

# The Night Blooming Shift

Nocturnal Garden Flowers



*G. Edwin Varner*

# The Night-Blooming Shift: Nocturnal Garden Flowers

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THE NIGHT-BLOOMING SHIFT: NOCTURNAL GARDEN FLOWERS

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Written by G. Edwin Varner.

# Preface

This ebook is about evening and nighttime blooming plants you can add to your flower garden. Many release beautiful fragrances into the summer evening air.

Readers who purchased my previous ebooks, collectively entitled *The Scent of Your Garden*, will notice some plants included in this ebook are also in them. Here, I have included additional plants and updated informational material.

This guide is not the definitive listing of all evening-blooming plants. Many plants bloom during the day and are showy at night — especially those with white or yellow flowers. Several tropical plants also bloom at night, but I do not include them in this publication.

You can purchase several of these plants and seeds from garden centers or online nurseries.

The information on each plant may contain inaccuracies about their growing conditions and hardiness.

Each plant has its USDA hardiness zones, best growth conditions, and recommended varieties to find and grow. Please be aware these plants may not be available, discontinued, or replaced for better varieties by nurseries.

The following plants use their Latin name first, then by a common name or names.

The digital photos are of the flowers at my home, garden centers, public gardens, and Creative Commons (CC0) licensed images.

# Introduction



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***“You can forget all your troubles, forget all your cares...” — yes, when going “Downtown” but also when visiting your evening garden.***

Many people think it strange that several plants would wait until after sunset to open their flower petals and release alluring fragrances. Why wait until then when they have all day to do so? These vespertine plants need moths to fly from flower to flower transferring pollen to form new generations of seeds.

Butterflies and bees, which pollinate daytime flowers, can't see well after sunset, but moths can. White or light-yellow flowers and their attractive perfumes attract these insects. You may not realize it (since

you are sleeping), but there is as much pollinating activity occurring overnight as what happens during the day.

Take time in the evening before going to bed and sample the nightlife — a garden of flowers reflecting moonlight or nearby lighting. Inhale their sweet perfumes wafting in the summer night air. You may be lucky to see beautiful moths fluttering among these flowers. This is a perfect way to end those hectic days and feel very relaxed before bedtime.

Many of the following plants grow well in full to partial sunlight, either in a bed, border, or containers.

**Please visit your nearby larger garden centers or search online to find specialty nurseries that grow and sell the following plants or seeds.**

# Berlandiera – Chocolate Daisy

## *Berlandiera lyrata*



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### **A midnight snack of chocolate candy.**

This rare plant has a noticeable aroma of chocolate or hot cocoa. You can smell this delectable fragrance many feet away when several flowers are in full bloom. Please be aware this plant blooms from late evening until mid-morning. Afterward, it closes its petals for the rest of the day.

Plan your evenings or early morning by visiting with this flower. If your first cup of coffee cannot wake you up, the delicious scent of hot cocoa will.

When I first grew (and later wrote about this plant), I did not realize it bloomed in the late evening and released its yummy aroma. I always noticed it was in full bloom by the early morning when visiting the garden after my long night's nap. Within a few hours after sunrise, the petals were tightly closed.

A few years later, I realized this plant is a night-owl, attracting moths with its yellow flowers and treating them with a drink of nectar. If it smells of chocolate for us, I wonder if it does for them — and also tastes like it? We may never know.

The small daisy-like blossoms are bright yellow with reddish stripes or veins on the underside of the petals. Dark red stamens and silvery-green leaves complement their appearance. The plant height is less than two feet tall but becomes bushy over the summer.

It grows well in full sunlight but needs well-drained soil and begins blooming by midsummer. Collect seeds or dig up the tubers before winter if you live in colder locations.

Although I list it as an annual, it can be a perennial for zones 7 to 10. Try to protect the tubers over the winter in these locations with mulch. Unfortunately, it's difficult to survive in lesser zone gardens.

# Brugmansia – Angels' Trumpets

## Brugmansia suaveolens



### **The highest octave in ethereal music.**

Known affectionately as “Angel’s Trumpets,” this 10-foot-tall herbaceous tree is native to South America’s tropical regions, particularly Brazil. Wild plants apparently no longer exist. That is alarming, but because of their popularity with gardeners, they now survive world-wide.

Their common angelic name is for their big trumpet-like blossoms that hang down from its branches. The smaller growing relative called *Datura* (described later) is much smaller, and the large flowers project

upward from the ground. Their common name is — you guessed it — “Devil’s Trumpets.”

*Brugmansia* is very susceptible to frost, so it is best to plant them in large containers. For colder locations, you can always move them indoors for the winter. By late spring (after the last frost), place them outside for new growth, and they will bloom by midsummer.

Place your plants in as much sunlight as possible, for they love the heat. Raise them in well-fertilized soil so they can grow and bloom well.

Many varieties are available, having gorgeous colors of peach-orange, yellow, white, or pink-red petals. One popular type is **Charles Grimaldi** (shown above) with deep yellow to pale orange petals. The flowers look limp or wilted during the day, causing concern with new gardeners, but quickly “wake-up” by evening. (I think we all know a few people that act similarly.) They (the flowers, not the people) then release a heavy mesmerizing sweet perfume well into the night.

All parts of *Brugmansia* are highly toxic and fatal if eaten. Let’s be content to just smell these colorful flowers!

# Cestrum – Night-Blooming Jasmine

## Cestrum nocturnum



Un-opened flowers. CC0 Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

### **This lady applies way too much perfume!**

Not all nocturnal flowers live in a garden. Many are tropical and need to grow in containers because they are sensitive to frost.

This tropical, woody shrub (or small tree) has the most fragrant flowers in the world. There, that's all you need to know. Well, maybe a little more information can't hurt. The other names for it are Lady of the Night, Queen of the Night, and Night Jessamine. Although the name says Jasmine, it is far from being related to one but is more related to *Nicotiana* (Tobacco) and Petunias.

