



“Tiger Eye” sumac, ninebark and daylilies are some of Evelyn Schindler’s favorite foliage and blooms.

PHOTO: BRENDA K. JOHNSON

‘Each One Is Different’

Yankton Resident’s Passion Extends To Numerous Plants

Share tips from your plant experience, give us a tour of your plant site, or send your questions related to outdoor or indoor plants to news@yankton.net Attn: Brenda Johnson or write to P&D, 319 Walnut St, Yankton, SD 57078, Attn: Brenda Johnson.

BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON
P&D Correspondent

Thanks to each gardener and professional who shared experiences in Plant Exchange this past year. Thanks also to readers who treasure people and their plant stories.

Q: What plants are you most passionate about in your yard?

A: Evelyn and Albert Schindler of Yankton are transplants from Neligh, Neb. They’ve been here eight years. Also transplanted are her Hosta and daylily collections that took years in the making. Thanks for transport goes to brothers, grown children, and a friend in Neligh with spare ground during the transition. Their two Yankton city lots are cozier all the time with extensive plantings and new flowerbeds.

Evelyn is passionate about plants but she says her favorites require a long list.

“With perennials, it would be my daylilies. This year, peak bloom was a month ahead,” she says.

The Schindlers’ yard was a stop on the master gardener yard and garden tour in July. Most daylily plants were spent by then but visitors left satisfied.

“Each one is different,” she says, deadheading daylily blooms and adjusting long stems. A wooden privacy fence they installed around this garden blocks harsh wind on the eye-level daylilies in this secluded place. A canopy of lush vegetation and soaker hoses moisten and cool the soil on this hot July day.

“Mature lilac bushes used to be here,” she said of the garden. They took up a lot of space, had mildew on them in summer and interfered with a pine tree growing nearby.

“Butterfly Kisses” daylily has a pretty bloom,” Evelyn says. She points to “Ezekiel” with deep red petals with yellow edges. “I like the flowers of daylilies. They’re new every day. Although they wilt by evening, you’ll have a new one the next day. One of my favorite things to do is come out here and pick off

old flowers. It’s my time to see the new fresh flowers every day.”

She also has tall trumpet lilies and other cultivars that nod as we pass.

Evelyn shares a resource for daylilies: Garden Perennials’ daylilies are grown just south of Wayne, Neb. Visit www.garden-perennials.net

LEAF SHAPE FAVORITES

Evelyn also works outside the home and enjoys multi-tasking outdoors in her gardens in free time at home.

“I like the foliage (of plants) too,” she says. She refers to irises and “Jack Frost” Brunnera as well as lily leaf blades.

She grows three varieties of ninebark here with burgundy, green, and copper leaves. “I also like their blossoms. They bring the butterflies, bees and wasps,” she says.

While pruned, long wands move gracefully. Black lace elderberry is in the understory and a small tree-sized “Tiger Eye” sumac with lime leaves filters sunlight. “Sumac turns bright orange and yellow in the fall,” Evelyn says.

She has transplanted suckers from under the sumac.

“This is really a shallow-rooted tree,” she says. “It blew over one time and we pulled it upright and it continues to grow. I prune it in spring to open up the branches.”

Placed among some of her favorite perennials is a birdhouse. “It’s a replica of the St. John’s Church we were married in 51 years ago in rural Clearwater, Neb.,” she Evelyn explains.

GARDEN METHODS

“I get a plant and then find a home for it,” she says. By the way plants thrive here, she has talent for placing plants where they grow well. She also has skills for maintaining plants economically in available space.

“I try to cut back perennials and other plants in the fall because there’s no time in the spring,” she says. In fall, she plants cuttings of out-of-zone or annual plants to overwinter them in her basement under lights. Some plants such as Cordylina ferns and succulents, she overwinters in her sunroom at just above freezing.

“How I care for perennials is to keep plants tidy in summer, cut



PHOTO: BRENDA K. JOHNSON

Evelyn Schindler has grown hibiscuses from cuttings, just in time for mid summer blooms and variety of foliage.

them back in the fall, and clean up in fall,” she says.

Soaker hoses are everywhere and enough water for plants is clearly a priority. Several flowerbeds are protected by wood privacy fence that visually creates an area. Many full sun plants receive some shade relief during the day.

