

Gardening & DECK DESIGN™

Spring Is Here!

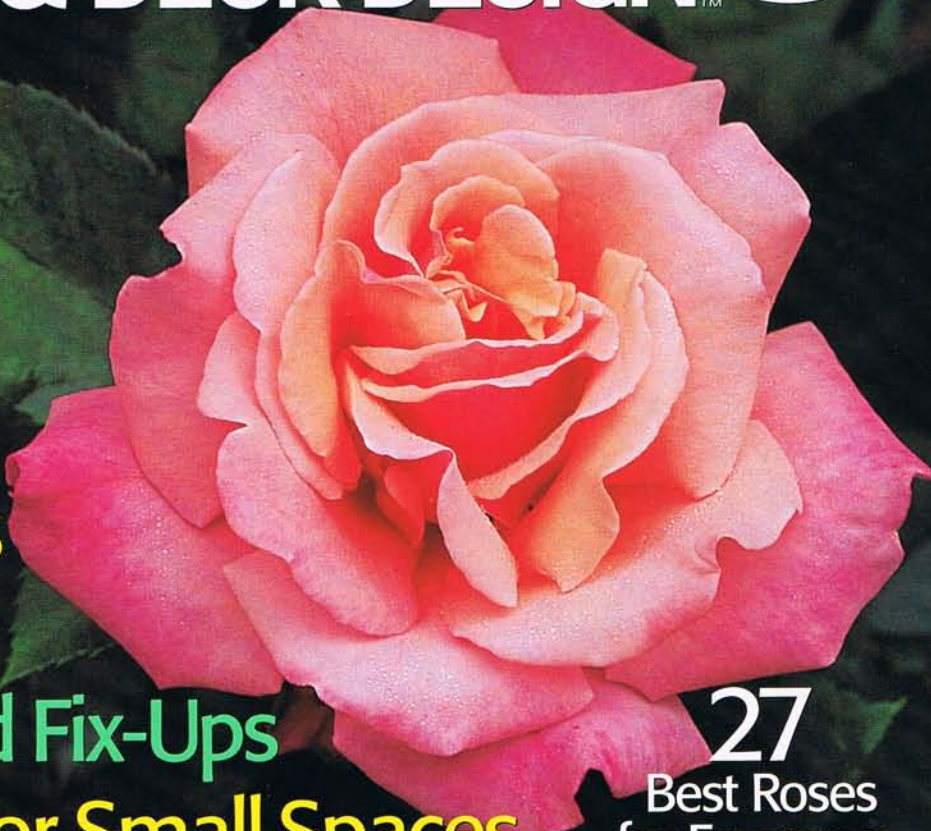
89 Top Flowers & Plants

Quick Front Yard Fix-Ups

Great Designs for Small Spaces

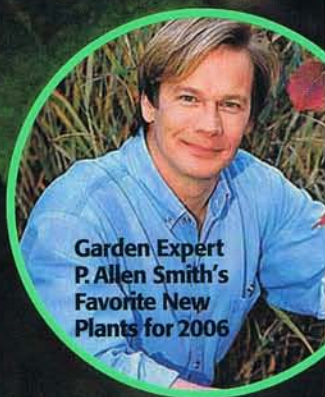
8 Easy How-tos for Containers, Accessories & More

41 Ways to Create a Bird-Friendly Yard



27

Best Roses for Fragrance, Color & Bloom Time



Garden Expert
P. Allen Smith's
Favorite New
Plants for 2006



Woman's Day
Better Living Series
Volume XVI, Number 1
U.S. \$4.99 CANADA \$5.50
Display until June 13, 2006
womansday.com/specials
* No Purchase Necessary



Left: A flowered teacup adds to the charm of the magnolia flowers that fall on the café table.

Below left: At the back of Annie Wincze's kitchen garden is a gourd plant that will climb up a trellis and along outstretched cables by summer's end.

Below: A statuary cherub plays year-round on the café set, offering a grace note to the table scene.