This plant is a shrub or small tree native to tropical America and the West Indies; thus, its hardiness is only from Zones 9 to 10. It blooms in cycles throughout the summer. How many times it re-flowers depend on the length of your summer, but even in the far north, it can re-bloom about three times.

Although the pale-yellow, tubular, star-shaped flowers are not exceptionally pretty, their lovely perfume can be potent — especially in close quarters. It is best for this plant to stay outside, such as on a patio, for the fragrance can cause dizziness, nausea, and asthma for some people if placed indoors.

This sweet, mysterious, hypnotic perfume can spread to a considerable distance on a well-grown plant on warm summer evenings. Your neighbors will wonder who spilled a large bottle of perfume — and where? Even you may not know where the mysterious aroma is coming from until... yes, it's from that *Cestrum* plant!

No fragrance gardens should be without this shrub for those warm, sultry summer evenings. It makes a great container subject so place it on patios, decks, or anywhere you spend your evenings, including outside your bedroom window. Sweet dreams — and I mean it!

# Datura – Devil’s Trumpets

## Datura metel



### **The lowest octave in infernal music.**

People also call this plant Jimson Weed (or Jamestown Weed), Thorn Apple, Toloache, Moonflower, Prickly Burr, and Stinkweed. Most of these names refer to the smelly, spiny seed pod when handled.

Unlike its close relative, *Brugmansia* (described above), *Datura* plants are smaller growers. They have their single or double flowers pointed upward. Their colors are pure white to creamy purple or yellow. They release an intoxicating lily-like perfume into the summer evening air.

Years ago, when I had my nursery, one of my customers reported the *Datura* plants she purchased grew wild, almost jungle-like, near her

outdoor hot tub. Over the summer, her plants produced a multitude of flowers. The heat and high humidity from the tub made the plants grow wild and produce flower after flower. She wrote that she must have spent most of her summer evenings in that tub, enjoying her tropical, perfumed paradise.

Grow these plants in sunlight to partial shade, fertile, well-drained soil. They are hardy only in zones 9 to 10. The varieties to grow are the **Ballerina Series** having white, purple, or yellow double blossoms. **Belle Blanche Datura** has single white flowers and an irresistible heady fragrance.

As with *Brugmansia*, *Datura* contains highly toxic chemicals fatal in high concentrations but are beneficial at low levels. I must issue a plea for you not to add these plants to your garden for a few crucial reasons. Once again, they are highly poisonous, so beware if you plan to include them in a garden.

First, the spiny seed pods are attractive to children and dogs as “play-things.” If you have children anywhere in the area, don’t tempt fate.

Second, these pods contain hundreds of seeds, ready to repopulate your garden for years to come, long after you tire of them. If you raise these plants, enjoy their perfumed flowers but cut off any newly developing seed pods.

# Dianthus – Pinks and Carnations

## Dianthus superbus



**A few members of a family always draw attention to themselves.**

Members of the Carnation family come in all shapes and sizes. Many varieties are perennial in warmer climates but are annual in colder areas. Like this species, some are short-lived-perennials for they self-seed and weaken their chances to live another year. But you will have more plants in your garden each year.

This species may be the most fragrant with a glorious, heavenly delicious, nasal intoxicating, oh so wonderfully sweet lilac perfume that will drift across your garden throughout many summer evenings. I hope I made my point clear with that excessively long sentence.

This species has several white, pink, purple, or red fringed or feathery, freaky-looking petals. Feel the need to be wild and crazy in your evening garden? Here is your chance by growing this flamboyant plant.

Famous British gardening expert Christopher Lloyd once stated he would never want to be without this plant in his gardens. In her book ***The Scented Garden***, Garden writer and author Rosemary Verey declared this plant as “... *the ultimate in perfection in garden scents...*” Wow! What better referrals can you ask for in hiring this plant to bloom in your garden?

The plants can grow to almost two feet tall but are bushy. Try to grow as many plants as possible (from seed) to perfume the entire garden.

Grow the seed grown variety called the “**White Rainbow Loveliness Strain**.” It wins my nomination for the outstanding perfume plant of the evening garden border. A British Dianthus breeder crossed the Dianthus species *superbus* and *barbatus* (Sweet Williams). The result was this unique ‘hybrid.’

It has the Sweet Williams’ multi-clustered bloom but with the *superbus* species’ flower shape and perfume. You get the best of both worlds in this plant. The scent is tooth decaying sweet — some clove, but more like lilac. They release this perfume in prodigious quantities and can drift in the summer evening air.

The feathery flowers will smother the bushy plant. One drawback is that it eventually creates many seeds that force the plant to stop making more flowers. After the main flush of bloom ends, just clip off the flower stems, making the plant produce more flowers a couple of weeks later. Obviously, this is a workhorse of a plant.

# Dictamnus – Gas Plant

## Dictamnus fraxinella



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### **How to make Fraxinella Flambé.**

I am now making an unusual detour from discussing which evening-blooming flowers you can enjoy in your garden. Here, I will describe a plant you can set on fire in the evenings. No, I am not crazy — maybe “off-center” like many other gardeners.

I should rephrase my wording. This plant may flash a bluish flame briefly when ignited by a match under specific and unusual conditions. A pertinent question is — how did someone discover this ability?

According to bizarre historical accounts, gardeners throughout the ages have occasionally witnessed certain aromatic plants sparkle or flash a bluish flame during the night. Later versions have some intrigued gardeners using matches to “speed the reaction along.” All these witnesses report the involved plants to release a strong floral perfume or have strong leaf scents.

One prime candidate for experimentation is *Dictamnus*. Saddled with common names of ‘Fraxinella,’ ‘Dittany,’ ‘Lemon Bush,’ and ‘Burning Bush,’ it is an old cottage garden favorite that was once very popular but now ignored. This is a sturdy growing plant with tall spikes of Alstroemeria-like deep rose-pink or white with deep green-veined flowers. Brushing against the plant releases a strong lemon or citrus aroma.

This scent is a volatile oil (gas) which, on warm, calm summer evenings, surrounds the plant, and a lit match near it will ignite the gas into a flash of blue flame. This flame is more flash than a bang, for it doesn’t harm the plant.

