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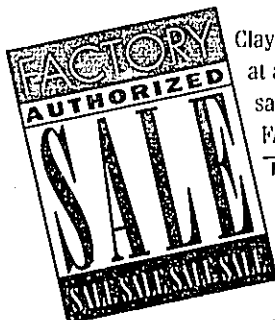
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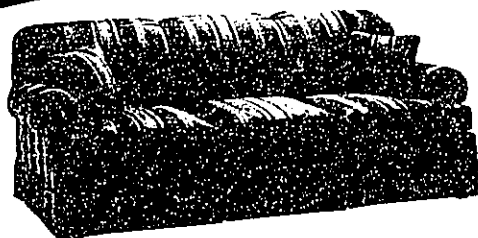
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GARDEN SPOT

These Canton gardens feature a mosaic look



MARTY FIGLEY

Adele and Rudy Pomar have only lived in their new home in Canton for two years, so this was the first year they have had time to devote to their landscaping. This past summer it was a riot of colorful plants, mostly annuals with some perennials, trees and shrubs put in to anchor the whole. All the plants were close together, which gave a mosaic look to the gardens.

"We did our own landscaping, Rudy put in the edging and put white stone down as a mulch in the areas close to the house," Adele says. "I drew the plans and like the color combinations when I pick the plants."

The gardens in the front receive the bright Eastern sun until around 2 p.m. Surprisingly sun lovers such as dahlias, red salvia, marigolds, blue ageratum and the tallest zinnias I believe I have seen (3-1/4 to four feet tall) kept harmony with shade lovers such as hostas and pink, white and red impatiens. Clematis vines have been placed to climb up trellises at the front entrance to the home and will soon add their beauty.

Interpersed throughout these front beds are a variegated euonymus, tomatoes (yes, that's right) and pink, red and yellow roses and more. Mums and Sedum Autumn Joy are blooming now to keep color through the fall season.

Two round beds each have a Japanese maple tree in the center. The first is an extension of the front walk near the front porch, while the other sits in the middle of the yard. The plants were chosen for color, with a yellow and blue color scheme, interspersed with the marigolds and zinnias, tall ones in the center and shorter ones near the edge. A weeping cherry is planted at the far end of the garage where the sidewalk begins.

The round beds are raised and the edges are formed with two layers of paving bricks. Black plastic has been installed behind them to keep the soil from spilling out onto the lawn.

Before planting, all the beds were enriched with topsoil, cow manure and fine wood chips, which were mixed together. The Pomars have found that this holds moisture and suppresses weeds.

All of this color led me to the back yard where I was pleasantly surprised to find several kinds of Oriental vegetables growing in an area near the deck. Adele is from the Philippines and uses them in her cooking.

Japanese eggplants (longer and narrower than the ones with which we are familiar) and bitter melon — "an Oriental delicacy," according to Adele — are growing on a trellis she built and weren't ripe when I visited. They are similar in appearance to cucumbers but the skin is very "warty" and turns yellow when ripe. She sautes them with

beef in a wok. Collard greens, tomatoes and Oriental beans from the Philippines are other vegetables in this garden.

The beans, similar in appearance to pole beans, are growing on trellises around the large deck. Interspersed are rose of Sharon bushes, which serve as a privacy fence. Climbing roses are growing on the same trellis and are competing with clematis for the job.

Adele sprays the roses as needed and only sprayed the garden once for insects when the plants were starting to get flowers, using an all-purpose spray. When planting she added fertilizer to the beds and sprayed Stern's Miracle-Gro twice on the whole garden.

She will save seeds from the plants and start them indoors for a good head start on the season next year.

Share a row

There is still time to SHARE A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY by donating surplus garden food. In Oakland County: Food Bank of Oakland County, (810) 332-1473; The Lighthouse, Pontiac, (810) 335-2462; Neighborhood House, Rochester, (810) 651-5836. In Wayne County: Hunger Action Coalition, 220 Bagley, Suite 326, Detroit 48226, (313) 963-7788. Call or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and they will send information about donations.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.



MARTY FIGLEY

Fencing: Rose of Sharon are interspersed with Oriental beans from the Philippines, making a natural privacy screen at the Pomar home in Canton.