

Master Gardeners of Bergen County

August 2021 – Potting Shed Mid-Month Update

HORTICULTURE

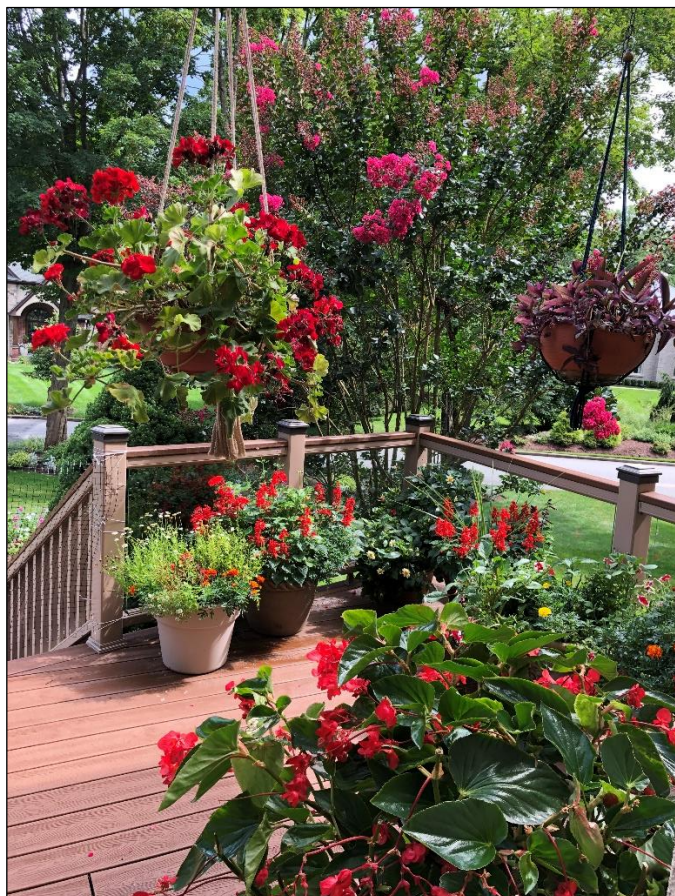


Photo by Surinder Chadha

He CAN contain himself

***Editor's note:** Surinder Chadha's indoor plant collection (his "hanging gardens") was featured in the May Potting Shed. Now he shares information and photos of his outdoor container gardening.*

By Surinder Chadha, Class of 2016

I have deck on three side of my house — the front, the side, and the back. I have 150-plus planters on the deck that vary in size from 6 to 22 inches. Most planters are 12, 16, 18, and 20 inches in size. I have about 25 14-inch hanging baskets, which along with another 25 planters, I bring inside the house during the winter. Indoors I have anywhere between 80-100 plants. I start outdoor planting during the last week of April to the first

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Give squash bugs the boot!



Robyn Lowenthal, Class of 2011, found these squash bugs (*Anasa tristis*) on the underside of the lower leaves of a squash plant in orderly rows. Under 30x magnification,

the eggs are the shape of shiny footballs. Robyn said it's too early to tell what variety of squash this is.

For solutions to eliminate squash bugs, refer to:

- The Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station squash bug [fact sheet](#).
- Epic Gardening's [article](#) titled Killing Squash Bugs: How to Identify and Control *Anasa tristis*.
- Bob Vila's [article](#) titled How to Get Rid of Squash Bugs.
- The Savvy Gardener video on [YouTube](#).

MG of BC fall meeting schedule

Fall meeting will be online. Times and login information will be included in upcoming *Potting Shed* newsletters. We look forward to seeing you if only on the screen!

Sept. 28 Oct. 19 Nov. 16

Container gardening

(Continued from page 1)



Photos by Surinder Chadha

week of May. By mid-May through the end of May all of my outdoor planting is done, and we enjoy nature's beauty from June through September.

Tips for container gardening

Every year I use new garden soil. Since I have lots of compost, I fill the bottom half of the container with compost and top it with container garden soil.

Add some granular long-lasting fertilizer for greater bloom. Also, after two to three months feed them every two weeks with flowering fertilizer for greater blooms. Watering is critical as each plant has its unique watering need. I touch the soil to get a sense of how much water is needed and water accordingly. During really hot weather, containers need watering almost daily.