That’s the theory; in practice, it never worked for me. I do not consider myself that desperate for engaging in “botanical pyromania.” I am also worried the neighbors will call the police to report a shady character roaming around during the night, setting garden plants on fire. No-thank-you. I’ll just enjoy that lemony perfume and those beautiful flowers!

*Dictamnus* makes a good cut flower and is very hardy to zone 3. Plant it in full sunlight and well-drained, fertile soil for best growth.

Once planted and root-established, *Dictamnus* resents transplanting, so make sure you know where you permanently want it to grow. Just like Peonies, this plant can live for many years.

# Epiphyllum – Night-Blooming Cereus

## Epiphyllum oxypetalum



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**Wearing party hats, twirling noisemakers, and blowing horns are optional.**

I am reluctant to include this tropical cactus since it is not a candidate to include in your flower garden. This is strictly a houseplant having the luxury of spending the summer outside on your patio or deck. When discussing the subject of vespertine or nocturnal flowers, this huge-flowering plant is always in the spotlight.

Believe it or not, the tropical rainforests have cactus plants (technically called thornless orchid cacti). They grow in the nooks and crevices of

tree limbs, thriving in limited amounts of rotting vegetation “soil.”

They can be “almost easy” to grow if you follow the following recommended procedures:

- Plant them in soil-less potting soil but add additional drainage material.
- The potting medium needs to dry-out periodically, which naturally happens high-up in the trees. Constant wet soil will rot the roots.
- These plants need exposure to filtered sunlight or early morning sunlight. Intense afternoon sunlight or constant deep-shade will damage their large, flattened stems (masquerading as leaves.)
- The most essential requirements are constant warmth, high humidity, and periodic low doses of water-soluble fertilizer during the summer months.

The winter months are a different story:

- You must place these cacti indoors (to avoid cold and freezing temperatures.)
- A cool room temperature is ideal, and it will enjoy being near a bright window.
- The plant has to be on a low-water and no-food diet. The occasional — and I mean occasional — watering prevents constant dehydration and death. Here is where these plants share a similar problem with their desert cactus cousins.

Okay, let’s get to the critical aspect of night-time flowering. When large and old enough, and with previous summer and winter practices fulfilled, this cactus “may” bloom.

During the summer, you will see the beginnings of finger-like flower buds forming. As the weeks progress, they grow larger.

Then, during one early summer evening, the enlarged flower buds swell and slowly open. In my experience, the flower reaches maximum unfolding and super-size display by midnight. If you are not “wowed” by their dinner-plate-sized, multi-petaled, multi-stamen, and pearly

white flowers, — their magnificent, incredible, and fantastic perfume will.

The fragrance will increase to the point of smelling it yards away — your yard and all your neighbor's yard throughout the night.

Reports of people having garden parties highlighting the expected blooming happen occasionally. Now, don't scoff at this plan for how many times have you attended, or hosted, a New Year's Eve party? I am not sure of any countdown, but here, you can see the petals slowly unfold.

Don't expect these plants to produce a plethora of blossoms, making up the quantity with quality. Please expect one — possibly two — flowers opening on any particular summer evening. If you experience more — you are doing something right in growing this unique plant!

The question you are asking is, "*why are the flowers so large?*" A follow-up question is, "*why so much fragrance?*" The answer to both questions concerns what pollinates these blossoms. It's not moths, but tropical bats. Don't worry. Our small, native bats prefer to eat mosquitoes instead of flower nectar.

# **Gladiolus – Fragrant Gladiolus**

**Gladiolus callianthus murielae; Acidanthera  
murielae**



**Grow these for your neighborhood Roman Gladiator.**

Our commonly grown cut-flower Gladiolus looks stunning in late summer, with uncounted varieties flaunting all colors of the rainbow. But this behind-the-scenes East African species contributes to the “WOW factor” in any garden.

This species has the familiar names of Peacock Orchid, Sword Lily, Fragrant Glad, and Abyssinian Lily. I’d be “glad” if we could agree on a nickname, so let’s all call it the Fragrant Glad.

Like our common Glads, it forms long, sturdy, strap-like leaves, all ending in a point. This gives Gladiolus the “Roman Gladiator wielding a sword” associated name.

The flowers, though, are what really stand out in any garden setting. They are orchid-like, with bright white petals highlighted with dark purple throats. Their exceptional quality is to release a lovely lily, gardenia, jasmine, and clove blended perfume into the surrounding air beginning in late summer.

These plants are not actual “evening-bloomers,” for you can enjoy them and the fragrance during the day. Still, the scent intensifies by evening and even more so overnight.

Like all Gladiolus, this plant grows from corms or small bulbs. Outdoor cold soil prevents growth, so delay bed or border plantings until late spring — around the same time when planting tomatoes.

You can also plant the corms in large containers earlier in mid-spring to get a running start for earlier bloom. Later, you can move the containers anywhere you spend your mid to late summer evenings. The more corms you plant, the more glorious perfume you will enjoy.

The corms are hardy only in zones 9 to 10. The plants need to grow in full sunlight and well-drained, warm, fertile soil. Try to keep the soil moist — not soggy — to keep the plants healthy. Dig up the corms in late fall in colder locations and store in a cool, dry area.

For a very rare, expensive, and excessively fragrant hybrid of this species, purchase the variety called **Lucky Star**.

# Hemerocallis – Daylily

*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus or flava*



## **Close encounters of the odoriferous kind.**

Most *Hemerocallis* species came from the Far East and were cultivated for thousands of years. Hemerocallis, in Greek translation, means “day beauty” for each flower lasts only one day. Still, the overall bloom time can last several weeks.

There is a misconception that the “day” part means the flowers bloom during the day — which several present-day cultivars do — but many begin to bloom in the evenings.

These outstanding perennials will always be an essential member of any flower garden. Their heights are over four feet tall (with the flower

stalks) and grow well in full sun. They are hardy from zones 3 to 10.

