



Here's how to be your own exterior decorator

AP — Be an exterior decorator. Consider the land around home as outdoor rooms that you can furnish without a big budget. Plant flowers, annual and perennial.

Annuals can provide flowers for half the year. And you can change them every year if you desire, limited mostly by your own imagination. Sun and shade also need to be considered in your choices.

Most annuals bought as seedlings or as seeds are inexpensive, permitting you to buy enough for an impressive display. For instance, a massive display of petunias will attract more attention than several small clumps spotted around the yard.

Flower gardening brings beauty and can be easy, simple therapy. It doesn't require great talent or knowledge. A green thumb is nothing but a finger with good, honest dirt on it. Just make sure you read instructions.

SELECT FLOWERS suited to a location. Most annuals prefer sunny spots, but some, such as impatiens and

begonias, prefer shade. Water annuals well, but don't drown them. Watering directly on the flowers may cause them to close up and will encourage diseases, so water close to the ground, beneath the foliage.

Rather than stand in the garden holding the hose, poke an old broomstick into the ground and tie the hose to it. This will keep the flow directed to beneficial areas. When plants have had enough to drink, move the stick elsewhere.

Be sure to remove dead blooms, since fungus grows easily on dead material. Cut the blossoms you want for indoors and remove others from the plant as they dry up.

Plant petunias early and cut them back two or three times during the summer if they get straggly. Pruning will make them fuller, bushier. When they flop over (unless they're in hanging pots), trim them back to about 3 inches.

REMOVING OLD flowers and the seed heads of many annuals will pro-

long flowering. This is important for pansies, daisies, snapdragons, cosmos and large marigolds.

On the other hand, moss roses, verbena, annual phlox and dianthus will flower all summer without help.

However, pruning long, ungainly stems will keep plants looking tidier.

Wax begonia, ageratum and alyssum also will benefit from an occasional snipping back.

Perennial flowers, such as garden lilacs, sweet peas and peonies, bloom just once a season, but it's a good idea to remove old flowers from them, too. This permits the plants to concentrate on storing food in their roots for next year's growth rather than making seeds.

Remove faded roses, too. Cut them off with a sharp knife or shears just before the petals begin to fall. If the annual plant you buy already has a flower, pinch it off when you plant it. This will induce more blooming.

SUMMER-FLOWERING annuals

can extend your garden's brilliant color for a longer season, especially if you start with bedding plants, available in nurseries and garden centers.

Healthy young seedlings can be planted as soon as weather permits to fill bare spots in beds and borders and to camouflage plants that have passed their prime, such as spring-flowering tulips, lilies and daffodils.

Add sparkle to the edge of a shrub border with low-growing varieties of ageratum, marigold, zinnia and rich blue lobelia, just when your perennial rhododendrons and azaleas lose their luster.

Snapdragons, fast-growing cosmos with feathery foliage and bright daisy-like blossoms, and cleome topped with pink spider flowers are recommended as screens.

Annual flowers are suitable to a wide variety of uses and conditions because they are available in so many sizes, shapes and hues. They may be planted among shrubs and perennials, in foundation settings, in movable planters as well as in flower

boxes and pots. They add color when planted among vegetables in small gardens.

PLANT THEM WHERE they will be most effective, considering plant type, color, height and sunlight. Colored pencil drawings will help with your design. Small plants should be in front, medium next, and tall in the rear.

Impatiens continues to be a favorite for shaded gardens, forming low, flower-covered mounds as summer progresses. Flowers range in size from 1 to 2 inches across in white, pink, lavender, coral, salmon and red.

Other shade-tolerant plants include tuberous begonias, started indoors in early spring and moved outdoors when frost danger ends.

Some produce huge red, pink, coral, salmon, yellow or white blooms. Some varieties are excellent for hanging baskets.

Plant tuberous begonias in well-drained, shaded spots, water regularly and fertilize every two weeks to en-

courage good flower production. Coleus — excellent for planters or window boxes — grows 18-21 inches tall, with a mixture of showy leaves featuring reds, yellows, greens and white.

Salvia has red, orange, rose or blue flowers. Nicotiana (tobacco plant) can be seeded in the garden or bought as bedding plants.

Shade-green annuals need careful watering because nearby tree roots may take up available soil moisture. Shade-tolerant plants do well where they get morning sun but not hot afternoon or evening sun.

PLANTING SEEDS? Prepare the ground as you would for vegetables and follow directions on packets. Planting seedlings? Prepare the bed first by spading deeply.

Condition heavy soil by digging in organic matter such as peat moss, compost or ground bark. This helps sandy soil retain moisture. Fertilize with two pounds of 5-10-5 per 100 square feet of garden unless soil tests recommend otherwise.

WINDOWS & DOORS

QUALITY PRODUCTS & SERVICES!

- Leaded & Insulated Glass
- Wood, Fiberglass & Steel Doors
- Wood, Vinyl
- Replacement Windows
- FREE Planning & Estimate Service

BERNHARD BUILDING CO.
SHOWROOM AT 136 S. Rochester Rd. 589-3154
1 1/2 Blocks South of 14 Mile

Could A New Landscape Enhance Your Home?

- Professional Landscape Designs
- Installation • Lawn Maintenance
- Decks • Patios • Walkways
- Roofing

585-2423

Landesigns

Your Complete Exterior Maintenance Company

VACATION IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD... AFTER A TRIP TO PALM BEACH PATIO!

SUNROOM "Via" Lane/Venture Rattan Now 30% off 	PATIO "Via" Arlington House Wrought Iron Now \$299 ⁰⁰ 	DECK "Via" Winston Aluminum Now \$599 ⁰⁰ 	POOLSIDE "Via" Allibert Resin Now \$469 ⁰⁰ 	BACKYARD BBQ "Via" Calder Wrought Iron Wood Now \$319 ⁰⁰
--	---	--	--	--

Palm Beach Patio Furniture
7350 Highland Rd. (M-59)
(5 Miles W. of Telegraph)
Near Pontiac Airport
666-2880

OPEN:
M, Th, Fr 10-8 p.m.
Tu, Wd, Sat 10-6 p.m.
Sundays 11-4 p.m.
Free Delivery To Oakland County • While Supplies Last

We're The DECK specialists!

We Not Only Build the best decks, but we can help you Do-It-Yourself! Let us design it to fit your needs and your budget. We stock top quality lumber, deck posts, lattice, hardware and finishes. Talk to the specialists.

We offer Free Deck Layouts & Free Delivery!

pressure treated wood

DILLMAN & UPTON
Now Open:
Mon-Fri 7:30-5:30
Saturday 7:30-4:00
Newly located at
607 Woodward St.
Rochester 651-9411

Ariens. PRE-SEASON SALE

Riding Mower
• 40" Snow Blade Available
• Electric Starter Available
• 6 HP 20" Tru 11 HP 30"

Lawn Mower
• 5 HP Engine - 2 cys. 4 1/2 HP avail.
• Bag, Mulch or Side Discharge
• Electric Start Available

"WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL"

MANUS POWER MOWERS
SINCE 1948
3116 N. WOODWARD
2 Bkcs. S. of 13 Mile
549-2440
MON-8, TUES-FRI 9-6, SAT 9-4

Full Service Dept.
Complete Parts Dept.
Financing Available

WE TAKE TRADE-INS
PICK UP AND DELIVERY