

GARDENING

Pick some perennials to add to your garden

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Just when you thought the planting was finished, take a second look in the nurseries and you will find quite a number of perennials just waiting to be added to your garden. The Perennial Plant Association has announced: "June is Perennial Gardening Month."

Although June is more than half over, you will find more mature specimens ready to "walk out the door" at your favorite garden store. Make a sketch of your garden as you move around to see where some desirable plants will grow and take some time to browse through the stores. You may be pleasantly surprised.

If you plant perennials in June or later in the summer you will need to give extra attention to them at first.

Be sure the planting bed has been enriched with organic

material so that moisture retention is assured. Newly established beds should receive 4 inches of matter per 12 inches of soil so that good drainage and optimum root growth are guaranteed.

At this time of year it will be necessary to supply additional water for newly planted flowers. One deep watering per week is better than a number of shallow waterings.

Mulch around the plants after they are in the ground with shredded hardwood, pine bark or compost. This helps retain moisture, retards weed growth and puts a finishing touch on the garden. The mulch shouldn't be applied more than 2 inches deep and kept away from the crown of the plant to avoid rot.

I like to protect them from the very hot sun for a few days and have found that a plastic "milk crate" is ideal, as it lets some sun and rain in and keeps critters at bay.

What to choose, what to choose? The PPA has an answer and suggests these June flowering PPA Plants of the Year. All perform beautifully in many areas of the country: *Antilbe "Sprite"* (false spirea), *Salvia*

memorosa "Mainacht" (perennial salvia), *Scabiosa columbaria "Butterfly Blue"* (pincushion flower) and *Colamagrostis "Karl Foerster"* (feather reed grass).

Others that bloom in June and later in the summer include *Leucanthemum "Becky"* (Shasta daisy), *Hemerocallis "Happy Returns"* (daylily) and *Iris sibirica* (Siberian iris).

Here are some other suggestions. A pretty combination later in the year is *Sedum "Herbstfreude"* (Autumn Joy) with *Physostegia virginiana "Vivid"* (Obedient Plant); *Lyimachia clethroides* (Gooseneck Loosetrife) with *Monarda didyma* ("Garden view Scarlet"); Rose "Carefree Wonder" (Carefree Wonder Rose) with *Hemerocallis "Ice Carnival"* and *Phlox paniculata "David"*.

If you keep a schedule of garden chores by doing a little at a time, your perennials will reward you with their beauty.

Here are a few chores that can be done now.

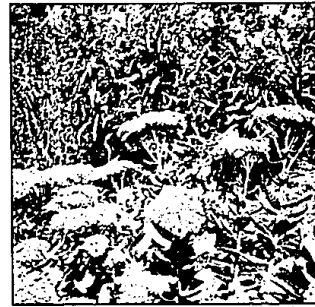
Cut back by half tall late-season bloomers to control height and eliminate the need for staking.

The plants such as *Aster novae-angliae* (New England

aster) selections; *Artemisia "Silver King"*, *Boltonia asterioides* (boltonia), *Eupatorium maculatum* (Joe-pye weed), *Rudbeckia hirta* ("Herbstsonne") and *Sedum "Herbstfreude"* (Autumn Joy sedum) will mature at a shorter height and may flower slightly later than unpruned perennials, but it eliminates the need for staking!

Spent flowers should be deadheaded as they fade to improve their appearance. A bonus is that if this is done, unwanted seedlings will be eliminated. This may prolong the bloom and promote continued bloom.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone.



Colorful: *Physostegia* (Obedient Plant) and *Sedum* (Autumn Joy sedum) make a pretty combination in a late summer and fall garden.

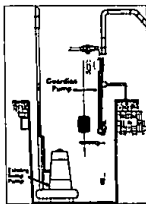
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Jeffrey Moss is vice-president of Advance Plumbing Supply Co. in Walled Lake and Detroit. Call (800) 560-7474 toll-free. Have a plumbing question? Write to Jeffrey at Advance Plumbing Supply Co., 1977 E.W. Maple Rd., Walled Lake, MI 48390.

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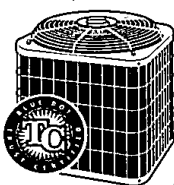
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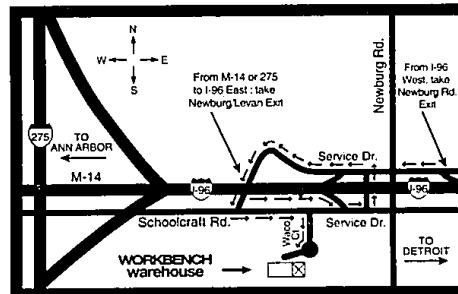
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