The **Lemon Daylily** or **Custard Daylily** (*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus* or *flava*) was one of the first Chinese *Hemerocallis* species introduced to Europe during the 1500s. This Daylily has a strong, sweet perfume in the evening. It was one of the first daylilies introduced into Europe. Your dear old great-grandmother probably grew this in her garden. We can still find it growing wild near older homes.

Its four-inch blossoms are bright yellow and blooms earlier than most daylilies — early May and continue until mid-June. Although the flowers begin to bloom in the late afternoon, they release the perfume into the early evening air and into the night.

I must warn you about this very potent sweet perfume. I once cut a few flower stalks to enjoy the fragrance inside my house. As the evening wore on, the sweet aroma increased so much I had to take them outside. Their scent was so overwhelming that the rest of my family and I could not withstand a single minute more of them! This is my version of a pleasant public health warning! I recommend enjoying the beautiful yellow blossoms and that high-octane perfume only in your evening garden.

Over the years, there were discoveries of other evening and night-blooming daylily species, ripe for future hybridization. There are a considerable number of varieties now available (many found in specialty Daylily nurseries). Many do not have a fragrance but have beautiful light-colored to “off-white” blossoms.

# Hesperis – Dame's Rocket or Sweet Rocket

## Hesperis matronalis



**The flowers smell better than over-cooked broccoli.**

Contrary to what the common names suggest, this plant has nothing to do with space rockets. Rocket is an old name for mustard plants or its close relatives. This plant is in the same family as cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower.

It is a biennial, blooming from early spring to midsummer with purple or white flowers. Botanists classify it as a vespertine flowering plant,

meaning it blooms and releases a sweet lily-like perfume in the evening and night air.

Like so many other species grown over generations, *Hesperis* has many common nicknames. They are: Dame's Wort, Dame's Gilliflower, Damask Violet, or Dame's Violet, Night-scented Gilliflower, Mother-of-the-Evening, and heaven knows how many other "Dame's Whatever."

The Latin name *Hesperis* means "of-the-evening," and matronalis means "motherly." Somehow, it became negatively associated with Eve (as in the famous Adam and Eve couple who once lived in Paradise Acres). Seventeenth-century English herbalist Nicholas Culpeper called this plant "Eve's Weed." Shame on you, Nicholas.

Native to Europe and Asia, it is a flower garden escapee growing wild in many moist, partly shady roadside ditches and outside woodlands.

Although *Hesperis* will make beautiful and hardy garden plantings, it can produce many seeds (like all Cabbage Family relations.) It is ecologically invasive in several areas of North America and other continents.

This plant has spread so far and wide for some seed companies to include it in their wildflower seed mixes.

Hardy from zones 3 to 9, *Hesperis* thrives in part sun to full shade and prefers to grow in a moist, fertile, loamy soil. You can include it in your garden, but please clip off the seed-making stems.

# Hosta

## *Hosta plantaginea* and varieties



**This is an ideal “Made in China” product for your garden.**

The first mention of the Hosta plant was by Dutch traders touring Japan around 1712. Still, it took several years before Hostas became more well-known and appreciated to Western Europeans. It has taken a while, but Hosta is now one of the most popular perennials.

By 2004 there were about 1500 varieties and hybrids offered for sale or registered. Today? Who knows? Millions? It seems like it if you visit your nearest garden center.

One of the first Hostas species to come into general garden use was *Hosta plantaginea*. It originated in China and has large, glossy light

green foliage and the largest intensely white, fragrant flowers of any Hosta. It has a rapid growth rate, so a large clump will form within a few years after planting.

It is a large-leaf species blooming during the day, but towards evening and overnight, those waxy-white blossoms release their enchanting perfume. The flower stalk height is about three feet tall. The nickname of **Old August Lily** reflects the time it blooms in the Northern Hemisphere.

A recommended variety of this species to find and grow is **Royal Standard**, a mutation with large variegated leaves. Many garden centers offer this outstanding plant.

Another related variety, **Aphrodite**, discovered in China several years ago, is a double-flowered version and is one of the rarest and most sought-after of all Hostas. The large, double petals are pure white and also have a stunning Lily fragrance. It's unique, expensive, but beautiful both in sight and smell when it blooms. If you find it — latch on to it for your garden!

Most Hostas prefer growing in partial sunlight (morning sun is best) to shade. This species requires a little more sunlight to flower well. Many species and varieties enjoy growing in moist (but never soggy), well-drained, fertile soil and are hardy from zones 3 to 9.

# Ipomoea – Moonflower Vine

*Ipomoea alba bona-nox and Ipomoea muricata*



**Not everyone is a morning-person.**

This popular climbing annual, a cousin of the Morning-Glory vine, blooms from evening until morning with large, velvety white blossoms. Think of these blossoms as natural, solar-powered night lights. Gee, it's that what the moon is?

As the petals unfurl, they release a sweet, clove, or lily-like perfume into the warm summer night air. Morning shade helps to prolong blooming even into late morning. The perfect place for this beautiful vine is near a patio or deck where you can enjoy the perfume in the evenings.

Growing in sunlight and poor soil help to form more flowers than leaves. Having too fertile soil causes the plant to develop more stems and leaves instead of flowers. Put this vine on a low nitrogen diet to allow it to become a lean, mean, photosynthetic blooming machine.

The vines bloom in midsummer to the first frost and are easy to grow from white to creamy-brown, large seeds. They are common to find in many garden centers and catalogs.



Before going on to other evening-blooming flowers, prepare for a shock (which I experienced.) There is another Moonflower Vine — although not the same species as the above vine.

Botanists classify this plant as a Morning-glory, but it blooms at sunset and all night long until early morning. Its Latin name is *Ipomoea muricata* but has the confusing name of **Lavender Moonflower Vine**. For the sake of our sanity, let's call it the fantastic Evening-glory Vine.

When blooming, the flowers look like any Morning-glory — except they flower before sunset. When morning arrives, the petals fold up.