My favorite containers

Since I need so many containers, my key consideration is the life span of the container. I am living in my current home for almost 40 years and have a few containers from day one. They are synthetic/plastic containers. However, they are extremely heavy. I like them because of their longevity.

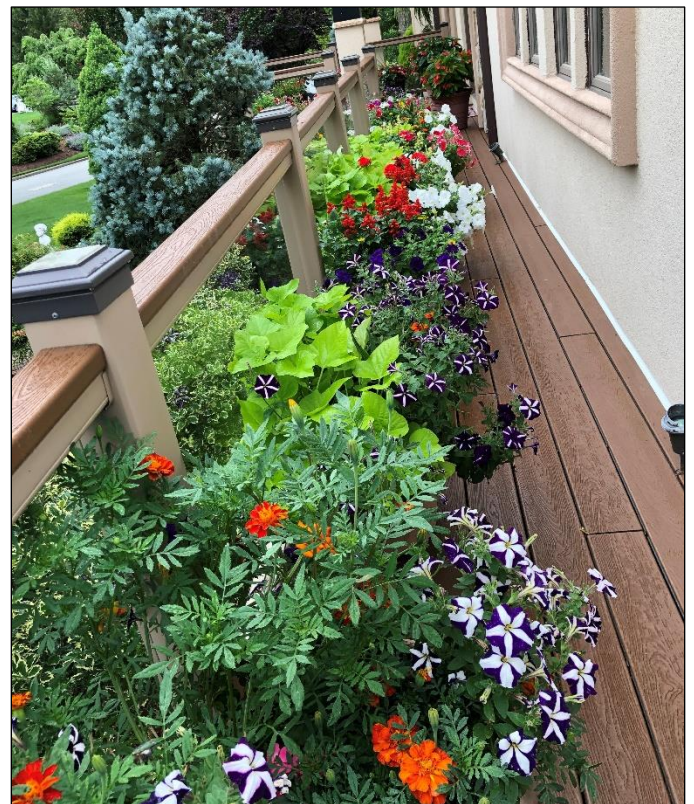
I have a variety of clay containers. However, even the expensive clay containers have a limited life; I would say no more than 15-20 years. They are good because they do retain some moisture. I have some wooden containers. They also serve well for a long time. Cheap plastic containers do not seem to last more than 5-10 years.

Regarding hanging baskets, the best I found are clay baskets. However, 14-inch clay trays get to be heavy. Therefore, I end up using plastic hanging baskets.

My favorite flowers

1. Salvia because they are available in multi colors, bloom consistently, and the flowers last throughout the summer season.
2. New Guinea impatiens for their beauty and long-lasting bloom.
3. Dahlia for a lasting season and huge variety with flowers from 1-4 inches.
4. Zinnia for its many varieties. In my garden when my petunias start fading, zinnias start blooming.
5. Marigold because of its multiple colors and long-lasting season.
6. Begonias because of their multicolor leaves and flowers along with their huge variety.
7. Calibrachoa because they are very dainty and bloom in huge clusters. Last year I liked them so much that I kept their seed and this year I am enjoying flowers from seeds.
8. My all-time favorite is verbena because, as a child, we used to have verbena in our garden in my home in India. Today I grow them from seed.
9. Coleus for their beautiful multicolor leaves.
10. Vinca as it is the only flowering plant that deer do not touch.

I also like all varieties of petunia. However, they need more attention/maintenance. I do love impatiens for their blooms, and they are the best for a small part of my home where I do not get full sun.



(Horticulture continued on page 3)

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When a petunia is not a petunia

Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers, has chosen the petunia as his August plant of the month.

By Bruce Crawford

Everyone loves using the common names for plants. It is a language that is intuitively understandable and is simply easier to remember than those cumbersome botanical names that seemingly make no sense! Yet, there are difficulties. One challenge with common names is when two different plants share the same name, making it challenging to understand which plant is being discussed.



Rutgers University photo

Petunias are a plant I suspect most people know and most likely have grown in a pot or hanging basket. Mexican petunia, *Ruellia simplex*, is of no relation to petunias, but the common name may give you the impression that it is simply a big brother to the conventional bedding plant ... Click [here](#) to read more.

Ruellia simplex as a container plant.

