

## GARDEN SPOT

# Area garden rich in variety



MARTY FIGLEY

Tall zinnias of all colors, a giant zinnia mix, dark green and maroon kale, chrysanthemums and silver dusty miller line the driveway of Omer and Helen Trembley of Farmington Hills. He's the gardener, and he says, "She's the cook."

The variety of plants adds interest to the

borders.

"I just put a few plants here and there because I think it makes a nice variety."

Most of the plants are annuals because in the winter when the heavy snow is shoveled, it piles on the perennials and crushes them. The annuals are usually started from seed each year, and the perennials are put in as plants. Trembley has started several chrysanthemums from cuttings and divisions from a perennial mum he planted two years ago.

After the plants go dormant and are cut to the ground, he mulches the beds with leaves. One dusty miller was a surprise this year when it came up again and bloomed in late August with

yellow flowers. A puffy pink mum was beginning to bloom when I visited, and the riot of mum colors adds to the welcoming sight as fall approaches.

About halfway up the driveway on each side, a tall hybrid tea rose is growing in a half-whiskey barrel. One rose is "Perfect Moment" with double high-centered yellow flowers with red edges, and the other is "Rio Samba." Both are All-American Rose Selection winners. Trembley fertilizes these plants with Peters every two weeks or so and waters, if necessary, twice a week with rainwater.

Tall cannas graced the side of the garage. He is in the process of constructing two rose beds in the back area, "with red roses in the center and four pink ones on the corners." A row of four kinds of cherry trees and several Rose of Sharon shrubs and two Mountain Ash trees keep company with other landscape trees in the deep 500-by-160-foot lot.

I was most pleasantly surprised to see a very well tended large vegetable garden in the center of this lot. Trembley has built a fence separating the two sections, so he has made it attractive as well as functional.

A plethora of tomatoes, red-leafed



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Swiss chard, onions, carrots, the largest bed of asparagus I had ever seen, which he picks from May until July and harvests every day! Kale and cabbage are also growing here. Several kinds of squash run rampant at the back of the garden and provide much food for his family.

Growing along with the vegetables are rows of perennial asters and gladiolas.

Another long raised bed is filled with many of the kinds of plants used in the front gardens and is along the lot line.

**Great gardener:**  
Omer Trembley of Farmington Hills grows many kinds of vegetables in his garden.

To keep all these gardens going and healthy, Trembley uses leaves for mulch, which he grinds up with a mower and mixes with grass clippings. This potential gold is piled beyond the gardens, and in the early fall through January he keeps turning it over. In the fall he begins to Rototill everything six inches deep and does this two or three times, then in the spring he Rototills it again for planting.

During the season he waters with rainwater when necessary and fertilizes with an all-purpose produce using a 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 blend.

## TIMELY GARDEN TIPS

- Around mid-month check your potato plants. They may be dug as soon as the tops die down.

- Going on vacation? Set small pots of plants in a large container and fill in around with soil, sand or vermiculite. Water thoroughly. The insulation will help hold in moisture.

- Tag the most vigorous plants now so they will be identified when you want to collect seed to save.

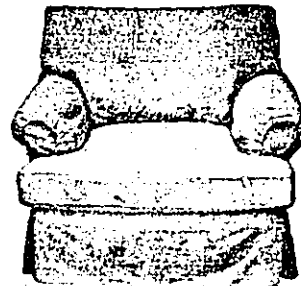
- Keep garden beds free of debris and remove flower pots and flats to eliminate hiding places for slugs.

- Be sure bulbs ordered for fall planting are nursery-propagated.

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