



SUSAN SMITH-DURISEK/LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/MCT  
An iron fairy from Wilson Nurseries in Frankfort, Kentucky, is part of a fairy garden that also includes Irish moss, a miniature orchid, glass baubles and a recycled pottery container as a pond.

## Fairy Gardens Can Bring Magic To Your Yard

BY SUSAN SMITH-DURISEK  
Lexington Herald-Leader  
(MCT)

FRANKFORT, Ky. — There is a sort of magic that happens in fairy gardens, those miniature landscapes meant to inspire tiny mythical creatures to visit your yard.

Wilson Nurseries in Frankfort, Ky., regularly hosts fairy-garden workshops, where the air is often abuzz with an excited fluttering to and fro, as garden revelers gather building blocks like moss, pastel pebbles and shiny ceramic mushrooms to assemble tiny masterpieces. Bright flashes of sparkling glitter, said to help welcome fairies, and sun-catching glass beads, like shimmering dew drops, add a glow. The muted hum of conversation and cheery chatter can be heard as the gardeners go about the task of creating fern- and fantasy-filled container gardens.

Even if you're skeptical about the existence of fairies, it's hard to deny the obvious joy shared by these garden makers as they are gently guided in the art and craft of assembling a small sprite habitat to take home.

Last Saturday, grandparents and parents with children, as well as longtime friends and neighbors, met for two hours under a tent inside the Wilson greenhouses where work tables and supply benches were assembled.

Wilson's organizer and instructor for these events, Teresa Abell, tells of an interesting phenomenon that happens as fairy gardens are made.

"People will start out not talking at all," she says, "yet by the time they leave, they have gotten to know each other, are having a lot of conversations and have made new friends."

They share ideas, supplies and stories about just why they have come to create a fairy garden.

Abell, who has been with Wilson Nurseries for eight years, began stocking fairy supplies about three years ago after encountering fairy culture at a wholesale market in Atlanta. The idea of holding workshops occurred to her as she was putting together a greenhouse display. It was a natural fit.

"I love gardens, and I love working with people," she says.

The idea caught on, and each of Wilson's dozen or more fairy garden events over the past year has sold out. In addition to the monthly scheduled workshops, groups of 10 to 20 people can request private events from June until March.

Each participant, "from ages 4 to over 70," Abell says, finds his

or her own niche. Container gardens, which can be grown indoors as well as outside in warmer months, offer accessibility to older adults with limited mobility or to those who are living in a retirement community or nursing home.

The charm of fairy dust also has great appeal for children. Creating a special miniature garden is an easy way to begin growing a green thumb.

Abell has many participants who start out knowing nothing about gardening, but in two hours, she says, "have developed a passion for it."

Connie Hicks, who helps with the workshops, adds, "It's fun. You get to feel like a kid — along with everybody else."

The workshop's \$35 fee includes a kit with a container, potting medium, three plants, mulch, pathway stones and a miniature metal archway and birdbath, as well as instruction and care. The fee is per fairy garden; it can be shared by a pair or group of participants. Collectibles — used marbles and dollhouse furniture, twigs and acorns, anything that would fit well into a miniature landscape — can also be brought from home.

One workshop participant, Susie Oder of Frankfort, brought a small stone pre-Columbian artifact from her stepfather's legacy of miniatures to set in her garden as a remembrance.

Extras like hypertufa English cottages, glazed ceramic mushrooms and an assortment of small-scale benches, tools and seasonal decorations can be purchased at Wilson.

Workshop participant Virginia Lyle, 8, of Frankfort felt the fairy power. She was intently focused on designing her second fairy garden, paving a meandering path she had created with small pebbles in pastel hues and tucking in teensy-leaved plants into her low, wide container. Virginia's mom, Lola Lyle, explained that her daughter's first fairy garden was a project shared with a friend. Virginia wanted to return to make one just to keep at her own home.

"This is a special mom-and-daughter time," Lyle says, smiling.

Linda Hopkins and Dottie Rose, whose families have grown up together in Lexington, worked side by side at another table.

"The fairy garden display here just captures you," says Hopkins, who admits she couldn't wait for the workshop and even made a couple on her own in the interim.

Craft stores Hobby Lobby and Michael's and local garden shops are a few sources for fairy garden supplies.

### Diggin' In

# Alliums Provide Gardens With Color

BY KATHY VAN MULLEKOM  
Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)  
(MCT)

Ever dream of having a garden that's colorful spring through fall?

