

# **Beds and Breakfast**

Presented by Millie Burrell

## **Getting Started**

- site selection (drainage, existing soil, sun exposure, pH)
- soil amendments (manure, compost, gypsum, time release fertilizer)
- irrigation (drip, overhead)
- reading, visiting established landscapes

## **Plant Selection Considerations—plants with similar requirements together**

- light requirements
- moisture requirements
- size at maturity (height, width)
- color palette
- shapes
- textures

## **Planting**

- weed barrier (4 layers of newspaper, fabric)
- mulch (cypress, pine bark)
- thorough watering in

## **Recommended Reading**

- Passalong Plants by Steven Bender and Felder Rushing. A humorous and practical guide to tried and true plants for the Southern garden.
- titles by William C. Welch
- Bulbs for Warm Climates by Thad Howard (a personal favorite)
- Southern Living Garden Book

## **Some favorite roses:**

- 'Mrs. B.R. Cant' – a robust Tea that grows to 6 x 6 feet if allowed, spicy fragrance, dark pink fully double blossoms.
- 'Crimson Glory' – short early hybrid tea excellent for the front of a bed where its huge double deep red flowers can be best viewed and smelled. Outstanding damask fragrance.
- 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' – a mannerly Bourbon with a spreading habit, lovely light pink quartered blossoms with a sweet fragrance.
- 'Hot Cocoa'— a modern Floribunda with a most unusual color: Chinese red with brown tones. Shiny dark green foliage that is extremely disease resistant.
- 'Belinda's Dream' – an outstanding Robert Basye rose bred in Caldwell, Texas. Huge light pink blossoms with excellent fragrance on a healthy shrub.



### Some favorite perennials:

- *Duranta*, 'Sweet Memories' – an elegant shrub with drooping branches up to 6 feet long, covered with small purple flowers that give way to golden berries for winter interest.
- *Brugmansia spp.* – excellent for morning sun only locations where they may become multi-branched and suspend numerous large trumpet-shaped blossoms. Lovely fragrance especially in the evening. WARNING: highly poisonous.
- *Monarda didyma*, Bee Balm – an excellent spreading perennial tolerant of poor drainage, available in pink, red and lavender, tolerant of shade.
- *Crinum spp.* – an excellent bulb for difficult soils, large trumpet-like flowers with excellent fragrance.
- *Cestrum auranticum*, Yellow Cestrum – an easy shrub, usually evergreen in our winters with clusters of clear yellow flowers, grows into a 5 x 5 foot shrub in a season. Other flower colors are pink and red.
- *Hymenocallis spp.*, Spider Lilies – an easy bulb tolerant of poor drainage, especially beautiful this year with white wispy flowers and excellent fragrance. 'Ismene' is a stunning yellow-flowered variety.
- *Ruellia elegans*, Red Ruellia – this one won't reseed and hummingbirds love its tubular scarlet blossoms.
- *Cuphea melvillea*, Giant Cigar Plant – another hummingbird favorite with its yellow and orange tubular blooms on an upright plant.
- *Caryopteris x clandonensis*, Bluebeard or Blue Mist Spirea – a delicate summer bloomer with lovely clusters of light blue flowers beloved by bees.

If you're interested in rose breeding, visit the lesson series that I have created online at:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/rose/rosebreeding/index.html>

Plant breeding is easy and fun—and something you can do in your own backyard. Take your gardening enthusiasm to a new level!