One perplexing question arises concerning the flower color. It is pale lavender — not purple or blue — but can quickly become lost in the darkness compared to the Moonflower vine's white-brightness.

Is there any fragrance emanating from these flowers? My nose doesn't detect any smelly molecule. It would be even more outstanding if it did.



To complicate matters, the vines themselves are “strange.” They sprout short, semi-hard, white spines all along their length. These spines are pliable and will bend if forced by your fingers. Still, the tips have a partial sharpness — not painful but noticeable. By the process of evolution, the vine is losing its spiky appearance or gaining the ability to defend itself.

This vine is an enigma and is unusual. It needs to grow in your garden — unfortunately, the large seeds are rare to find. Try an internet search for locating and getting this fascinating vine.

# Lilium – Lily

## *Lilium regale alba and Lilium orientalis*



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### **Here's looking at you kid.**

No garden is complete without the beauty, grace, and wonder of a Lily. We are all accustomed to the traditional Easter Lily (*Lilium longiflorum*). Still, there is a vast world of other lilies you will love to have in your garden.

For daylight enjoyment, there are plenty of colorful and fragrant selections. The trouble is what to plant for an evening garden. The answer is any white or yellow-based variety — especially those that exude a wafting and alluring perfume in the night air.

An always popular lily to bloom in your midsummer border is the **Trumpet Lily** (*Lilium regale*), shown above. This lily resembles an Easter Lily but has a pinkish tinge outside the large flaring petals. *Lilium regale alba* is the pure white variation having the same golden-yellow throat and vivid orangish-red anthers.

Well-grown bulbs can have up to 20 or more flowers on five or six-foot leafy stems. Although they bloom and release a stunningly sweet perfume during the day, it is in the evenings and overnight they are perfect. They almost glow in available light and saturate the entire garden with an even more intense fragrance.

Most lilies (like this one) prefer to grow in a sunny location with moist but well-drained, fertile soil. This species is hardy from zones 4 to 9.



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Your best bet lily to grow in your garden — especially for evening enjoyment — is by choosing the **Oriental Lilies** (*Lilium orientalis*).

The following two examples can grow as tall as eight feet after at least three years. The size of their blooms can range from hand to dinner plate diameter. They are hardy from zones 4 to 9.

Like most garden lilies, they prefer to grow in full to part sun and fertile, well-drained soil. If the garden experiences windy conditions, tie the stems to a support pole to prevent breakage. It's worth the trouble to do this action.

As usual for the evening and nighttime enjoyment, choose the pure white to yellow varieties. One stunning choice for a white variety is **Casa Blanca** (or **Casablanca** for you classic movie buffs), shown above. It has silky white petals with a hint of yellow stripes with the stamens being vivid brick red. Its mesmerizing perfume will seduce you for many summer evenings.



Another “I’ve got to grow this amazing lily” for your garden should be a giant — one you will look up to. Called **Conca d’Or** (shown above), it needs to be in every garden.

When viewing this lily, I have to look up while gorgeous eight to nine-inch diameter blossoms look down at me. One added benefit to having lilies at this altitude is the fragrance is closer to our noses, without having to stoop over. It has enormous — and I mean huge — blossoms! They are white with an interior of bright lemon yellow. Like the above **Casablanca** variety, the anthers have a brilliant brick-red color.

# Lonicera – Honeysuckle

## *Lonicera japonica* and *Lonicera heckrottii*



**Next time I'll wear my pants.**

Not all Honeysuckle shrubs and vines are fragrant, but those listed here are. They bloom throughout the summer and release their fragrance beginning in the evening and throughout the night. Grow these plants in full sunlight to partial shade. Hardiness for most species is from zones 4 to 9.

What should you grow? First, try **Hall's French Supreme Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera japonica hybrida*). Although this may sound like a new type of French salad dressing, it is a beautiful shrub-vine. This variety offers enormous improvements over the regular *Hall's*

*Honeysuckle* that has become a fast-spreading “weed” in parts of many countries. If all weeds were like this plant, I don’t think we would complain about them. Well, some people would, but not me.

Breeders developed this new hybrid in France. It offers more abundant and longer blooming super-duper sweet blossoms than the typical *Hall’s Honeysuckle*. The flowers change from pure white when young to dark yellow when old. The vines produce an abundant amount of bloom for a couple weeks, then it will rest and then repeat the process all summer and even into the fall. The leaves are evergreen in most warmer areas.

My most vivid memory of this honeysuckle species is from a long past summer after an all-day rain. That evening, when the air was so warm and humid with earthy dampness, hundreds of these blossoms released their lily-like perfume into the air.

Eventually, due to an open window and a house fan (for the house did not have an air conditioner unit), the entire house smelled of this divine bouquet. What a way to put you to sleep! It was challenging to do so if I remember correctly because the bedroom air was thick with this sweet aroma. Waves of this scent were wafted both inside and outside of the house from all those white blossoms.

Floral nightlife has its unique charms and seductive demeanor. If you need a fast-growing climber for any fence, arbor, trellis, or any other sturdy support, this is the best climbing shrub.

Check your local agricultural laws before purchasing and planting this honeysuckle, for it can be invasive.



Another honeysuckle to grow is **Gold Flame** (*Lonicera heckrottii*). It is hardy from zones 4 to 9. This magnificent, woody vine blooms most of the summer and into the fall. The large blossoms are red-pink on the outside, and the interiors are white or yellow, depending on the flowers' age. White is for the young blossoms, and the yellow signifies an old or a pollinated flower. These blossoms release a very potent and enjoyable, sweet perfume into the evening and night air. The fragrance gets stronger and stronger during the night.

Once upon a time, at 2:00 am one summer morning, after experiencing a severe thunderstorm, I went outside checking for any damage (yes, in my short jammies — with a flashlight — how startling.) While surveying the house, a powerfully sweet perfume overwhelmed me coming from this vine. If you have nothing better to do at 2:00 am, this is an excellent time to inhale this fragrance.

As a vigorous climber, these flowers attract hummingbirds during the day. Grow this vine in full to part sunlight for best blooming.

