

APRICOT IN THE GARDEN

by Eileen Kostock

Apricot and blue happen to be my favorite combination right now, along with a little yellow and white to keep things from getting dull. I'm trying to be modest, but this early- to mid-June, my apricot garden was to die for! I have the 'Westerland' rose and love it, and I'm also fond of *Rosa* 'Sweet Juliet' and 'Graham Thomas'. I planted two *Rosa* 'Golden Wings' roses this spring and am totally enamored. Here are some more suggestions for plants for an apricot color scheme...

First, you just have to have some *Delphinium* 'Belladonna' and 'Bellamosum' for the contrasting blue. I get lo-o-o-ong periods of bloom from these two, and their best feature is that they are absolutely idiot-proof to grow from seed: I've grown lots of babies from my original plants.

'Sutton's Apricot' and 'Alba' foxgloves look great, and are especially fabulous with 'Madame Hardy' rose as a partner. In this bed I also have the miniature rose 'Jeanne Keneally', which is a beautiful soft salmon color. Included too is *Helianthemum nummularium*, the one they call apricot. It makes the most charming groundcover with miniature flowers that look very much like little roses. It's said to not be hardy here, but I cover it with pine boughs after a good hard frost and it has come back faithfully for three years. Of course, there are tons of daylilies that come in those peachy, apricot, coral, and salmon colors.

Annuals that make me happy, if you are looking for apricot color schemes, are *Nicotiana alata* 'Salmon' (alas, it's not fragrant) and *Salvia* 'Coral Nymph'.

I find that you really do have to have a good balance of blue in this scheme, and, as I said before, a splash of yellow and/or white peps it up. For blue, I can't say enough for *Caryopteris*, which grows wonderfully for me and is just the prettiest shade of blue. By the way, it grows very easily (and I do mean easily—I'm no propagator) from cuttings. In fall '97 I took 4 cuttings to start new shrubs. I dipped 'em in "Rootone", stuck them in a pot and shoved them in front of the south-facing family room window. They grew like gangbusters and all four took. I moved them out last spring and they are looking wonderful.

Another blue and one of my favorite plants is *Aster frikartii* 'Monch'—what a workhorse! I have also planted *Cerostigma plumbaginoides* (leadwort) as a groundcover. As you can see from my descriptions, I have lots of blue in the fall—I love blue! For yellow in this garden, I've included *Achillea* 'Moonshine' and *Dyssodia*, which I hope will reseed. Of course, the ever-faithful *Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam' mixes perfectly. Whites include my 'Madame Hardy' rose, the white foxglove, some near white daylilies, white baby's breath, and *Buddleia* 'White Profusion'.



Eileen Kostock gardens in Darien, IL, and is just back from England, where she visited the gardens of her idol, garden writer Margery Fish.

NEWS ABOUT THE SUMMER 99 ISSUE

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Let's have some fun! Summer's coming!

The upcoming Summer issue will be a special one, including an Index of past issues lovingly compiled by TWG subscriber Jackie Bettinger of Madison, WI. It will also include feedback from you! I'll be reviewing the surveys you complete on the TWG renewal form: your favorite books, your biggest gripes, your recommended plants, *and* your favorite nurseries!

In preparation, I'm looking for 10 people who will be my spies! I'm putting together a list of the TOP FIVE nurseries / garden centers in the Chicago region, and I'm looking for 10 people who would be willing to visit them (undercover) during April-early May in an effort to figure out why people like them! You'll review a checklist of plant variety, staff knowledge, signage, staff cordiality, plant cost, display aesthetics, and overall ambience. And you'll also have a chance to nominate your own favorite garden center (unless it's already on the TOP FIVE list).

Let me know if you can do it! I promise you a great prize (how about lunch with moi? Oh, stop laughing...).

In upcoming issues, I'd like to cover dry shade, nut trees and shrubs, boggy spots, and teensy-weensy plants. So if you can write coherently or even if you can't, please contribute articles, lists, blurbs, helpful comments, teasers, or anecdotes. Gotta fill these pages, y'know!