

p166 p165

p137-

SENTIMENT

THE FRAGRANT GARDEN

TEXT BY THOMAS CHRISTOPHER



When it comes to selecting annuals to plant in beds, borders, and containers, just follow your nose.

Gardeners tend to focus more on a flower's color, form, and texture than on its scent. That's understandable, given that sight and touch (together with hearing) are our sharpest senses. But our sense of smell is thought to be the oldest and most evocative. When you consider fragrance, you can create a garden that engages and delights on another level.

Evolutionary biologists believe that smell was the first sense animals developed, and this ancient faculty—though relatively crude in humans as compared with some other mammals—retains a special place in our consciousness. Olfactory sensors connect directly to the brain's most primitive area, which also governs emotions and emotional memory. That's why a recollected smell, such as the aroma of cookies baking, can make us feel warm and secure: It transports the mind back to the kitchen of our youth. And it's the reason that the perfume of an old-fashioned flower can fill us with the childlike joy we felt when we first smelled it in Grandmother's garden.

In fact, fragrances of flowers and foliage are a type of scent to which the human nose is particularly sensitive. No doubt that's left over from when distinguishing between the nutritious plant and the poisonous one was a daily, and crucial, decision. Today, though, the ability to appreciate the way plants smell means we can give the garden a rare richness. We can surround ourselves with subconscious stimuli that recombine and change with every breeze.

Annuals are the ideal plants for this purpose. Quick-growing and adapted to container cultivation, they have a prolonged season of bloom and provide consistent fragrance throughout it. Annuals also allow for flexibility. By changing the mix every year or even every season, you also transform how you experience the garden.

There are many ways to take advantage of fragrant annuals. Plant aromatic-foliaged herbs next to paths so you can brush against them and release their scents in passing. Interplant annuals to enhance a border of shrubbery. Also think about a plant's distinctive characteristics. Nicotianas, the recently popular *Zaluzianskya capensis*, and certain

petunias release their floral perfumes at night. Plant them around a patio for summertime moon-viewing or underneath a bedroom window for a sweet sleep. Used in arrangements of cut flowers and foliage, fragrant annuals will also add bouquet to your bouquets—and fill the house with pleasant memories, too.



Step back in time with the sweet perfume of stock, *Matthiola incana*, an old-time favorite whose stems are wrapped here in leaves of peppermint geranium, *Pelargonium tomentosum*. Although technically a biennial, stock is commonly grown as a cool-weather annual. OPPOSITE: Sweet peas, *Lathyrus odoratus*, combine a graceful climbing habit with butterfly-like blossoms; the best cultivars are superbly fragrant.