# Matthiola – Stocks

## Matthiola longipetala bicornis



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### **It's a buyer's market for this stock.**

Some people have stock in the perfume industry. As a gardener, you should take Stock in providing plenty of fragrance in your evening garden.

One recommended species specifically for nocturnal gardens is the **Evening Scented Stock** (*Matthiola longipetala bicornis*). This little annual is a deceiver; it looks rather ugly during the day with horrible-looking limp, droopy flowers. By early evening, they slowly open, reanimating with satiny petals of pale lavender blue.

These blossoms release a potent sweet perfume in the entire plant kingdom. That may sound like a big boast, but few people have argued with that fact. If you plant it near an open window, the heavenly scent might keep you awake. The plants look borderline weedy growing to a foot or two tall but also become bushy.

This Stock is native to Europe (now reported to be very rare in the wild) and has been a favorite for generations of gardeners. Strangely, not that common to find — even in seed stores or catalogs.

Sow seeds outdoors, but you can raise it in pots, but transplanted very carefully to not damage the roots. Occasionally cut back the spent flower stalks to promote new blooms. Grow in full sun to partial shade in rich but well-drained soil.

## Mirabilis – Four O'Clock

*Mirabilis jalapa and Mirabilis longiflora*



### **Just in time to bloom for Afternoon Tea.**

The other name for these flowers is “Marvel of Peru,” for they originate in this region of South America. An old-fashion garden would not be complete without these delightful, colorful, and wonderfully scented flowers.

Do they bloom at four o'clock? If they get sunny conditions, they wait until the evening to bloom. Still, if grown in partly shaded areas, they bloom late in the afternoon. One thing is for sure — don't set your watch by them.

The plants can grow over two feet tall, are bushy, and are covered with hundreds of white, yellow, red, and multicolored flowers over the summer. For evening garden enjoyment, grow the white or yellow-flowered selections. The sweet, citrus perfume from all those flowers in the evening air will be heavenly!

It can be a perennial in zones 8 to 10 if protected from frozen or soggy winter soil. Each plant can regrow from the thick, woody taproot or tuber. You can dig these up before winter and store in damp peat moss. Replant them in the spring after the last frost, or get a head start by allowing them to begin their new growth in containers inside your house. By summer, they will be more extensive with thousands of blossoms.



A rare species of Four O'clock is *Mirabilis longiflora* (shown above.) The common name for this unique plant is **Angels' Trumpets**, but don't confuse them with *Brugmansia* (described earlier.)

A reason for this beautiful name refers to the extraordinary length of the tubular, white flowers — a whopping six-inches-long. Each plant can grow to almost two feet tall and is bushy with hundreds of them. The stamen filaments have a stunning color of purple, ending with yellow pollen dotted anthers.

The blossoms bloom all summer and into the fall, releasing a beautiful, sweet jasmine-like perfume into the evening air. Enjoying your garden in warm summer evenings and nights with this scent is a match made in heaven.

# Nicotiana – Flowering Tobacco

## *Nicotiana alata* and *Nicotiana sylvestris*



**Their fragrance is better smelling than second-hand smoke.**

When first introduced to Europe from the New World, people considered tobacco plants a foul-smelling health hazard. Some people became addicted to smoking the leaves — a practice early explorers learned from the native South American Indian tribes. Thus, a new profitable habit-forming commodity was born. Future generations never learned — or cared — to heed the advice of avoiding these plants.

Other than smoke blowing out from noses and mouths, what got people's additional attention were those tobacco species having

fragrant flowers.

To enjoy tobacco's mental health benefits, grow the following annual species for their addictive evening fragrance. One excellent variety is **Fragrant Cloud** (*Nicotiana alata*). This one is essential for any fragrance garden for the myriads of pure white flowers that emit an addictive jasmine-like perfume into the summer evening air. This three to five-foot-tall species is bushy, providing a plethora of tubular, star-shaped, white blossoms most of the summer.

Another species/variety is **Only the Lonely** (*Nicotiana sylvestris*). I guess someone was listening to the Ray Orbison song when trying to come up with a name. This species is the towering chandelier-like variety that always draws in curious non-gardeners. It grows tall with clusters of pure white flowers that hang or dangle downward. They produce a sweet perfume that spreads for yards and yards (as in your yard and your neighbor's yard.)

These two species are native to southern Brazil and northern Argentina. If you have this nagging thought of these flowers having a passing resemblance to Petunias, you are correct. At first, early botanists and gardeners grouped both types of plants together. Later genetic research separated them into their own genera.

The above *Nicotiana* plants open their blossoms toward evening and overnight. Newer, compact hybrids (mixed with other species) have extended their flowering into the daytime with the addition of a variety of colors. Unfortunately, when "excessive genetic tinkering" occurs, fragrance gets kicked out of existence.

Grow these plants in as much sunlight as possible and fertile, well-drained soil. Avoid adding too much fertilizer if you want more flowers than the large leaves — unless you are the neighborhood tobacco farmer.

# Oenothera – Evening Primrose

*Oenothera odorata, pallida, glazioviana*



**Watching the flowers slowly open is truly magical.**

Evening Primroses are not related to the true springtime flowering Primroses. Why named for them is anyone's guess, for the blossoms don't look like primroses. No matter, it's another example of amateur botanical misidentification.

Native throughout North America, *Oenothera* has an affinity to grow in disturbed ground — such as abandoned fields, roadsides, drainage ditches, vacant lots, and other less than ideal locations. In fertile garden soil, it will grow and bloom exceptionally well.

These plants produce many bright yellow, four-petal scented flowers on six-foot-tall-plus branching stalks from early to late summer. Each blossom lasts one or two nights, but more follows each succeeding evening. Although not a contender in “best in show” of garden plants, a stalk of spent flowers loses its attractive appeal. Still, the individual blossoms are lovely.