THINGS TO DO

Garden Conservancy Open Day Aug. 21

Tour two private gardens in New York's Westchester and Putnam counties through the Garden Conservancy Open Day program.

Both gardens will be open from 10 am-4 pm. Capacity is limited, no walk-ins allowed, and no paper tickets or cash payments will be accepted on site. The fee is \$5 for Garden Conservancy members/\$10 for non-members. Children under 12 are free. Masks and social distancing are required.

- **Rumford Hall, Brewster, NY:** The owner describes this 15-acre property as having mature plantings and monumental boulders in the foothills of the Appalachians. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Highview, North Salem, NY:** The ascending driveway leads from woodlands to meadows and arrives at an expansive view encompassing more than 30 miles. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Folk music, wildflowers, and butterflies

The New Jersey Botanical Garden/Skylands presents a folk music concert with Loretta Hagan from 6:30-8:30 pm, Aug. 20. Click [here](#) to visit her website. A \$5 donation per person is requested. Bring a lawn chair. Rain cancels.

If you'd prefer walking to sitting, the NJBG offers two upcoming walks:

- Guided wildflower walk at 1 pm, Aug. 21.
- Butterfly walk led by the Bergen County Audubon Society at 1 pm, Aug. 22.

Both walks are free. Wear sturdy shoes and meet at the Carriage House. Rain cancels.

Click [here](#) for the NJBG events list. The NJBG is located at 2 Morris Road, Ringwood.

Note about parking at NJBG: On summer Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, there is a state parking fee (cash only) of \$5 for New Jersey-registered vehicles and \$7 for non-New Jersey-registered vehicles.

THIS AND THAT

Birds outperform pesticides at saving crops

Read how birds are outperforming pesticides at orchards and vineyards in Michigan, California, and New Zealand. The [article](#) appears in the Living Bird magazine of Cornell University (summer 2021 issue).

And, while you're visiting the All About Birds website of Cornell University, check out the live bird cams, especially if you want to see hummingbirds up close and personal.

- Information from Liz Gil, Class of 2019

Want to know about bioengineered food?

Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station has revised its fact sheet titled New Labels for Bioengineered Foods: What the Public Needs to Know. This fact sheet describes what counts as a bioengineered food under the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law (2016); what information needs to be disclosed to consumers; and how the disclosures will take place. Click [here](#) for the fact sheet.

WEBINARS

Aug. 17, 7-8 pm: Rutgers Cooperative Education of Ocean County sponsors All About Bulbs. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Aug. 20, noon: National Garden Bureau sponsors Ask the Experts - Melons and Watermelons. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Aug. 25, 4-5:30 pm: Longwood Gardens sponsors Floral Spotlight - Longwood in Season. Fee: \$29. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Aug. 25, 7-8:30 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Creating a Salsa Garden. Fee: \$5. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Aug. 28, noon-1 pm: North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Buncombe County Center sponsors Square Foot Gardening. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Sept. 1, 6:30-7:45 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors The Grass Can Be Greener - 10 Common Mistakes You Might Be Making. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

FARMERS MARKETS

Englewood Farmers Market, Depot Square Park, North Van Brunt Street and Demarest Avenue. Fridays, 11 am-6 pm through Oct. 29.



Harrington Park Farmers Market, Highland Field, Tappan Road. Sundays, 10 am-2 pm through October.

Paramus Farmers Market, Petruska Park hockey rink, 475 Farview Ave. Wednesdays, noon-6 pm through Oct. 13.

Ramsey Farmers Market, Main Street train station. Sundays, 9 am-2 pm through November. For a list of rules, vendors, and other information, click [here](#).

Ridgewood Farmers Market, train station parking lot, Godwin and West Ridgewood avenues. Sundays, 8:30 am-2 pm through Nov. 21.

River Vale Farmers Market, Town Hall parking lot, 406 Rivervale Road. Thursdays, 2-6 pm through October.

Rutherford Farmers Market, Williams Center Plaza. Wednesdays, 11 am-6 pm; Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm through October.

Teaneck Farmers Market, municipal parking lot, Garrison Avenue and Beverly Road. Thursdays, noon-6 pm through October. Face coverings and social distancing required; no pets.

To submit a photo, information about a gardening-related website or video, or story idea for the Potting Shed, contact [Miriam Taub](#), Class of 2011.