MOONFLOWER



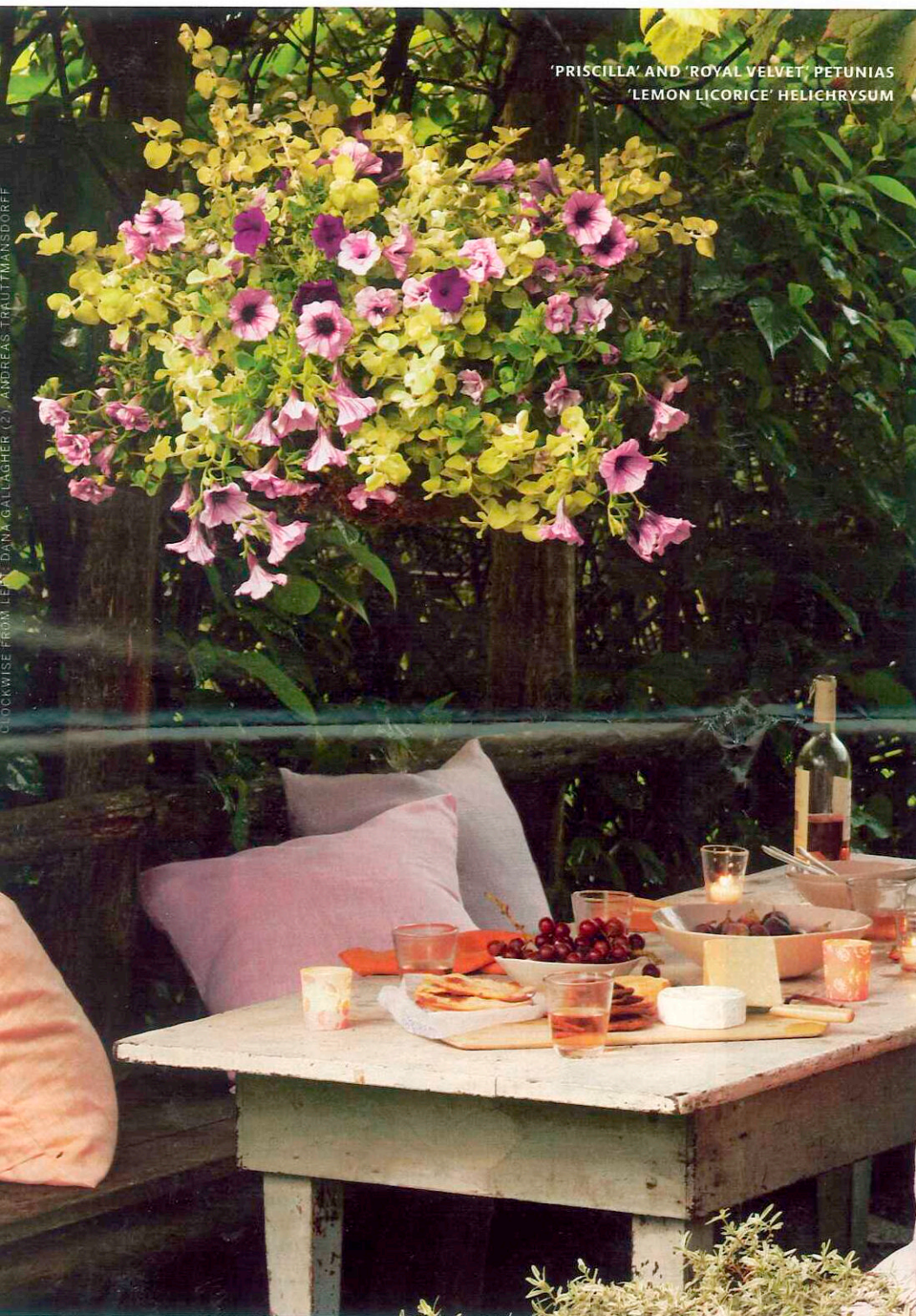
'CUPANI'S ORIGINAL' SWEET PEA



HELIOTROPE
DUSTY MILLER
SANTOLINA
THYME

ABOVE: A window box can bring the outdoors in. Hints of vanilla from these sprightly heliotrope blossoms will waft into the house on a gentle breeze. Pink and purple petunias add color; their trailing habit makes them excellent in containers. Dusty miller (the silvery plant at left), santolina (with feathery leaves, in back), and thyme (in front) are planted in the bed below, so their woody scents will be released as one tends to the window box. TOP LEFT: Moonflower, a fast-growing annual vine, opens lemon-scented flowers after sunset to attract pollinating moths. ABOVE LEFT: Bicolored blossoms and outstanding heat tolerance make 'Cupani's Original' one of the finest fragrant sweet peas.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DANA GALLAGHER (2); ANDREAS TRAUTTMANSDÖRFF



