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An iris by any other name

The iris takes its name from the Greek word for a 'rainbow,' referring to the wide variety of flower colors found among the many species. In North America, a common name for irises is 'flags.' The iris is popular garden flower in the United States since they are remarkably well adapted to different situations.

Cover photo by Stephanie Jordan

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In this issue:

A rainbow of bloom

Eighty different varieties of irises are able to live up to their easy-to-care-for and colorful reputation for Trappe woman.

by Stephanie Jordan, Page 18

Deep rooted: E.D. Supply

For nearly 35 years, E.D. Supply has been a reliable source of lighting and electrical supplies for electricians and do-it-yourself homeowners.

by Carol Kinsley, Page 27

Made in the shade

Looking for a simple way to cool a home in the summer? With the efficiency and comfort that awnings offer, it's an open-and-shut case.

by Kevin George, Page 36

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Would you like to share?

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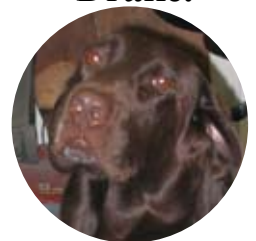
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More than just a memory

Pat yourself on the back as you take in the beauty of the flower beds you've already gotten in.

Sure, you'll probably be adding more — it's only June.

Even now, as you're taking it all in, aren't you wishing it could last forever? Are you wondering if there is more to it than gazing at the beauty your outdoor setting reflects?

Well of course there is!

Many flowers and blossoms from flowering shrubs lend themselves to cutting and can be used to make lovely indoor flower arrangements.

Those with the stronger stems do best — even if the flower appears to be delicate like babys-

Tid Bits

By Bev Leitch



breath, for example.

Most any of the daisy types, zinnias, snap dragons, varieties of the ornamental sunflower, lilies, cone flower and many more do well with their strong stems.

The leaves on some are a plus. Sometimes, leaves are better removed and an added foliage like ferns can be used as a filler.

Often, a single bud such as a rose in a bud vase is all you need.

I like to cut early in the morning before the heat of the day.

If not ready to do the arrangement until later, place the flowers in a large jar or pitcher of water to keep them fresh.

Just for fun, sometimes I like to snip a few blossoms of the less-hardy flowers to use as a garnish or a serving platter or individual plate as a garnish for the evening meal.

A cheerful pansy or poppy, for example, perks things up.

For this, I wait until the last minute my schedule allows for the freshest look. Some blossoms are even edible — but I've never been that brave.

Something I have been agreeable to, though, (PAGE 38)



Space Lifts
by Marianne
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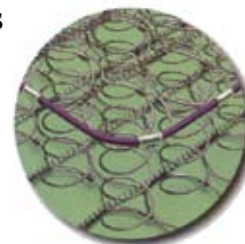


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Flower Fatale

Roses have thorns for protection. A cactus relies on its spikes. But with these plants, while beautiful, will just plain make you sick. Clockwise from upper left; Lily of the Valley, antherium, foxglove and oleander are part of a group of flowers that hide their toxicity well with attractive and vibrant colors and shapes.

Eating too much of any of these four plants can mess with your heart rate not to mention nausea, vomiting, pain in the mouth, abdominal pain, diarrhea and cramps. Eating tropical Antherium could give you a painful burning sensation in the mouth that then swells and blisters.

Your voice might also become hoarse and strained and you might have difficulty swallowing. A doctor might administer charcoal to absorb the toxin, pump your stomach or might also administer drugs to bring your heart rate back to normal.

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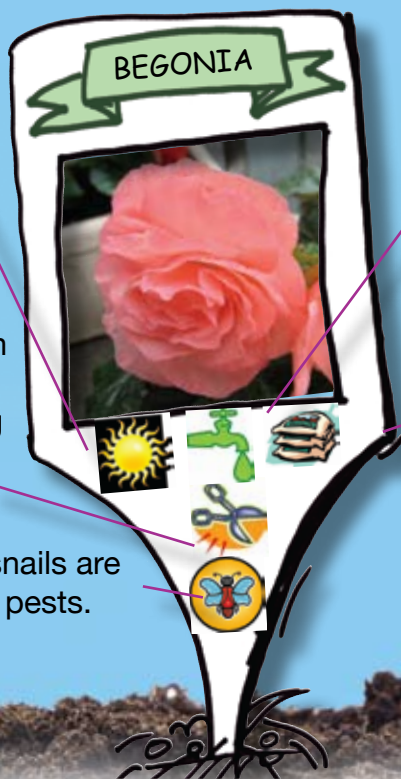
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Begonias do best during cool summers in rich well-drained soils heavy on organic matter. They prefer bright shade or dampled sun.

Plant tubers shallowly with concave side up — three to four tubers per hanging basket or space 12 to 18 inches apart in borders.

Aphids, whiteflies, slugs and snails are some of begonia's common pests.



Keep soil moist, but avoid over watering to prevent tuber rot.

Fertilize each week while watering with standard plant food mix.



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