Some *Oenothera* species bloom only during the day, while others wait until the evening and overnight. It is these night bloomers that have a sweet perfume, enjoyable for all us night critters. You can enjoy the sight of these flowers with the help of a flashlight (or torch) while perusing your garden. Your neighbors may become startled (if not panicky), but they and the subsequent arrival of police officers will eventually understand that we gardeners are peculiar people.

A few recommended varieties to grow in the garden include **Fragrant Delight** (*Oenothera odorata*), having a delightful blend of large, yellow-pink-orange flowers. All colors are present, just like a sunset, releasing a gorgeous honeysuckle-lemon perfume into the air. Oh, what a pleasure to smell these blossoms on warm summer evenings!

This plant grows upward over two feet tall and then plops over onto the ground. From there, it makes numerous side branches and shoots, which extend upward and form many other flower spikes. This variety blooms all summer.

Another evening blooming species/variety is **Innocence** (*Oenothera pallida*). It is perennial in warmer locations (Zones 7 to 10). We should consider it an annual for colder areas. This stunning variety forms HUGE, white flowers with a yellow center. As the blossoms age overnight, they turn light pink!

The perfume they exude is incredible — a mixture of honeysuckle and lemon. The plants are low growing but become bushy, covered with these large blossoms during the entire summer.

Forget about watching television show reruns during summer evenings, for the best show to watch is here in your garden. The star of “*The*

*Evening Primrose Show*” belongs to **Tina James’s Magical Evening Primrose** (*Oenothera glazioviana*), shown above.

Years ago, a garden writer by the name of Tina James popularized this very delightful plant. According to rumor, she hosted Evening Primrose parties showcasing its beautiful flowers.

In the evening, the large, yellow blossoms slowly open (like in time-lapse photography) right before your eyes. I watched the flowers open at 8:30 pm, and ten minutes later, they were fully open. No fooling! The blossoms exude a bedazzling lemon, lily and honeysuckle blended perfume.

When I owned and operated my mail-order flower nursery, I received an email from a customer, “*Gail in Arkansas*,” who wrote about her unusual experience with this plant. Here is what she wrote:

*“I ordered several things from you in the spring of 2001, one of them being the plant mentioned above. This past summer, it was the hit of my garden. Even non-gardeners would come and gather around the plant to watch its magical openings. I’m sure that many people who drove by were thinking we were performing some sort of black magic ritual gathered around this plant every evening at the same time. Blooming here in my NW Arkansas garden would begin at approximately 8:50 pm, and the show would last until around 9:10 pm. This summer, it was three feet high and the highest flower count for one evening show was 67 blooms.”*

Each plant grows to four feet tall with hundreds of flowers over the summer, so plan a rowdy garden party each evening. Your neighbors won’t mind, will they? They may think you are crazy (hardcore gardeners usually are) staring at these plants each evening. You may as well invite the previously mentioned police officers to the party if the excitement becomes too intense. Hey, more the merrier!

Seeds are scarce to locate, but they are “out there — somewhere,” so your best bet is to use an internet search. Please note, this plant is a biennial — growing the first year, then blooms the next. It self-seeds,

but sow their seeds each spring to establish flowering plants for next year's summer displays.

All these plants grow well in sunlight to part shade and fertile, well-drained soil. Most species are hardy from zones 4 to 9.

Garden centers may not offer potted plants, but seeds may be available in wildflower catalogs.

# Petunia

## *Petunia axillaris*



**Glue enough petals together and make a sturdy umbrella.**

Petunias surprise many gardeners for it belongs in the nightshade family, such as tomatoes, where their closest cousin is *Nicotiana* (Tobacco). When first discovered in northern Argentina in the mid-1800s, botanists thought of them as miniature tobacco plants with unusually large flowers. They became overlooked since big-leaf tobacco was the prime focus not for garden enjoyment but for habit-forming smoking.

It wasn't until later when botanists thought they looked "pretty" and may be valuable for unusual flower garden displays. They were right —

for a while — until interest waned. Other newly discovered flowers became the highlight for inclusion in beds and borders.

It was not until the early 1900s when petunias had a resurgence in popularity. Botanists discovered other species, which allowed for the development of hybrid variations. Well, go to your nearest garden center and see the recent results.

A recommended variety to grow is **Rain Master** (*Petunia axillaris*.) This is the wild petunia species from Argentina, but with an added catchy name. This name suggests the white petals are unaffected by petal-damaging torrential rains, unlike some modern, large-petal varieties. This is a day-blooming annual but provides bright-as-headlights white flowers wafting an alluring jasmine-like fragrance for your evening enjoyment.

This wild petunia is one of the original parent species. Breeders used it to create all the hundreds (well, let's say millions to be on the safe side) of *Petunia* varieties for our gardens. It also is the genetic contributor to the pleasant fragrance for some of our modern varieties. Let's go wild and grow this perfumed pampas beauty!

Grow all petunias in plenty of sunlight and fertile soil. They make excellent container subjects to place anywhere you want to enjoy the perfume. Breeders finally recognize that *Petunias* have a fragrance and make strides to create new varieties, having brilliant color and distinctive scent — even during the day.

# Polianthes – Tuberose

## Polianthes tuberosa



**The Sun King made Versailles visitors nauseous.**

From Mexico comes this delightfully fragrant plant grown from a bulb or thickened tuber. From midsummer until a frost, a spike of medium-sized, single to double, waxy, rosebud-like flowers open in the warm evening air. They release one of nature's most potent, syrupy-sweet perfumes — like that of gardenia, hyacinth, lily, and jasmine combined.

A long time ago, funeral directors would intermix floral displays with these flowers. The reason was to help mask the odor of — you know... the dear departed. Well, it eventually lost its popularity. You don't want someone to mention your garden smells like a funeral home. Ultimately

(and with better techniques to preserve a dead body), this plant regained its acceptance in being added to garden displays.

One other little-known fact is King Louis XIV of France had hundreds planted in the Grand Trianon's flower beds at Versailles. Each evening and through the night, their combined fragrance was so overpowering it made people ill. Many people learned to flee the area before sunset. According to the letter written by Madame de Maintenon, on August 8, 1689, she states: *"We have to leave the Trianon each evening on account of the tuberose; men and women alike find themselves overwhelmed by the power of their aromas."*

Well, if you want to "get even" with your horrible neighbor, here is one unique way of doing so!