'PRISCILLA' AND 'ROYAL VELVET' PETUNIAS
'LEMON LICORICE' HELICHRYSUM

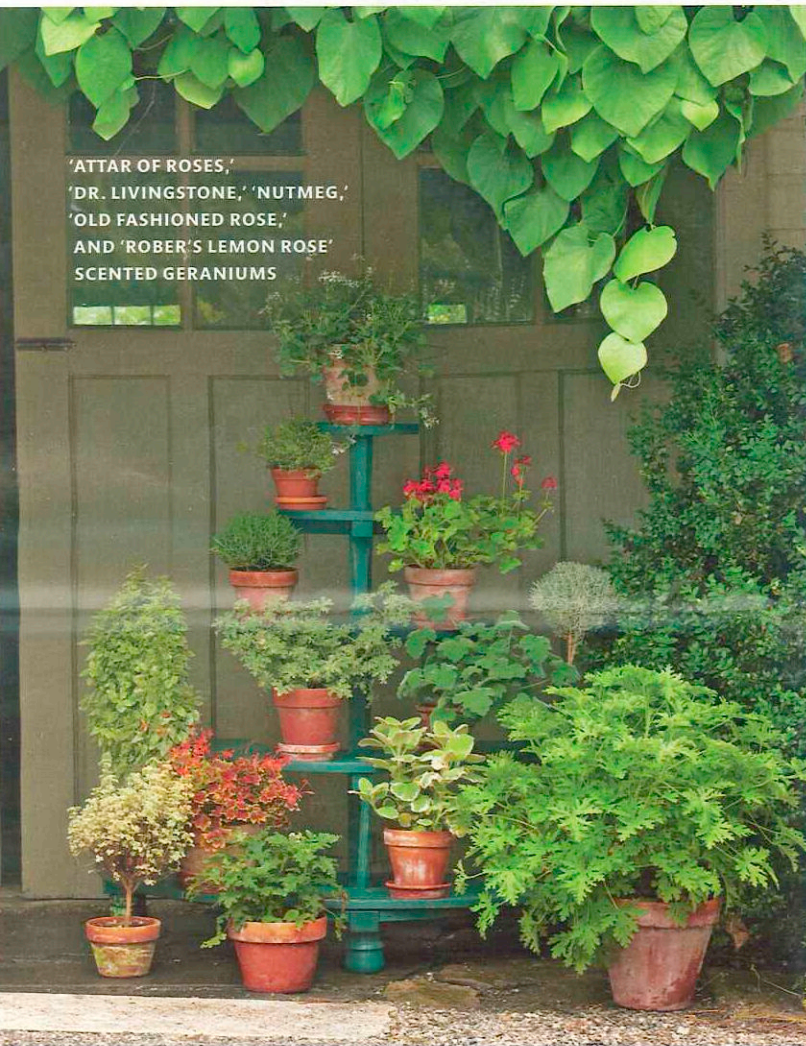


'CHARLES GRIMALDI' ANGEL'S TRUMPET



'FRAGRANT CLOUD' NICOTIANA
PURPLE PERILLA

ABOVE: This basket hangs like a chandelier over an alfresco dining table, with colorful blossoms rather than crystals. Its sweet-scented 'Priscilla' and 'Royal Velvet' petunias, intertwined with *Helichrysum petiolare* 'Lemon Licorice,' bloom from late spring to frost, delighting butterflies and hummingbirds as well as diners. TOP RIGHT: The foot-long, golden trumpets of *Brugmansia* 'Charles Grimaldi' exhale their potent perfume at dusk. This fast-growing tropical shrub may reach a height of eight feet in a single summer's growth. ABOVE RIGHT: Pale *Nicotiana* 'Fragrant Cloud' blossoms seem to glow against purple-leaved perilla, an herb also known as shiso, brightening a shady spot.



ABOVE LEFT: Unlike the more common zonal geraniums, scented geraniums offer as their principal attraction not colorful blossoms but an endless array of fragrances in their vastly varied foliage. Included here are 'Attar of Roses,' 'Dr. Livingstone,' and 'Old Fashioned Rose' (all rose scented), as well as 'Nutmeg' and 'Rober's Lemon Rose.' ABOVE RIGHT: This window box delights the nose with *Dianthus* 'Rosie Cheeks' and 'Ruby's Tuesday'; trailing *Ipomoea tricolor* gives the display drama and texture as well.

SEE GUIDE FOR SOURCES

LEARN ABOUT OTHER FRAGRANT PLANTS AT marthastewart.com/fragrant-annuals

10 favorites

Like a perfumer mixing different notes to create a trademark scent, gardeners can choose and combine annuals for the way they smell.

- 1. **ZALUZIANSKYA CAPENSIS**
Flowers redolent of freshly baked cake or cookies.
- 2. **AGASTACHE 'HEATHER QUEEN'**
Foliage has a mintlike aroma, with hints of licorice and citrus.
- 3. **LOBULARIA MARITIMA**
Blossoms perfumed like honey.
- 4. **PETUNIA X HYBRIDA**
Blossoms are rich in various floral notes, particularly at night.
- 5. **DIANTHUS**
Flowers have spicy, clove fragrances.
- 6. **IMPATIENS BALSAMINA**
Powdery, aromatic blooms.
- 7. **ANGELONIA ALATA**
Night-fragrant flowers with musk perfume.
- 8. **PELARGONIUM 'ATTAR OF ROSES'**
Aromatic foliage with a powerful rose scent.
- 9. **HELIOPTROPICUM ARBORESCENS**
Flowers with vanilla perfume.



1 night phlox



2 agastache



4 Petunia



3 sweet alyssum



5 dianthus



6 garden balsam



7 angelonia



9 scented geranium



8 flowering tobacco



10 heliotrope

Hawaiian Breeze (#772), both by Benjamin Moore; and in Light Sky (1B81), by Ralph Lauren.

PAGE 76 Similar bamboo flatware (#20-2006), \$4 for a 3-piece set, from Totally Bamboo, 760-471-6600 or totallybamboo.com.

