome to the September Meeting.

I would like to thank you all for coming and especially David for hosting this month's meeting. How many were here last month to make those placemats? That was really neat! David has another neat project planned similar to the one we did in the spring but today we are planning to use more fall blooming plants such as you Pansy, Kale, fall Crocus, in addition to some dwarf conifers like Mugo pine, Arborvitae, and ornamental plants. In creating your fall outdoor container to be enjoyed possibly till Christmas when we will be here to do Natural Holiday Decorations.

You will have the opportunity to make a container garden of your own desire – either a natural setting using all natural items provided here by Sherwood's or add your own figures or ornamental décor from home. Check out the wide variety of plants and how they can be used in keeping with the small landscape setting, medium, and taller plants to fit your container. We will be using a soil-less potting soil mix with organic material and perlite which is a volcanic rock particle used to improve soil drainage. Horticultural charcoal is used to absorb sour odors of decomposing

materials, with some extra at the bottom with some grit or pea gravel.

David has a selection of evergreens or conifers grown in Missouri can be divided into different groups – Pine – The pines can be easily distinguished from other evergreens because of their needle-like leaves are produced in bundles of two to five needles. pines are used in many ways as specimen trees as a focal or backbone of your landscape, screens, windbreaks, grow to be large trees. Another evergreen pine can be used as a shrub the Mugo pine. Spruce – is a needle-like foliage with four angled in cross section, not flat as with most conifers that produce needles singly. Spruce can be recognized by the persistent leaf bases that remain on the twigs after needles have fallen. Fir – the flat needles of the fir leave a round, but flat scar when they fall from the twig. The cones of the firs are borne in an erect position, while those of most other conifers hang downward. Concolor fir, is the most grown species of fir commonly grown in Missouri. Arborvitae – Has flat-tended scale-like needles with rounded edges. Its seed is produced in small cones. It is an easy fast growing plant. This plant can be used to train as topiary figures. Juniper – have sharp, pointed scale-like foliage. They have a decorative fruit that is a fleshy blue berry. Not all junipers produce berries since the sexes are separate and only the female plants produce berries. Junipers are one of the best adapted and hence most commonly grown evergreen in Missouri, with a wide variety to choose from. They will withstand hot, dry poor soils better any other evergreen. None of the junipers will grow on wet, poorly drained soil.

Pansies – Cool Season Bloomers

Pansies are cheerful flowers that grow best in cool weather. They are one of the most loved annuals, with jubilant faces in a rainbow of colors that are among the first blooms that welcome spring!

Often gardeners ask a garden centers employees what is the difference in pansies, violas and Johnny-jump-ups. They are all in the same plant “family” but each has individual’s traits.

Pansies are the largest in this family, both in leaf size and flower size. They are great companions to early spring bulbs, such as daffodils and tulips. They also mingle well with ivy when planted in pots. Their smiling “faces” are a true delight at a time when other flowers cannot survive outside.

Violas are often called mini-pansies because they look so much like pansies, only on a smaller scale. Leaves, stems and flowers are all smaller.

The smaller size of viola blooms reminds many of violets – perhaps that is where their name came from!

The smallest of the family, Johnny-jump-ups is also known as Good King Henry. They often reseed, and end up in surprising places – between stones, in gravel or between cracks of a driveway! Their colors range white, lemon to violet blue.

How to Select Pansies for Planting

- Look for pansies that are used to cold weather, or hardened off.
- Decide what color or colors you like – you have many choices!
- Look at the roots. Are they well formed? Do they like strong?
- Avoid leggy looking plants. They have stretched from being in a greenhouse too long.

When planting pansies, if they are going in pots or other containers, be sure to use a potting soil. (not just mother earths ground) When planting them in the ground, make sure to dig in some organic material such as peat moss. Pansies will grow best in well-drained soil. Be sure and water them in, if you add a grow start fertilizer it helps the roots get established quicker into mother earth.

Because pansies are low growing plants, they make great borders and edging that delivers brilliant color, and can be used for mass landscape beds. They're also a great choice for pots and window boxes, and are delightful for cut flower bouquets! They also make a great edible flower each color has its own flavor.

Pansy Potato Salad

4 medium potatoes, steamed, cooled and cut into chunks.
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons parsley, finely, chopped
2 chive flowers, broken into florets, chopped
15 pansies flowers (reserve 3 whole for garnish), chopped
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

In a large bowl, mix all ingredients together. Let stand for at least 30 minutes at room temperature for flavors to meld. Garnish with whole pansies. Pansies as you can see come in such arrange of colors, you can create different effect using different colored pansies --- a rainbow of different colors, sunny yellows and oranges, cool blues, vibrant reds and purples. Serves (4) four.

Kale.... Brassica oleracea- are native to the Mediterranean is in the Cabbage family a biennial forming a leafy head type

produce. There are eight common vegetables or Cole family – the Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Collards, Kohlrabi, and Kale – which all are excellent cool weather crops. The Kale is closest relative which will take more cold than the others used mainly for their leafy and decorative foliage in the fall landscape. These plants are very showy, and come in a variety of colors, ranging from white to pinks, purples or reds. They can tolerate as low as 5 degrees F. if they are gradually acclimatized –vs- a sudden cold snap. Ornamental Kale / Cabbage should be planted in a sunny location in a moderately moist, rich soil and need good drainage.

Most people appreciate plants for their beauty, the food and fiber they provide, I often wonder how many are aware of their importance they play in the environment. We hear so much these days about outdoor pollution, acid rain, auto emissions and global warming to name a few concerns.

It is a known fact that photosynthesis of plants and microorganisms purifies and revitalizes the Earth's atmosphere. So today we can say we are helping out Earth's atmosphere by planting your container in helping the environment.

As we have all learned plants do replenish oxygen and reduce carbon dioxide released by humans. Plants can also reduce unhealthy microbes, and they also add needed moisture / humidity to the atmosphere, beyond being a great stress reliever.

Coming the rest of the Year

- October 7th Spring Miracles Now – Plant Bulbs – Narcissus
“Tahiti” Dbl Daffodil Plant of Merit-MBG
For the Garden at Haefner’s 6703 Telegraph Rd.
- November 1st Natural Fall Decorations & Pressed leaf placemats
Sherwood’s Forest Nursery & Garden Center
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- December 2nd Natural Holiday Decorations
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