

# Stamps

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The sheet is the second "Classic Collections" series and is similar to the "Legends of the West" miniature sheet issued in 1994.

The Civil War sheet marks the most extensive effort in the history of the Postal Service to review and verify the historical accuracy of the stamp subjects. The subjects were selected by noted author and historian Shelby Foote. Mark Hess was the stamp artist.

All covers carrying the new stamps canceled "June 29" are true first day covers. Buy the stamps and obtain your cancels today! You may also send your covers in an outer envelope to: Civil War Stamps, Gettysburg, Pa. 17325-9991 for official first day of issue cancels by July 28.

John Foxworth of West Bloomfield is president of the American Philatelic Research Library. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1900. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.



## Think of colorful garden flowers as your giant palette of blooms

BY J ROBERT NUSS  
AP NEWS FEATURES

(AP) — When planning a garden, think of it as a 3-D painting and the colorful annuals as colors on an artist's palette.

Some colors will dominate and be spread with a broad brush, while others will give depth and dimension with small dabs here and there.

To brighten shady areas, use light-colored annuals, such as white, light pink, or the palest blues. Dark colors tend to get lost in shady areas.

You can still use deep colors in a shady area, but be sure to use lighter colors around them to provide contrast so they can be seen. Burgundy impatiens surrounded by pale green coleus or coral impatiens will contrast well.

For maximum effect, think about how colors of plants will blend or contrast with their surroundings. For example, deep red geraniums against a red brick or redwood fence will not stand out as well as white or pink ones.

White geraniums will not stand out dramatically against a white fence or white siding. Use more dramatic color schemes, such as purple or magenta

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against a white or light-colored background, and something lighter, such as peach, against darker surfaces.

Theme colors used with repetition will unify garden areas. For example, bordering all your garden plots with a row of yellow marigolds or creamy petunias can tie the garden areas together for a unified look. Repeating the same colors but in different plant types can create the same effect.

If there isn't a focal point, such as a pool of water or garden statuary, color can create one. Instead of long, uninterrupted rows of flowers, create a focal point by planting a mass of one color in the center of a bed and then surrounding it with flowers or plants that con-

trast in color, texture, or height.

If there is something unsightly in your garden that can't be covered, create a colorful focal point away from the object to draw attention to that direction and lessen the effect of the problem area.

Colors affect our emotions. Bright colors, such as red and yellow, excite us and can make us feel warm. Colors such as blue, lavender, green, pink, and peach are considered cooler and calmer.

For the entrance to a home, you may want to create a feeling of warmth and excitement with colors such as yellow marigolds and scarlet dianthus. In the backyard garden or patio containers, you may wish to create a more relaxing and serene mood by using cooler or softer colors, such as pansy rose shades and blue violas.

Dramatic color combinations can give your garden beds a distinctive look. Instead of something as ordinary as red and white, consider using orange and blue (direct compliments on the color wheel), or light pink and green.

J. Robert Nuss is a horticulturist at Pennsylvania State University.

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