



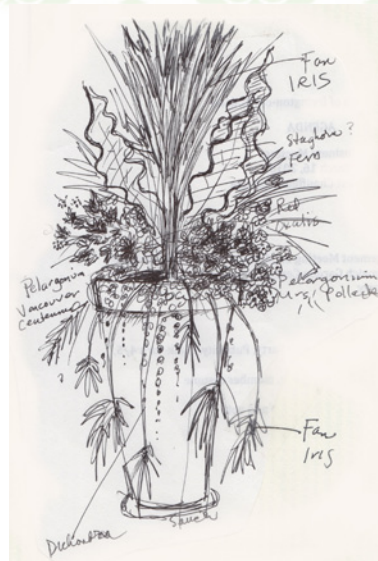
Garden Club
of IRVINGTON ON HUDSON

HORTICULTURE BULLETIN

VOLUME ONE NO 1

Think Blue!

Our club is participating in the mandatory horticulture class, "Spectrum," at "Kaleidoscope," the GCA Annual Meeting flower show that will be held in Rochester, NY, May 17-19, 2015. In order to have a winning entry, we are encouraging the whole club to participate in growing plants. This is a challenging contest; we will be competing with 21 other garden clubs all around the state. Specifics on how to prepare the entry are on the reverse side.



Pot et Fleurs in our Gilded Cage flower show

To design a mixed planting hort entry, start with a sketch or a collage of photos. Here are some ideas:



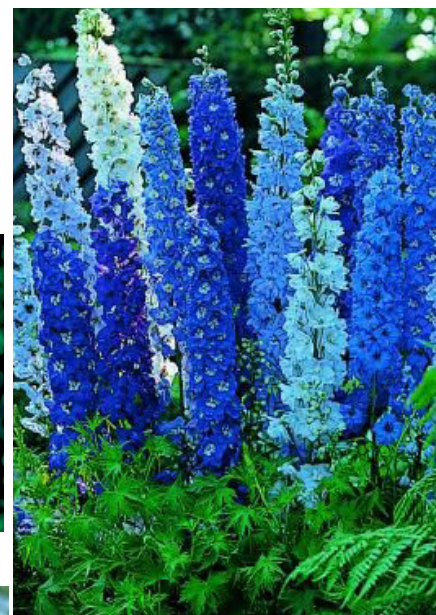
Blue Lupines



Blue Morning Glory
(*Ipomoea indica*)



Persian Blue Allium



Blue Fountains Delphiniums

Nemophila
'Baby Blue Eyes'



Riviera Sky
Blue Lobelia



Mixed Muscari



Primula
Blue Zebra

THE SPECTRUM CLASS

Here is the description in the show schedule:

Class 40-42 — SPECTRUM — 22 entries

Zone III Container Class required of each club in Zone III and open only to those clubs. A 14" terra-cotta colored container, planted in shades of one color in the spectrum: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, or purple. Key card required. Three-month ownership. Displayed on low platforms along a sunny exposure.

TO QUALIFY OR BE "PASSED"

1. GCI is registered in BLUE.
2. 14" means the inside diameter of the top rim of the container. They are going to be strict about this.
3. **Terra-cotta-colored** means that the container can be plastic or fiberglass so it's not too heavy to lift when filled with potting mixture and plant material.
4. **Key card** means that when the pot is planted up, we will photograph or draw the composition and identify the plants by with their botanical and common names on an accompanying 4 x 5 card.
5. **Three-month ownership** means every plant must be owned by a member of our club on or before February 17, 2015. It can be in the ground in your garden, in a pot in your house, in the Lyndhurst greenhouse, etc. Extra points are usually given for plants that members have propagated from seed or cuttings.

TO WIN A RIBBON

1. In this kind of mixed planting, the major plants should be spectacular. There is no height limit, so nothing is preventing us from, say, training a morning glory up a trellis, surrounding it with delphiniums, iris and phlox, with trailing lobelias over the sides.
2. There must be an interesting mix of plants. They can be annuals, perennials, bulbs. More suggestions are: Virginia bluebells, agapanthus, anemone, columbine, grape hyacinth, iris, snow glory. Or whatever you find and love that will work. You can buy seeds and start under lights in the winter. You can plant bulbs now. You can buy plants any time up to mid-February. *Taylor's Guides* list plants by color and bloom time. If you google "blue spring-blooming annuals" (or perennials or bulbs), you'll get lots of inspiration and links to vendors.
3. The container has to be right. A 14" container isn't easy to find. It should be a pleasing shape that complements the plants. Not too low! Please keep your eyes (and tape measure) out when you visit nurseries. It would be great to have several candidates to choose from when we make the plant choices.



Rosedale Nursery bulb display.

4. Grooming is key: during the last week(s) before a show, plants should come indoors, if possible, to live in the same conditions they'll be in the show (and avoid bugs, wind or sun damage). Spend a few minutes every day rotating, trimming, pulling off damaged leaves, and brushing to remove specks of dirt. You might think your plant is perfect—and the passers might not. But passers do give a second chance, and most seasoned hort enter-ers come to a show armed with tweezers, tiny clippers etc. Obviously, our arrangement must be able to make it to Rochester without wilting or the flowers falling off.

HOW WE'LL PROCEED

Two to three weeks before the show, everyone will be invited to bring their blue flowering plants to one of our patios, and we can all help choosing plants and starting to make the composition. Spares are always needed when a transplant starts to droop...

Have fun growing blue plants! And imagine what our entry will look like displayed with 21 other entries in the Spectrum class – three or four of each color.



NEWS FLASH!

We won! This container featuring Allium, Amsonia, Dwarf blue cypress, Evolvulus, Bearded iris, Forget-me-nots, 'Super Blue' Pericallis, 'Blue Moon' phlox and others, won the Rosie Jones Horticulture Award. It was designed by Ellen Shapiro, Dongkai Zhen and Renee Shamosh (left, with Anne Myers). Many plants were grown in Renee's garden, with contributions from the gardens of Bunny Bauer, Deb Flock, Nora Galland, Cena Hampden, Anne Myers, and Susan Weisenberg.



The Garden Club of Irvington-on-Hudson (GCI) is a member of The Garden Club of America, a volunteer nonprofit organization with 200 member clubs and 18,000 members nationwide who participate in an array of horticulture, conservation and civic improvement projects.

Susan Weisenberg, GCI President; Nora Galland, Horticulture Chair; Renee Shamosh and Ellen Shapiro, Horticulture Bulletin Co-editors

visit us at gcirvington.org

designed by Ellen Shapiro, visualanguage.net