

In the garden with Shobha Vanchiswar



Laura's bed of hot colors
August 15, 2008

Summer color

Now is a good time to scan over your garden beds and see if your summer plantings please the eye. In fact, give them a good hard look.

Be honest. I'm sure there are parts that please and parts that could do better. See if there is need for more color and what types of color. Would hot or cool shades help? Do some of your current colors shout too loudly? Consider balancing them with new, more subdued plants. If the harsh summer sun washes out the paler shades, add brighter flowering plants. If a plant truly offends, just lift it out and plant where it will be more appropriate.

Make a list of what you need. In a week or so, you might be able to take advantage of end of season sales at the nurseries. Of course, this is for perennials. Fall is a good time to plant many perennials. If you have beds of annuals, wait for next year. Your shopping list will be all ready.

I visited recently two gardens that are excellent examples of beautiful summer beds. I enclose photographs of both. Laura Cohen's garden is mostly a perennial garden while April and Hugh Locke work more annuals into their garden. May they inspire you as they did me.



Another bed in Laura's garden



Another bed of annuals in Hugh and April's garden



Laura's bed of hot colors



Shades of purple and pink in Hugh and April's garden.