



## No need to sacrifice flowers for vegetables

By Bob Fleming  
Horticultural Research  
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It would be marvelous if plant breeders could develop a petunia that also produced tomatoes; sweet pea that produced edible green peas or a rose that produced fragrant flowers and a bonus crop of cherries. Perhaps we could develop an alysum with flowers like broccoli, or a wallflower with a crop of brussels sprouts as a final flourish.

The ideas may seem far-fetched, but each of these plant relations is botanically correct. Petunias are related to tomatoes; roses are related to most of our temperate zone fruits; and a number of flowering plants belong to the same cabbage family as broccoli and brussels sprouts. So combining the flower and the vegetable garden is not such a wild idea.

Last season, because of a lack of space in the vegetable garden, I planted sweet pepper plants among the flowers. Ten plants, 45 centimetres apart, produced a beautiful harvest of green and red fruits. The plants remained compact, vigorous and attractive throughout the season. The deep-green leaves, glossy fruit and small white blossoms added variety to the flower border.

Other vegetables filled the early season void in the flower garden. Leaf lettuce or spinach, as an edging to the flower border, can be harvested well into June without interfering with tender summer annuals planted in late May.

So, beets or carrots in clumps 30 to 45 cm in diameter in early spring, to produce an attractive display of foliage - a feast for

the eyes and the dinner table.

Summer combinations of flowers and vegetables may be more difficult. However, a well-tended tomato plant, confined by stakes or a wire cage, can present a good background for flowering plants while supplying a bumper crop of fruit. Some of the new hybrid summer squash are bushy, and require a square metre for proper development of a single plant. The large leaves, showy blooms and tender, delicious squash add dimension to the flower garden.

Before you rush out to plant the overflown from the vegetable garden among the flowers, consider these points. Overcrowding the flower garden can be just as damaging to plant growth as planting too closely in the vegetable patch. Peppers in the flower garden may mean fewer zinnias this year. For squash or tomatoes, you may have to sacrifice the giant marigolds you usually plant for background and late summer color.

For quick return, early season, cool weather crops cause the least disruption in the flower garden. Lettuce, spinach, early green onion sets, radishes and an early planting of beets or carrots can be harvested before they offer too much competition to young annuals planted in early June, and before the annuals compete too strongly with the ripening vegetables.

Water regularly during dry periods and fertilize regularly to maintain vigorous growth and insect and disease control. It takes a little extra effort, but combining the flower and vegetable gardens for greater efficiency and productivity make good economic sense.



## Home vegetable varieties are improving each year

by Ian D.W. Smith  
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Home garden vegetables were slow to improve in the 30's and 40's, but today there are numerous new varieties offered each year. Many cater to the needs of the home vegetable gardener.

One reason for the accelerated introduction and public acceptance of improved varieties is an organization called All-America Selections. This group tests many new introductions in trial grounds in several locations in the United States and Canada. The best varieties receive an All-America award.

Only a portion of new home garden varieties introduced by seed companies and other institutions are entered in the All-America trials and of course not all varieties are award winners. Examples of vegetables that have won awards in the past three or four years are Florida tomato, Grand Duke kohlrabi, Sugar Snap peas, Sweet Favorite watermelon, Saladini and Liberty cucumber, Dutch Treat and Gypsy pepper, Gold Rush, Sweet Mama and Early Buttercup squash.

Although many standard varieties are still grown, the use of new improved varieties assures the home gardener of the most satisfaction from gardening efforts. And gardening will become increasingly popular, as more people spend more time at home and take a simpler, less expensive approach to recreation.

It's always a problem for a gardener to choose the best varieties for specific requirements. The selection today is mind boggling. Even when a gardener is satisfied with the varieties grown, it is wise to try one or two new selections each year. If the seed catalogue descriptions include some new desirable characteristics. These may include disease resistance, higher quality, improved color, high yield, compact growth habit, or some unique characteristic.

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<p><b>DEATHS</b></p> <p>SCOTLAND, Anne - On Thursday, May 27th, 1982, at the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, Anne Davis, beloved wife of George Scotland and sister of Gertrude Polle and the late Elsie Newman, Lillian, Ethel and Charles Davis. Dear aunt of Joy Smith, Rosa Bradley, Maureen Jenkins and Gwendolyn Davis. Rested at the McClelland-Jones Funeral Home, where funeral service was held Saturday morning. Cremation followed. 1960222n</p>	<p><b>DRYWALL</b></p> <p><b>DRYWALL TAPING &amp; REPAIRS</b> Texture Spraying Call Don Leadlay <b>877-1210</b></p>	<p><b>CARPENTER WORK</b> Trim, T-bar ceilings Repairs &amp; Renovations <b>Peter P. Looser and Son</b> Formerly Acton Woodcraft <b>853-0788</b> evenings</p>	<p><b>LANDSCAPING</b></p> <p><b>SHANNON LANDSCAPING</b> Residential &amp; Commercial • Design &amp; Construction LAWN MAINTENANCE TREE PRUNING &amp; REMOVAL ROTTING Total Ground Care &amp; Clean Up (519) <b>855-6151</b> <b>671-1691</b></p>	<p><b>OPTOMETRIST</b></p> <p><b>DR. RICHARD JOZWIK</b> Saturday appointments are available. 18 Main St. E. Acton <b>853-0650</b></p>	<p><b>SIDING</b></p> <p><b>HAEFNER SIDING &amp; ROOFING</b> • Aluminum &amp; Vinyl siding • Soffits &amp; Fascia • Seamless eaves/roughing • Aluminum trim • Shutters • Doors &amp; windows <b>853-1720</b></p>	<p><b>WATER CONDITIONERS</b></p> <p><b>AQUAFINE</b> WATER SOFTENERS</p>
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