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Pot planting proving popular

Continued from pg. 8

lobelia and heliotrope are excellent choices.

Here are some planting tips for your annuals. Remember they need sun and proper drainage. They can be planted in spaces between shrubs or between rows of vegetables as fillers. If you decide to start your own plants from seeds, try putting some chicken wire over the seeding tray. Drop a seed in each hole. This will make it easy to pull those plants apart when it's time to put them in the ground. Annuals can be the prelude to the blooming of your perennials.

Should you plant a solid color or vary them? For small spaces, such as pots,

planter and window boxes, use one color. If you have a large space to fill, use lots of colors but first make a sketch and color it with colored pencils to see how the colors will look together. Keep in mind that pastel colors, white, yellow, pink and lavender, only show up in the mornings and early evenings.

Keep your annuals wet and if you can remember, pinch off the tip of the main stem before it blooms for the first time. It will make your plant hardier.

These tips for annuals will help you keep your yard looking colorful from early spring to when your perennials spring into action.

—By Kathy Scott, special

Garden gadgets and solutions

For those who have trouble with the usual kneeling, bending and stretching that go along with gardening, the joy of gardening does not have to be impossible. People with disabilities have their homes and vehicles adjusted to their needs. So why not do the same things with their gardens? With some extra planning, sturdy materials and willing helpers, gardens can be brought to new heights.

Higher work areas make it much easier for those who need to sit to participate in the hands-on care of a garden. An easy, delightful way to raise up a flower garden is to plant flowers in an old wagon. When you find the wagon, fill it with pots of flowers. Keeping the flowers in pots will ensure that they receive and retain adequate

water and fertilizer and that the nutrients don't slip through the slats.

Landscaping timbers, stacked one on top of the other, about seven timbers high, are also ideal for a raised flower or vegetable garden. Make sure that the slats that actually raise the bed, the part where the dirt will be placed, have plenty of space for water drainage. You can grow flowers, vegetables or both.

Another way to bring the ground up to you is to use planters. You can find large, plastic planters at many stores. You will have to limit your plants to one variety per planter. While you're raising your garden, don't forget to raise your greenhouse and your compost pile, too.

—By Kathy Scott, special



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