

Award-winning gardener starts with seeds

By Marty Figley
Special writer

A LITTLE bit of England is nestled in a subdivision in Farmington Hills, where Mr. and Mrs. Paul Paddon live. Last year he was given a past master award (since his garden had previously won) in the Farmington Garden Club's Good Neighbor Garden contest.

This outstanding gardener uses many different plants with great success. The extremely well-maintained gardens shows his love of plants.

Along the driveway and in several beds in the front lawn, flowers abound in riot of color. An evergreen has been fashioned into a topiary.

This year the color scheme in the front beds is pink, white and blue.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A closeup of the lilies that Farmington Hills resident Paul Paddon grows in his prizewinning backyard flower garden.

Two clematises adorn the pillars at each side of the front steps to greet the visitor. Along the side of the house many varieties of columbine gracefully keep watch over lower growing plants, along with lilies in magnificent colors. Paddon was introduced to lilies about nine years ago. He said he loved the spectacular colors, so just kept buying and growing them.

In the center of the side yard are two island beds; one contains a wishing well and the other a bird bath. Both are surrounded with begonias, ageratum and sweet alyssum. The edge of the property hasn't been neglected — everywhere I looked was a treat.

SPECIAL MILDEW RESISTANT zinnias, with blooms as large as saucers, put as a show behind rows of annual statice. Also seen, were primroses, foxgloves and geraniums. I believe Paddon grows most every flower one can name.

Along the back garden, under the spreading arms of a large shade tree, I saw hostas, astilbes, ferns and coleus bordered with ageratum and fibrous begonias.

Next we came upon a full, vegetable garden which is also planted each year. Scarlet runner beans from England have red flowers, besides delicious beans. Other vegetables that are thriving are broccoli, peppers, carrots, onions, cucumbers (to grow on trellis), rhubarb, and lettuce. Flowering kale ties the flowers and vegetable beds together.

Interplanted among the lilies are rudbeckia and zinnias, so when the lilies are finished, the others will provide color. Salvia, the plume type coleus, and dahlias also play a part in this garden paradise. In the spring cottage tulips, narcissus and others make a show to preview more beauty ahead.

In the backyard is a gazebo festooned with hanging baskets of beautiful flowers.

Along the other side of the house, tuberous begonias, white, yellow and orange, reside with Japanese painted fern and maidenhair fern with lacy leaves. These make a nice contrast to the heavy foliage of the begonias.

What are Paddon's secrets? Work, work, work.

When the catalogs arrive in late December he looks to see what's new. He will try them and always orders the old stand-bys too. New seeds are purchased (they are all hybrids) each year from six seed companies. A small greenhouse attached to the back of the house is the center of work.

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Paul Paddon, a resident of the Kendallwood subdivision in Farmington Hills, in the English-style garden that he keeps in his backyard.

Raitt wins art award

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Two area artists were among 10 cash award winners selected by the Michigan Water Color Society at its 43rd Annual Michigan Water Color Exhibition which continues through Sunday, Aug. 6, at the University of Michigan Museum of Art in Ann Arbor. Award winners included Igor Begalin of Canton for his work, "City Lights," and Nancy Raitt of Farmington Hills for "The Crowd Gathering."

The Museum of Art is at 525 S. State Street. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday 1-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. There is no admission charge.

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