Planting alliums is one way to realize that dream, according to bulb experts. There are dozens of different varieties of alliums, pronounced "al-ee-um," each with its own special bloom time. By planting several different types, you enjoy six to eight weeks of color, bridging the season from late spring to mid-summer.

Also known as ornamental onions, alliums are strong towering plants with sturdy stems topped by balls of color in appealing shades of purple, periwinkle, lavender, lilac, maroon, white or silver.

Alliums add a spectacular architectural dimension to the garden, according to Brent and Becky's Bulbs in southeastern Virginia. They also make wonderful cut and dried flowers.

Technically, the allium's round flower is called an umbel, which is an orb of florets facing outward, according to Hans Langeveld of Longfield-Gardens in a press release. The more florets there are per orb, the more dense and velvety its appearance, according to bulb experts. When the florets are more loosely spaced, the effect is open and airy.

"The largest alliums have flowers that measure up to 10 inches across and stand three to four feet high or more," says Langeveld of www.Longfield-Gardens.com or 855-534-2733, an on-line flower bulb and bare-root perennial retailer.

"Large or small, it's hard not to smile when you see a garden full of flowers that look like pur-



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Allium Globemaster stands tall and stately in the garden.

ple lollipops.

Allium bulbs need to be planted at the same time as daffodils and tulips — in the fall. They are available at garden centers nationwide, including Lowe's and Home Depot, as well as specialty bulb businesses.

The bulbs thrive in USDA zones 3 to 9 (Hampton Roads is zones 7-8), depending on the variety, and do well in most any soil as long as it is well drained. Full sun is preferred but partial shade is OK.

Planted where they will thrive, alliums act like other cold-hardy perennials, returning each year to bloom again.

"Another benefit: alliums' garlicky taste doesn't appeal to deer, woodchucks, squirrels, voles and rabbits. For gardeners who have

animal pests, this is welcome news," says Langeveld.

Alliums add the color, height, structure and movement that can turn ordinary gardens into something special. Pure white Mt. Everest is a showoff in a shade garden. Big blowsy pale lavender alliums like A. christophii shimmer when combined with warm yellows and oranges or dark reddish shades. Purple Sensation harmonizes beautifully with whites, blues and purples, and the deep maroon flowers of A. atropurpureum are stunning with heucheras that have lime green or dark red foliage.

Chameleon is an allium favored at Brent and Becky's Bulbs — www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com or 804-693-3966.

"It's a perfect name for this variable plant whose clusters of flowers change color from dark rose to white with rose veins," says Becky Heath.

"It's terrific for rock gardens or fronts of dry borders."

Once alliums bloom, they give you a few more dramatic moments in the garden. After bloom, as their petals fall away, alliums set seed. As the seed heads dry, the dried golden brown seed heads stand tall amidst lush late season flowers, holding on through late summer into fall, sometimes into winter.

"The seed heads are every bit as cool as the flowers," says Langeveld.

### On Gardening

## Plant Enough Flowers To Make A Show

BY NORMAN WINTER  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service (MCT)

In my seminars as I show beautiful flower combinations, I always warn those in attendance that you can't get that look from a jumbo six-pack. The ladies laugh and the gentlemen chuckle somehow thinking I've finally got around to talking about beer. The truth of the matter is that when it comes to creating our dream flower borders we have to use enough to make a show.

Recently I had the opportunity to photograph some beds using one of my all-time favorite plants, the All Around Purple gomphrena. The plant commonly called globe amaranth or even bachelor's button is tough as nails. Sadly it is one of those plants where many gardeners don't use it to its potential. It gets spot planted or used a dab here and a dab there.

The All Around Purple is an award-winning variety that reaches 18 plus inches in height and seems to persevere through the torrid summer heat like few other plants. One plant might cause you to glance, but planting a sea of purple leaves you and visitors spellbound.

I am not really talking about planting an acre, just planting boldly. Try buying by the flat and planting in an informal drift. Lining them up like toy soldiers in straight lines sometimes creates an illusion that says "not enough." One of the beds that stole my



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The All Around Purple gomphrena can create a sea of riveting color if you plant enough.

heart used a large drift of the gomphrena adjacent to a drift of Purple Majesty ornamental millet, another plant often spot planted.