Annie Wincze believes in embracing the seasons in her own special way.

In fact, that's the aesthetic she promotes at Blumen Laden, the Canton, Connecticut, flower shop where she sells, among other things, dried floral arrangements, potpourri and jams and jellies—usually made with flowers and herbs from her garden at home.

When Annie and her husband, Steve, moved into their 200-year-old house eight years ago, the garden was nonexistent except for a few hostas in the front, a stone wall and several mature trees. "It was a blank canvas," says Annie. Now the garden has a basic structure of perennials, statuary, urns and wire towers. Then, depending on what Annie finds appealing at the garden center, her annuals and decorative touches change with the season. "I usually don't have a plan until I go shopping and something strikes me," she says. "With the bone structure in place, I can give the garden a whole different look depending on what mood I'm in. You get more out of your garden that way."

Annie extends the usefulness of the plants in her garden by creating dried floral arrangements for her store and by infusing the

Garden Profile

Location: Canton, Connecticut

Type of Garden: Colonial Garden

Size: Almost 2 acres

Site Specifics: Rich, loamy soil amended annually with compost; full sun to part shade

Hardiness Zone: 6

Age: 7 years

summer



Left: An old fishing creel holds a display of summer flowers on the front door. Summer annuals add color to the plantings at the front of the house.

Right: A trellis adds visual height to a border filled with Rudbeckia and red cascading begonias.



jellies she makes for her customers with the rosemary, scented geranium and verbena that she grows in the beds just outside her kitchen door.

Annie often selects flowers by height so she has a variety of flowers to work with when planting a bed. Some of her beds are changed each year depending on her mood. "I have hosta and sedum all the time, and the rest I change," she says. "It's like getting a new garden every year."

The scene at her front door, though, changes with the seasons. In summertime, the pots are filled with colorful annuals. In fall, the urns that flank her door sprout dried corn stalks, and in winter, her winged griffin statues sport evergreen wreaths. Annie also likes to have a seasonal wreath on her front door and sets up a seasonal still life on a nearby table. "It's a way of saying welcome," she says.



ILLUSTRATION: KATY DOCKRILL

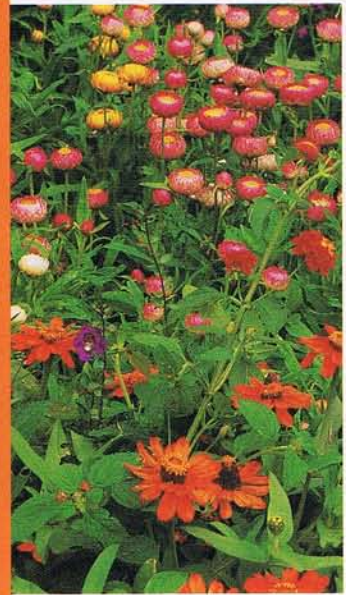


Left: In late summer, ornamental kale is added to the garden border where it stays through winter.

Above: At the right of the house, a stone bunny rests on a picket-fence chair. Coleus fills the urn; ferns, cosmos, Rudbeckia and fuchsia add a mix of colors at ground level.

Right: Hot-hued strawflowers (*Helichrysum bracteatum*) and flame colored zinnias dominate the front garden.

Below: An armillary sphere stands amid a bed of black-eyed Susans.



Great Plants for Decorating

When considering plants to use in wreaths, dried bouquets and potpourri, Annie Wincze likes to grow those with longevity—plants that look interesting in flower (often changing color as the weeks go by) as well as those that develop a beautiful seed pod. “I tend to think about how they’ll look through the different seasons,” she says.