“I didn’t tell my husband that I planted a new lilac after we took so many out,” she confesses. “It’s ‘Jose,’ a re-bloomer. I’m trying to keep it pruned so it doesn’t get so wide. I also like this butterfly weed. It blooms a long time and I like orange.”

We walk past perennial phlox in second bloom, which she had dead-headed earlier. “Butterflies like them so well. I try to get the mildew-resistant phlox. I don’t really fertilize perennials except for maybe perennial hibiscus, a couple of times in the spring,” Evelyn notes.

While irrigation is no substitute for rain, Evelyn groups plants by water needs and then waters accordingly with soaker hoses.

“It’s hard to give enough moisture because plants only get water where the hoses lay,” she says.

Low plants lead into a curving pathway of cement and disc-blade stepping stones in one flowerbed. She used deli trays as forms for the cement stones.

“I like ‘Karl Forester’ (feather reed) grass because the plumes emerge early in the summer and stay in clumps,” she says.

Evelyn repeats the grass along a wood fence for upright interest,

punctuated by a white coneflower at the walkway entrance. She has placed several hibiscuses at intervals along the fence.

“I have taken cuttings of hibiscus in the fall. I trim leaves along the stem and bury a leaf node,” she says. “I cover the container with plastic and then mist the cuttings. Only about one out of eight grew this way.”

Plants that she wants to remain upright in the beds such as hibiscus, she supports with cement reinforcement wire. She buys it in 50-foot rolls and finds many uses for the wire. She braces plants with a half cylinder of the wire along the fence line. Their tomato cages are five-feet tall cylinders.

Her castor bean plants that she grew from seed reach above head height in full sun. “I put a hot cap over the seeds to get them to germinate faster,” she says.

“This is my treasure-pile area. When I need a block or stone or arbor support, I come here.

“I’m a fan of copper for ornamentation,” she says. “This is a twisted copper tree. I also like the old rusted locker, such as with wagon wheels. To me you can have more of this kind of ornamentation because it recedes into the background and doesn’t get gaudy-looking.”

Among mature blue spruces, Evelyn has positioned a rusted potato planter. (“My son found it,” she points out.) Near it is an old wagon that she had displayed in her Neligh yard that reminds her of her former home. A child’s wagon overflows with small containers of sedum.

“I love succulents, but they have to come inside in winter, so I just leave them in the clay pots,” she says.

IN SHADE WITH HOSTS

“This is one of my favorite places to be,” Evelyn says. By her two city lots of plants, she spends a lot of time maintaining and creating new spaces, but this area looks complete. Tall trees give deep shade. Textured bark is prominent on large trunks. Pagoda dogwoods with airy branches grow to intermediate height under the massive umbrellas. She planted the dogwoods as seedlings from Neligh.

When they moved here, the Schindlers tackled this area for landscaping right away.

“I brought my Hosta transplants to put under the trees,” Evelyn says. But it didn’t work out that way at first. She started planting but got nowhere because of massive tree roots.

“It took two or three dump truck loads of topsoil because of all the tree roots,” Evelyn says. “My brothers and kids built a retaining wall to hold the soil.”

She was ready to install her Hosta collection from Neligh.

“I had put Hosta pieces (with roots) into plastic bags, wet the plants and let the water drain out,” she says.

That made them compact for transport and ready to plant. Now swaths of various Hosta cultivars cover the bed. A garage sale patched wheelbarrow lays on its side among the Hostas.

“My mother liked flowers and had some but not to this extent,” Evelyn says. “She worked on the farm. My grandmother had lots of houseplants. When we were first married, I planted flowers beside the house. I used to have big vegetable gardens and canned and froze a lot.

“Where ever we went, I started flower gardens,” Evelyn says. “We moved to Albert’s home place and later to town. Flower gardens grew bigger and bigger.”

Now she shares her talents in Yankton.

Dibbles And Bits

• Want to consider trees for next year? The Arbor Day Foundation website is designed to help narrow choices to trees that grow well in your area for the first look:

<http://www.arborday.org/tree-info/ZoneLookup.cfm> Then to further tailor trees to your setting, try the “Tree Wizard” tab. For more information about the short list of trees, consider the “Tree Guide” tab.

