Lowcountry Gardening in the Fall

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Tonight’s Outline

- Managing Lowcountry soils
- Fall-winter-spring annuals
- Fall vegetables in containers

Diascia (twinspur) are excellent in pots over winter.
Soil is the Foundation of a Garden.

-Me
What is Soil?

- Minerals: Sand, Silt, Clay
- Organic Matter: Natural compost
- Water
- Air
## Soil Types in Ventura Villas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Percent of area</th>
<th>Drainage</th>
<th>Depth to sandy clay loam (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charleston loamy fine sand</td>
<td>26.50%</td>
<td>Moderately well</td>
<td>(Not present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edisto loamy fine sand</td>
<td>8.50%</td>
<td>Somewhat poor</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabrook loamy fine sand</td>
<td>18.30%</td>
<td>Somewhat poor</td>
<td>(Not present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stono fine sandy loam</td>
<td>14.80%</td>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonges loamy fine sand</td>
<td>31.90%</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Manage Poorly Drained Soil

• Choose plants that tolerate moist soil
• Improve soil drainage
  • Make raised beds
  • Add compost
• Don’t over water
## Success with Winter Annuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Moisture</th>
<th>Fertilizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Sun to part sun  
  - Shade is “shadier” in winter than in summer | - Well-drained soil  
  - May need to water when cold/dry | - Add slow-release when planting  
  - Liquid fertilizer once a month @ half rate |
Pansy, Viola, Panola

- **Pansy**
  - Large flowers
- **Viola**
  - Many small flowers
  - Least susceptible to gray mold
  - No deadheading
- **Panola** (hybrid of the two)
  - Medium flowers
  - “Faces” less common
- Deadhead pansy and panola to prevent gray mold

‘Majestic Giants II’ Harris Seeds
‘Quicktime™ Yellow Blue’

Viola (Pan American Seeds)

‘Panola True Blue XP’

Pansy (Pan American Seeds)
Pansies, Foxgloves, and Boxwood
Stock and Wallflower

- Cabbage family
  - Cold tolerant
- Single or double flowers
  - Sometimes on same plant (stock)
- Stock has wider range of colors, larger flowers
Wallflower and Stock

- Wallflower more cold tolerant than stock
- Well-drained soil
  - Especially stock
- Part sun
Alyssum

- Excellent spring and fall
  - Often does not survive over winter
- Tougher than it looks
- Well-drained soil
- Part sun
- Feeds beneficial insects
  - Plant with vegetables
- No varieties are heat-tolerant in Lowcountry
Snapdragons

- “Regular” bloom more than dwarf
- Plant in fall for spring blooms
  - Bloom only when 50 F.
- Tolerate semi-dry soil
- Full to part sun
The Humble Dusty Miller
Foxgloves

- Plant in fall
  - Part shade (not full sun)
  - Moist soil (not sandy)
- Bloom in mid or late April
- Back of border
  - Provide height, 3-3.5 (4) ft
## Winter Vegetables in Containers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Harvest</th>
<th>Seeding</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lettuces</td>
<td>45 days</td>
<td>Sep-Oct</td>
<td>Soft texture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach</td>
<td>45 days</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustards</td>
<td>45 days</td>
<td>Sep-Oct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss chard</td>
<td>60 days thru</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Heat tolerant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salad Mixes</td>
<td>45-60 days</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Uneven growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radishes</td>
<td>45 days</td>
<td>Sep-Oct</td>
<td>Have not tried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Delicious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parsley</td>
<td>March (or earlier)</td>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>Needs water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Containers

- Depth of container
  - 8 inches is enough
- Terra cotta is best
  - Allows soil to dry
Potting Mix (not Soil from Ground)

- Commercial potting soil
  - Add 1:6 perlite to improve drainage
- My mix
  - 3 parts peat moss
  - 2 parts bagged "soil"
  - 1 part vermiculite
  - 1 part perlite
Seeding

• Seed as deep as on seed package
• Keep seeds moist
  • Water lightly every day until old enough to have 2 sets of leaves
• Then water as needed when soil surface is dry
Varieties to Try

- Carrots: ‘Danvers’ (left) or ‘Nantes’
- Mustard: ‘Tendergreen’
- Spinach: ‘Bloomsdale Long Standing’
- Dwarf romaine lettuce
- Johnny’s Selected Seeds for variety
A Year of Flowers: Selecting Plants for 12 Months of Blooms

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