- Salvia (any blue type)
- Echinacea
- Foxglove
- Garlic chives
- Globe thistle
- Gourds
- Lady’s Mantle
- Lavender
- Lemon verbena
- Scented geraniums
- Wood betony (*Stachys*)
- Yarrow, especially ‘Coronation Gold’ and ‘Moonshine’

fall

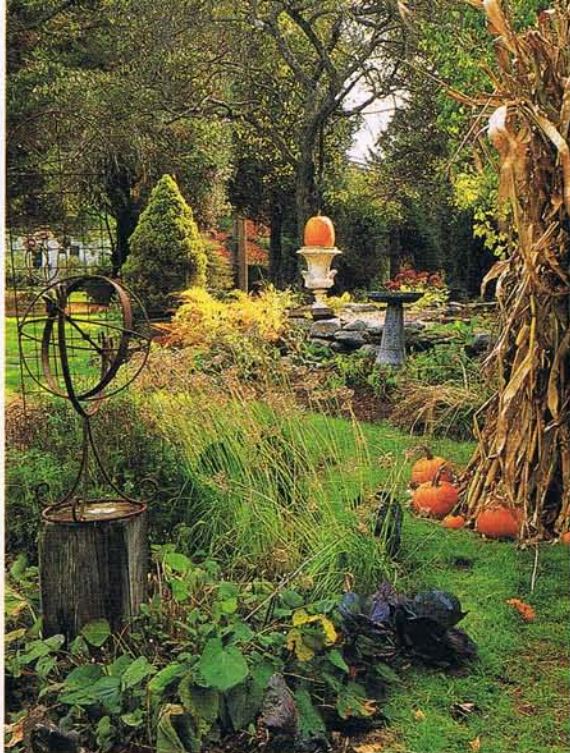


Left: In autumn, Annie stuffs the wire topiary forms flanking the front door with cornstalks as part of her fall arrangement.

Below left: A wreath made of dried bittersweet and Chinese lantern adorns the front door. A fall display includes iron crows and chrysanthemums.

Right: The seed heads of garlic chives remain standing in the autumn side entry garden. Pumpkins are tucked in among the plantings.

Below: Bittersweet and bright-orange mums surround a clay jack-o'-lantern brought out of storage to accent the scene.



Get the Look

Accent Marks



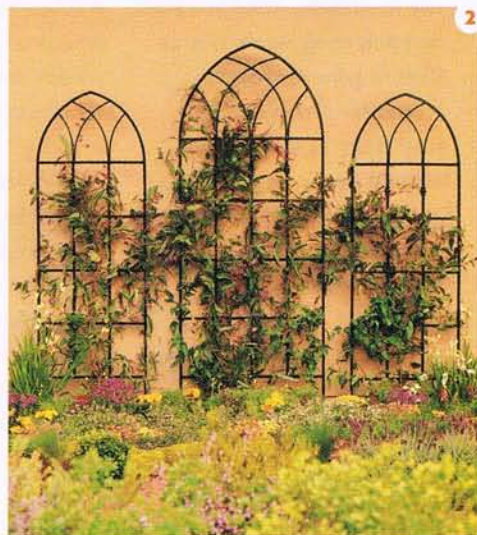
1. Globe Trotting Geoglobal Urn, \$80.
800-349-4358; www.sears.com

2. Vine Climber Eden Park Trellises, \$100 to \$150. 800-940-1170;
www.smith-hawken.com

3. Wee Rabbit Baby Bunny, \$45.
800-469-0118; www.charlestongardens.com

4. Stars and Stripes Wall Mount Flagpole, \$89. 800-343-6948;
www.walpolewoodworkers.com

5. Time Traveler Arrow Armillary Sundial, \$80. 800-922-9463;
www.windandweather.com *



❄️ winter



Far left above: A Colonial-style wreath and angels grace the front door. Wreaths hang on the necks of the stone griffins, too.

Far left below: In winter, urns are filled with evergreen boughs and twigs of bright red winterberries.

Left: A discarded Christmas tree festooned with strung cranberry hearts, suet and seed cakes stands in the side yard to feed and shelter birds during the cold winter months.

These garden gems shine in every season

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER PRESTIGIACOMO