• Thomas Jefferson’s gardening methods are featured in the November *Martha Stewart Living* magazine found in the Yankton Community Library. Jefferson grew seeds from throughout a wide region and kept notes on saved seed of productive varieties. He composted the garden overwinter. Grouping and companion planting was featured then as in today’s “square foot gardens.” His favorite vegetables were English peas, along with asparagus, cabbage and beans. Some of his home flowers were black-eyed Susans, geraniums, marigolds, lantana, and zinnias. See the web topic “Monticello Vegetable Garden” for more information.

• A table centerpiece from your walks? Dry seed heads of native plants along your walk or from your flowerbed can become a one-of-a-kind centerpiece. Audrea Hecht of Pied Piper Florist in Yankton suggested spray painting an old tray or base and using a block of florist foam to affix seed heads. Yarrow, purple coneflower, blanket flower, and various native grasses are just the starting point for your creation. See the November *Martha Stewart Living* magazine for inspiration.

• To deter rabbits as they forage, Dennis Menke of Yankton has figured out how to protect his riverbank terrace beds of shrubs and perennials. These plants are easier for rabbits to access than humans. “We fool the rabbits. They don’t see a way in,” he says. “We buy a 1,000 foot roll of Saran Wrap and small stakes and wrap it a foot high around plants, making sure the wrap touches the ground.”

January Plant Tips

Lisa Kortan, urban forester for the City of Yankton, also selects and designs plants for the plant containers in Historic Downtown Yankton, the planters such as along Douglas Ave., and in parks. As she orders plants for 2013 growing season, she shares tips for container plants that look beautiful and last the season:

• Combine plants with three distinct growing habits in a container. Find vertical plants such as purple fountain grass, mid-height plants such as coleus or petunia, and trailing plants such as sweet potato vine or Bacopa.

• Select bold colors such as red, yellow, orange and blue for a container. Or select shades of the same color for a soothing effect, such as all pinks, all blues or greens. Go with colors that accent your surroundings such as house, deck or pavers.

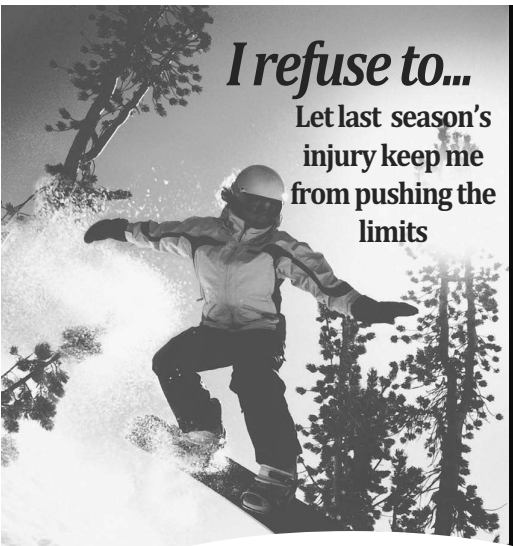
• Foliage texture is just as important as color. Look at the sizes, shapes, and surfaces of leaves. Contrasting textures attract the eye.

• Consider sun and shade requirements of each kind of plant in the planter. Check the tags. Put sun-loving plants together in a container and shade lovers together. Tags also give moisture needs of each plant. Group dry condition plants together and moist-condition plants together. Read the tags to make sure plant grows well with other plants.


Plant Exchange: Blog With Us!

Plant Exchange: Blog with us! This blog is an interactive site for people of our plant Zone 4-5a region to exchange ideas about plants. Want to read some past Plant Exchange features you missed? Want to share a comment about people and their plants?


- What are vegetable gardener tips from Healthy Yankton Community Gardens?
 - Want tips for houseplant care in winter?
 - Want to see what’s growing and blooming around the United States? “Garden Bloggers Bloom Day” link will show you selections for December 15, 2012.
 - How does a floral designer show her interpretation of photography art?
 - How does a local gardener grow plants from cuttings?
 - Consider ‘tried and true’ perennials, trees, and shrubs recommended by a nurseryman for this region.
 - See yard décor and landscaping ideas of gardeners in the region.
- Check us out at the web address: brendakjohnsonplantexchange.wordpress.com



I refuse to...
Let last season's injury keep me from pushing the limits




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