



THESE BIG, fluffy flowers are cactus-type zinnias in mixed colors, named Fireworks. Seeds are planted after soil warms wherever the plants are to bloom.

New Zinnias Come In Gorgeous Colors

Certainly few flowers that can be grown as easily as large and colorful as zinnias. When you consider that all these gorgeous big blooms in many colors started from a scrawny, small-blossomed Mexican, Texan and Chilean native, it makes the present giant zinnias all the more remarkable.

Now that breeders have achieved five to six and even seven-inch wide blooms, they have turned to producing an ever wider color range. This shows up in the mixtures available to the gardener.

A new one for 1970 is Fireworks. This features not only giant, double flowers but those of the cactus type with ruffled and curled petals. These fluffy blooms, in colors ranging from bright orange, brilliant scarlet, coral pink, yellow, white to many difficult to describe, are borne on plants growing only 15 inches tall.

In this same medium-tall class are the Burpeeana Giant zinnias which also are of cactus type and have a color range that includes many soft shades like salmon and violet.

THE NEXT step upward in height, to two feet, brings us to the Zonith zinnias which have flowers 5 1/2 to six inches in diameter. Again, these are of cactus type, particularly noted for stiff stems, useful when cutting.

Colors include cerise and scarlet as well as the usual blues, Torch and Rosy Future, both all-America Selections winners for 1969, are in this group.

Another recent winner, Wild Cherry, is from another strain known as giant Cactus Flower.

Pools Can Be Beautiful

Most of today's residential swimming pools are bought for use rather than looks, but they also can be beautiful.

Even in a flat, open area, the tasteful addition of boulders, waterfalls, plants, and trees will make a summer dip more relaxing, and the pool area a more pleasant place for entertaining.

Pools come in every shape imaginable, but frequently a classic rectangular shape will blend best with the lines of a modern home.

Pools with reasonably long reaches of water are recommended by the National Swimming Pool Institute for families with young children. Inevitably, they will want to race, and many go into competitive swimming even before reaching high school.

AN NSPI builder-member can help the prospective pool owner make his selection by showing photos of installations he has made on sites similar to the one to be used.

He also can show a multitude of deck shapes, sizes, and materials to blend with the area.

Finally, he can recommend the type of plantings that will complement the shape and sparkling water of the pool.

Preferably, heavily shaded areas should be avoided. Falling leaves and shedding petals add to the job of skimming the surface. If neglected, they will sink and sometimes leave stains.

Plants at poolside should be of non-flowering varieties, since blossoms attract bees and other insects unwelcome to swimmers and swimmers.

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FIX-IT TIP

While you can purchase readymade blackboards, you can make one at home from a piece of hardboard by applying black or green chalkboard surfacing to it. Most hardware stores, paint dealers and lumber yards carry the surfacing material.

Suburban Gardener Beauty Bush Is At Its Blooming Best In June

By BETTY FRANKEL

Beauty bush is an aply named shrub that is now blooming in many area yards. It is a tall shrub with arching branches that are now wreathed in delicate pink blossoms, turning the plant into a veritable fountain of bloom.

This plant, known botanically as *Folkwisia amabilis*, is a native of high mountainous regions in China. It was introduced into this country shortly after the turn of the century and immediately became popular because it is so hardy and easy to grow. It thrives in ordinary garden soil, and even grows moderately well in poor, sandy soil. Heat and a dry situation do not trouble it and it makes a good plant to use at the corner or on the sunny side of a building.

Fragrance Can Make A Garden Attractive

What makes one garden more attractive than another? It might be fragrance—the fact that one gardener is troubled to choose flowers with that attribute and another didn't.

To help you in choosing blossoms for that garden "plus," here is a list of annual flowers that you can grow from seeds this year, all of them with that special characteristic, fragrance.

Sweet alyssum and candytuft are two of the best blooms for sweet scent. Carnations and pinks, both members of the same family, are known for their family, spicy odor.

Add heliotrope, mignonette, stocks and flowering tobacco to the list and you'll have quite a fragrant garden. Other flowers are sweet pea and sweet william, their names indicative of their sweet scent; petunias and verbenas.

Night scented stock is delightful and there also are other flowers of whose delicate odor you may not be aware. Among them are the nasturtiums—not all of them but some varieties. Bells of Ireland and sweet sultan (once again with a name that tells the tale) are others.

THE FLOWERS are tubular in form with two up-turned lobes and three lower lobes. The throat of the flower is marked with a golden orange network that makes the flower especially attractive when it is closely observed. The flowers, which are attached in pairs, are small, but are so profusely produced that the shrub is literally covered with bloom in June.

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Your lawn's going bald? Use "spring seeding," the best lawn hair tonic on the market.

David Martin, Michigan State University extension turfgrass specialist, recommends the following steps to eliminate lawn bald spots:

- When frost danger is past and the soil is beginning to warm up, go over bald spots with a garden rake to loosen the soil. Soil moisture is right for seeding when the soil rakes loosely (does not form small clods).
- Select a good seed (certified if possible). Plan on using a Kentucky bluegrass variety for sunny areas and a red fescue variety in shaded spots.
- Sow the appropriate seed by hand, sprinkling it evenly over the entire area. A small handful of seed will cover a bare spot that is 6 feet in diameter.

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