



garden spot

Exciting things aid garden plans



MARTY FIGLEY

It's still not time to get out into our gardens. The ground is just too full of water and if we try to rush the season, we will compact the ground, which will make it more difficult in the long run for plants to spread their roots and grow properly.

However, there are still some exciting things to report to you gardeners so you can plan.

American Home & Botanical Garden is sponsoring a photo contest for amateur photographers and my friend, Walter Chandoha, a world-renowned photographer of flora and fauna, is the spokesman.

He has prepared a special booklet, "Tips for Garden Photography," that is available at no cost. Send a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to American Garden Photo Tips, C/O 8026 Venetian Drive, St. Louis, Mo. 63105; or via Internet at www.cpiphoto.com.

The photo can be of any garden, public or private. First prize is \$1,000 cash and the other prizes are great, too! Entry deadline is June 30, 1997. Call (800) 669-9699, Ext. 4200, for additional information.

For a second year, the Sunshine Creative Window Box Contest will take place. You can receive a free booklet, "Creative Ideas for Window Boxes," and an official entry blank by calling (800) 665-4592, or visit <http://www.Sungro.com> on the world-wide web.

A total of more than \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded. The contest is sponsored by Sun Fro Horticulture Inc., Bellevue, Wash., a large producer of professional growing mixes and peat moss in North America.

New for the garden

New this year is a forest green-colored edging/border product manufactured by Easy Gardener. It is called Emerald Edge and can be hammered into the ground by using a mallet. Easy Gardener products are widely available locally.

The Perennial Plant Association announces that the 1997 perennial plant of the year is *Salvia* "May Night." It is adapted to most areas of the country

and will grace gardens with its tall, dark blue-black flowers during May and June. The blue-gray foliage is aromatic.

"May Night" prefers full sun and average to dry garden soil. Early spring is the best time to plant bare-root stock, although potted plants may be put in the ground any time during the growing season. Combine this winner with yellow *Achillea* "Coronation Gold" or with pink or red herbaceous peonies.

What flowering plant is suitable for patio containers, in the garden and indoors as a house plant? Introduced by Anthony Tesselaar, an Australian nurseryman, the new *Canna Tropicanna* has striped foliage that evolves from burgundy to red, pink, yellow, gold then deep green. It is topped off by a rich, true orange bloom.

Look for it as a container plant for your favorite nursery or it can be ordered bare-root from Daffodil Mart, Spring Hill Nurseries or Van Bourgondien Bros. This will be a show-stopper.

Another new introduction is available this year. The George Burns Centennial Rose is a fragrant floribunda with large red flowers striped with creamy white. Each flower has a different striped pattern. It has deep blue-green glossy leaves and is highly disease-resistant.

Spring Hill Nurseries of Peoria, Ill., has introduced this unusual plant. For more information, call (309) 689-3849 or fax (309) 689-3817.

Petunia power

The National Garden Bureau celebrates 1997 as the Year of the Petunia. This flower originated in South America and was introduced in Europe in the early 1800s. Plant breeders have been working with them ever since to create the wonderful flowers we see today.

There are many classes of petunias: Multiflora, Grandiflora, Spreading, Floribunda and Milliflora. They prefer a light but rich soil with good drainage and do like a sunny location.

After the plants are in the garden, fertilize them monthly with a balanced formula; double-flowered ones like to be fed about once every two to three weeks. If they are pruned back about

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