Enamel paints, in Yellow (#1114), Orange (#1127), and Red (#1103), \$1.64 for ¼ oz., from Testors, 877-412-7467 or testors.com. **Season metal lantern**, in yellow, \$180, from Not Neutral, 800-270-6511 or notneutral.com. **Casamidy Punta Maromal lantern**, \$395, from Colcha, 310-392-3600 or colchahome.com.

Antique lantern (#16392), in white (painted red for project), 20", \$24, and **shiny brass lantern** (L071128B), 16", \$30, both from Jamali Garden Supplies, jamaligarden.com. **Paints: On swatches**, from left: in Mai Tai (1B58), and Bicycle Yellow (1B72), both by Ralph Lauren; in Dark Salmon (#2009-30), by Benjamin Moore; in Cornbread (MSH070), by Martha Stewart Living Paint (also on plant stand and pots); and in Rumba Orange (#2014-20), by Benjamin Moore. **On table**: in Flamingo Orange (#075), and on lantern: in Piñata (#007); both by Benjamin Moore.

PAINTING POINTERS

PAGE 80 Special thanks to Bob Tobin of BC Interiors, 718-258-8888 or bcinteriorsltd.com. **Flat interior paints**, in Cavern (MSH242), Cobblestone (MSH241), Sandpiper (MSH257), Hemp (MSH229), Eiderdown (MSH074), Heath (MSH212), and Mourning Dove (MSH210); all by Martha Stewart Living Paint, from Home Depot, 800-553-3199 and homedepot.com.

PAGE 82 1" foam brush (#263439), \$6 for a 9-piece set, from Home Depot, 800-553-3199 or homedepot.com. **Hermetic storage jar** (#10051140), 7¼ oz., \$3, the Container Store, 800-786-7315 or containerstore.com. **Nightstands** (GL55), in oak veneer, \$349 each; **handles** (#5923), in aluminum, \$11 each; and **bed** (AA30), queen-size, in oak veneer, \$1,449; all from BoConcept, 888-616-3620 or boconcept.com. **Custom mattress**, by Charles H. Beckley, 212-759-8450 or chbeckley.com. **Diamond stitch quilt**, queen-size, in khaki/cream, \$200; **Diamond stitch quilt shams**, standard size, in khaki/cream, \$60 each; **Obi fan quilt**, queen-size, in cream, \$300; **Obi fan quilt shams**, standard size, in cream, \$70 each; all by Martha Stewart Collection at Macy's, 800-289-6229 or macys.com.

TAILOR MADE

PAGE 92 Similar wool suiting, \$19 to \$45 per yd., from New York Elegant Fabrics, 212-302-4980 or nyelegantfabrics.com.

PAGE 93 Similar wool suiting, \$39 to \$148 per yd., from Rosen & Chadick Fabrics, 800-225-3838 or rosenandchadickfabrics.com.

Similar wool suiting, \$19 to \$45 per yd., and **polyester lining**, \$4 per yd., both from New York Elegant Fabrics, 212-302-4980 or nyelegantfabrics.com. **Norris chaise** (#11709), upholstered in Raoul wool/linen in Cardamom, \$9,650, from George Smith, 212-226-4747 or georgesmith.com.

PAGE 94 Similar cotton shirt-ing, \$9 to \$25 per yd., from New York Elegant Fabrics, 212-302-4980 or nyelegantfabrics.com. **Similar wool suiting**, \$39 to \$148 per yd., from Rosen & Chadick Fabrics, 800-225-3838 or rosenandchadickfabrics.com.

ASK MARTHA

PAGES 96 AND 99 Special thanks to Pat Slaven, chemical engineer and textile chemist with Consumers Union; Trish Baldwin, president of Stonehouse California Olive Oil; David D. Frame, associate professor and extension poultry specialist at Utah State University; and Augustine Joche of Glass Restoration Inc., in New York City.

AN EYE FOR TRANQUILLITY

PAGES 104 TO 111 To see the dates when this garden is open to the public, and to obtain a published guide to the 2010 season of the Open Days program, visit gardenconservancy.org. The guide lists more than 300 opportunities to explore diverse and outstanding garden design and horticultural practice from coast to coast.

A NEW PALETTE

PAGES 112 AND 113 To find coreopsis, contact Garden Vision Epimediums, 978-249-3863 or epimediums@earthlink.net for catalog; White Flower Farm, 800-503-9624 or whiteflowerfarm.com; Klehm's Song Sparrow Perennial Farm & Nursery, 800-553-3715 or songssparrow.com; and Mountain Crest Gardens, 530-468-2313 or mountaincrestgardens.com.

