

Open your eyes to color when choosing your scheme. A border can be monochromatic, with various shades and tints of one dominant color, but often is more appealing when one or two colors predominate, backed up by one or two complements.

Some think nature knows no clashes, but if you have ever seen salmon- and fuchsia-colored impatiens in the same bed, you'd know there are exceptions. Don't be afraid, however, to be bold; borders of red salvia with white petunias or gold marigolds with bronze gazanias are most effective.

So your color scheme will not look like a patchwork quilt, plant at least three of one variety per clump. Repeat favorites or accent plants, so the eye will move along smoothly, but be careful they're not overdone. Have a steady succession in mind, or your border may look haphazardly planned.

Interest in annuals doesn't stop with flower color or form, however. There's a whole world just in foliage, so mix their sizes, colors, and shapes. A few annuals can be added to your border just because of their unique foliage, be they the splotched coleus or the silvery dusty -miller.