Growing Vertical Vegetables And Flowers

One of the easiest ways to grow rambling or vining plants is to train them up trellises or supports. In a small garden, growing things upwards is a good solution because space is limited but you still want a lush appearance and lots of diversity in your plantings. In a bigger garden, vertical displays can become wonderful design features and focal points and provide much-needed visual screens or windbreaks.

And, if you enjoy creating wildlife habitat in the garden, you'll find that having plants at eye level is the best way to see small creatures such as iridescent hummingbirds and hovering butterflies.

Read More

Left to right: Scarlet Runner Bean, Tri Color Pole Beans, Trombetta di Albenga Squash, Mary Lou Heard Sweet Peas

Renee's Upcoming Appearances:

Thursday
July 28
6:30 p.m.
Anchorage Botanical Garden, Anchorage, AK
Lecture With Slides: "Garden To Table From Seed"
Info And Tickets

Saturday
July 30
10:30 a.m.
Alaska Mill and Feed Inc., Anchorage, AK
Lecture With Slides: "Luscious Container Gardens From Seed Talk"
www.alaskamillandfeed.com

July In The Trial Garden

Fantastic flowers are at their peak now! Zinnia "State Fair Gold Medal" will be one of our new 2017 introductions.

From the very first time we grew this zinnia in our trials, it was a clear no brainer that we would offer it to our customers.

It's a mix of has large, fully double flowers in vibrant shades that blooms for months. The long-stemmed flowers make great bouquets that add instant cheer to any room of the house.

Another terrific flower in our trials was bred in Germany. It is a unique new cosmos variety called "Velouette," a blend of solid and striped flowers in deep red tones. We are finding it long blooming and quite effortless to grow, taking only 2 months to bloom from seed; that's impressive!

The plants are compact and branching and reach about 2 ½ to 3 feet tall. Velouette's rich colors add drama to the garden and are also stunning vase flowers either by themselves or mixed with other blooms.
In our big lower trial garden area, we are conducting the pickling cucumber trial of the century! Well, it feels that way, because we are growing with 11 different varieties and that's a lot of pickles. Many are European-style "Cornichon" style pickles. We had the good fortune to have a visit from one of our best German seed vendors last week.

He took us to "cucumber college" with all the knowledge he shared about the differences between European and American pickling cucumbers. His shared information will really come in handy as we taste our way through the trials in the coming weeks.

Recipe Of The Month

Squash Blossoms Stuffed With Herbs And Ricotta

A great way to use delicate squash blossoms for a light and delicious meal.

Please visit reneesgarden.com for more articles, great seeds, recipes and ideas. We look forward to hearing from you. Best Wishes, Renee Shepherd