PRESERVING THE SEASON

Recommended reading: Eugenia Bone, *Well-Preserved: Recipes and Techniques for Putting Up Small Batches of Seasonal Foods* (Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 2009; \$25).

PAGES 114 AND 120 Mold jar (#742), \$18.40 for six 19.6-oz. jars, by Weck Canning, from Glashaus, 815-356-8440 or weckcanning.com.

PAGE 116 Bowl, 9¼", china, \$165, from Clio, 212-966-8991 or clio-home.com.

GROW, PICK, SLICE, SAVOR

Hair and makeup by Rebecca Plymate.

Recommended reading:

Tim Stark, *Heirloom: Notes From an Accidental Tomato Farmer* (Broadway Books, 2009; \$14); Amy Goldman, *The Heirloom Tomato* (Bloomsbury USA, 2008; \$35); Barbara Damrosch, *The Garden Primer*, Second Edition, (Workman Publishing, 2008; \$19); and Laura Pensiero, *Hudson Valley Mediterranean* (William Morrow Cookbooks, 2009; \$30).

PAGE 122 Linen place mats, \$26 each, by Alexandre Turpault, from Takashimaya New York, 212-350-0100 or takashimaya-ny.com. **Kensington dinner plates**, \$12 each, by Martha Stewart Collection at Macy's, 800-289-6229 or macys.com. **Salt dishes**, in red, \$15 each, by Mud Australia, from Global Table, 212-431-5839 or globaltable.com. **Rock crystal bowls**, 2", \$65 each, from Ruzzetti & Gow, 212-327-4281 or ruzzettiandgow.com. **French paring knives**, in red, \$8 each, by Leconomie, from Sur La Table, 800-243-0852 or surlatable.com. **French baguette tray** (#634), \$48, from Great Stuff by Paul Antiques, 888-729-4548 or greatstuffbypaul.com.

WATER MUSIC

For water pumps, fixtures, and accessories, contact Aquascape, aquascapeinc.com.

PAGE 130 Luma sofa, in Frost Grey, \$4,599, by Modern Outdoor, 818-785-0171 or modernoutdoor.com. **Daniel round planters**, 17", in Weathered Stone (#80), \$55 each, from Crescent Garden, 877-477-0027 or crescentgarden.com. **Damast lantern**, \$25, from Ikea, 800-434-4532 or ikea.com.

THE FRAGRANT GARDEN

Special thanks to the Berkshire Botanical Garden, 413-298-3926 or berkshirebotanical.org. Seeds and plants for these and other fragrant annuals available from Select Seeds, 800-684-0395 or selectseeds.com.

PAGE 135 Plants: *Petunia* hybrid 'Priscilla' and 'Royal Velvet,' in the Supertunia series, from Proven Winners, 877-865-5818 or provenwinners.com.

PAGE 136 Plants: *Dianthus* hybrid 'Rosie Cheeks,' 'Fancy Knickers,'

and 'Ruby's Tuesday,' all in the Devon Cottage series; and *Ipomoea* 'Tricolor'; all from Proven Winners, 877-865-5818 or provenwinners.com. **19th-century American plant stand**, painted wood, \$2,580, from L. Becker Flowers, 212-439-6001.

DIGGING IN

Special thanks to the New York Botanical Garden, 718-817-8700 or nybg.org.

FEEL THE WARMTH

PAGE 143 4-Slat Adirondack chairs, in black, \$550 each, from Loll Designs, 877-740-3387 or loll designs.com. **Fire bowl fire pit**, in mild steel (68L), from Colombo Construction, 718-399-2233 or firefeatures.com.

PAGE 144 Filigree fire bowl, powder-coated (54LL), in white, and **base**, powder-coated, in white, both from Colombo Construction, 718-399-2233 or firefeatures.com. **Butterfly chair frames**, in white, \$175 each, and **canvas covers**, in white, \$68 each, both by Hardoy, from Circa 50, 877-247-2250 or circa50.com. **Sally stool** (#120-1778), in white, \$58, from Chiasso, 877-244-2776 or chiasso.com.

PAGE 145 Fin bow fire bowl, 6' diameter, in Cor-Ten steel, from Colombo Construction, 718-399-2233 or firefeatures.com.

SAVE ROOM FOR...

PAGE 168 Metallic Basso dinner plate, in Gold (#73010306), 11¼", \$37, by Calvin Klein Home, from Calvin Klein Collection, 212-292-9000 or calvinklein.com.

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