The background to the planting was another fine textured leafy grass that showed off the multitude of round purple blossoms. Pink perennial hibiscus was also used to echo the purple of the gomphrena and the purple leaves of the ornamental millet.

In another bed that I loved, the

complementary color scheme was used. Again there was a sea of dark purple but used in combination with gloriosa daisies. The golden yellow of the daisies and purple from the gomphrena created visual excitement in the garden causing everyone to stop and take photographs to help inspire.

Though it is early September, I would not hesitate to plant All Around Purple as a companion with fall blooming mums. If your

garden center has them you could not create a more stunning partnership. Space plants about 18 inches apart. Plant them at the same depth they are growing in the container. Add a layer of mulch to conserve moisture and retard weed growth. The gomphrena is an excellent cut flower for the vase or dried flower for winter arrangements. Also consider using the little ball-shaped flowers around the home in pot-pourri dishes.

Once the gomphrena and the mums are through it is on to pansies and their pals like dianthus, flowering kale and cabbage. This will cool season bed will be even more challenging in its design and your finesse with the hand trowel. The point is you can create the dazzling beds of color for all seasons, just use enough to make a show.

Norman Winter is executive director of the Columbus Botanical Garden, Columbus Ga., and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and the highly acclaimed "Captivating Combinations Color and Style in the Garden."

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## Pet Vet: Sneezing Cat Needs Further Exam

BY JEFF KAHLER, D.V.M.  
The Modesto Bee  
(MCT)

Callie the calico began sneezing about three weeks ago.

Initially, Paula did not think much about the sneezing, but the increasing frequency has her concerned.

Callie was seen by her veterinarian and prescribed antibiotics for what was assumed to be a bacterial infection in the 10-year-old cat's nose. Callie stopped sneezing — until the course of treatment came to an end.

It's clear that something is insulting Callie's nasal passages. Bacteria are likely involved, as antibiotics did lead to improvement.

I would recommend a nasal swab for cytology and culture for bacteria. Cytology tells us what kinds of cells are associated with Callie's nasal problem; the culture will identify bacteria, which then can be tested against various antibiotics to see which one might work the best. The bacteria may

have become resistant to some antibiotics, which is why this step is required.

I believe the bacterial infection is secondary to something else. Possibilities include foreign material lodged in the nose, a tumor in the nasal passages or a tooth root abscess that has gone into the nasal passages. Callie will need an anesthetic procedure to determine if one of these possibilities is involved. Rhinoscopy, a procedure involving the use of a small diameter endoscope, will allow us to see if there might be a foreign body lodged there. This same instrument can allow us to visualize a possible tumor mass, and collect a biopsy sample if warranted. To rule out a dental abscess may require a little more detective work.

It is sometimes not possible to realize a tooth root abscess in a cat by simply looking at the teeth. In those cases, we take dental radiographs. In cats with a tooth root abscess, and nasal sinusitis as a result, the offending tooth is

almost always one of the upper canine teeth. We sometimes call them eye teeth in people. The roots of the canine teeth extend up into the nasal passages and, if an abscess develops in one or both of these teeth, it can cause infection in the nose. The radiograph will demonstrate an abscess. If an infected canine tooth is found, it can be extracted or have a root canal performed, eliminating the infection source. Antibiotic therapy will eliminate the nasal problem.

There are cases when cats develop chronic primary bacterial sinusitis. Antibiotics alone often aren't adequate to cure the disease. I have had good luck in these cats using a nasal flush procedure to irrigate and clean out the nasal passages, following up with appropriate antibiotics. We sometimes have to do multiple flush procedures on these feline patients, but it certainly greatly improves our chances of total resolution.

## Meet Dr. Garry, General Surgeon

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF  
**Ryan J. Garry, M.D.**  
*Board Eligible in General Surgery*

Dr. Garry is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He completed his general surgery residency at Exempla St. Joseph in Denver Colorado and Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. Garry will perform general surgery procedures such as laparoscopic hernia, stomach, colon, adrenal and splenectomy surgery; colonoscopies; esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGDs); "Painless" hemorrhoid surgery; and minimally invasive parathyroidectomy.

Dr. Garry joins Drs. Appelpwick, Kampshoff and Serck in providing care as a general surgeon.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Garry, his wife Kari, and their children, Regan, Kael and Reese, to Yankton.

**Dr. Garry began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic on August 20, 2012. For an appointment please call 605-664-2742.**



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