

Ride the heat wave for beautiful summer gardens

The heat and humidity of a typical summer leave little ambition to do much more outdoors than sit on the porch with a cold lemonade in one hand and fan in the other, much less worry about the condition of the garden. But every proud homeowner wants to have a landscape that is not only presentable but attractive, despite the heat.

Due to the work of today's plant breeders and growers who are producing groundbreaking new plants, homeowners with and without gardening know-how can enjoy the best of both worlds—stunning, colorful landscapes and lazy, hazy summer days.

“Summertime gardening can be challenging, but with the right plants and a few small chores, warmer months can become favorite times to create colorful and lush beds, borders and containers,”

says Jessie Atchison of Ball Horticultural Co.

Perhaps the most important element in landscaping during periods of heat is to choose the proper plants. It is essential to pick varieties with reliable performance, brawny root systems, and strong resilience so they can stand up against high atmospheric heat and humidity.

Durable selections that can withstand these types of extreme conditions will not only outlast others but will remain with vibrant color and robust hardiness.

“Try creating a long-blooming and low-maintenance border with heat-bearing annuals. This arrangement is ideal for most any hot spot in the lawn,” says Atchison. “Petunias can be used because their hardy, low-growing, and extra-spreading habit provides

an almost never-ending variety of color and form in the landscape.”

Atchison also suggests creating a unique-shaped bed that meanders around the house or connects two spaces. “These make for suitable areas in which to rotate annual color plantings from summer into fall,” she says. “Alternating heat-loving petunias of contrasting colors highlights the space and creates added design interest.”

When committing to a summer season garden, the objective should be a harmonized and convenient space filled with color and design reflective of personal style. The most important aspect is low-maintenance, yet eye-catching plant material.

To learn more about planning for summertime gardens, log onto www.ballhort.com.

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