This plant grows well in a sunny location, in well-drained, fertile soil, and makes an excellent container subject. This is especially important for northern growers to help coax the bulbs to bloom earlier. Tuberose is sensitive to cold temperatures; they like it hot. They are garden-hardy only to zones 8 to 10.

Two forms are available — the single or the double petal flowers. Both types have beautiful perfume, but the single-flowered variety blooms earlier. If raised in a container, allow the soil to dry over winter. By spring, resume watering (with a top dressing of fertile potting soil) and keep the pot in a warm, well-lit area. Wait until all threats of frost are past to place the container outside near to where you will spend your summer evenings.

# Saponaria – Soapwort

## *Saponaria officinalis*



**Now, all we need is an organic fabric softener.**

What a strange name for an incredible plant! This European wildflower has a muddled history as far back to Medieval days or even earlier. Related to the *Dianthus* or Carnation family, this hardy perennial is a terrific bloomer from mid to late summer until a killing frost.

Clustered together, the single or double flowers are rosy pink or snow white. They have an excellent grape soda or Concord grape perfume. Yes, it is not a true evening-bloomer, but these flowers are more strongly fragrant at night.

Another fascinating feature is the leaves make soap suds when you crush and rub them with your hands in water. The Latin name of 'saponaria' means 'relating to soap' or 'soap making.' Museums did (and some still do) use the leaves to produce soap suds for washing delicate or irreplaceable fabric material. If you need a quick hand-wash, pluck a few leaves, crunch them up, add a little water, and presto — instant hand soap.

The plants slowly spread and grow to over two feet tall, thriving in the sunshine to partial shade and fertile, well-drained soil. They are exceptionally hardy from zones 3 to 9.

Saponaria still keeps its wildflower heritage by being invasive but not too aggressive. It tolerates dry soil conditions and has few insects or disease problems. No wonder, for the bugs don't want soap in their little mouths!

A recommended variety (which is the species only dressed-up) has double-petaled white flowers, shown above. It cannot form seeds, so you have to propagate it by cuttings. The magnified grape fragrance is because of the extra set of petals. It is rare to find.

Overall, it is a plant worth finding and growing!

# Silene – Night Flowering Catchfly

## *Silene noctiflora*



**Its two unusual nicknames may be interpreted wrong.**

This English wildflower (a relation in the *Dianthus* or Carnation family) became naturalized in many areas. Because of this “squatter’s rights” habit, we usually consider it a weed. As weeds go, let’s view this as more desirable than undesirable plant for inhabiting our gardens.

Although classified as an annual, it can be a perennial in warmer areas.

The name of Catchfly refers to the adhesive properties of the stems and leaves. The little hairs on them, botanically called trichomes, exude a sticky substance that repels or traps little bugs like aphids, whitefly, and other wee beasts to their death.

To make matters worse, Catchfly has, in some locations, nicknames of “clammy cockle” or “sticky cockle.” Don’t get me started on those semi-controversial names. I can’t stop laughing!

The small flowers are pure white and release a powerful but sweet perfume into the evening and night air for most of the summer. Clip off the spent flower stalks to encourage more bloom and to prevent excess seed production. They grow over two feet tall but become bushy.

My above photo does not give its beauty justice. I took it in the morning when all the petals were drooping. Well, we don’t look our best in the morning after a wild night of killing little bugs, do we?

Seeds are difficult to come by since this can be a troublesome weed in some areas.

# Yucca – Adam’s Needle and Spanish Bayonet

*Yucca filamentosa*



**Naked and embarrassed Adam, allegedly made a tool out of these leaves to sew fig leaves together.**

Here is a plant that may cause confusion for any first-time and experienced gardener. You may think it is a perennial, but botanists classify it as a stemless evergreen shrub. Its succulent, sword-like, sharp-pointed leaves emerge from the ground as a rosette.

The whole plant looks impressive — which it is when blooming — but otherwise not. Year after year, it displays only those thick, fibrous

leaves.

Many gardeners always complain that their Yucca plants never bloom. The best word of advice is to have patience. They will bloom — eventually. The flower spikes can reach three or four feet tall.

The numerous bell-shaped flowers are creamy-white to light sea green. They dangle downward during the day, but by evening, they overcome their shyness and extend upward. Now, they release a sweet, penetrating fragrance — similar to a lily — to attract a specific species of pollinating moth.

If you must grow Yucca, be aware it comes with precautions. This plant thrives in hot, sunny locations and can easily tolerate dry soil for extended periods. Constant wet soil, especially during the winter, is a death sentence. Don't bother planting them in mostly clay soil, for it can become a quagmire during the winter in most locations.

All Yucca species slowly mature to become bloom-ready. As with many perennials, we must realize that producing several flowers and seeds takes enormous energy from a plant. Once you see a mature Yucca with its massive flowering inflorescence, you will understand why it waited so long to bloom.

# Zaluzianskya – Night Phlox

## Zaluzianskya capensis



**If snowflakes had a scent, this would be it.**

This annual is not a true relation of the Phlox plants but related to, of all things, the common Snapdragon. It is native to South Africa and named in honor of Dr. Adam Zaluziansky von Zaluzian of Prague back in 1592. He was a physician but also dabbled in all things botanical. Let's call him Doc Adam, for trying to pronounce his name can cause your tongue to have seizures.

This plant is small (about one to two feet tall) with rosemary or spruce needle-like leaves and many small flower spikes. These blossoms are tubular shaped with bright white, feathery, or snowflake-shaped petals,

with the undersides being brick red. They remain closed during the day, but they slowly open to release a strange, exotic perfume once evening arrives.

To describe this perfume is difficult, but I'll try. The blossoms smell tangy, sharp, very sweet, but with an added zest of acidity. It is seductive yet powerful, but oh-so-delightful. I refer to it as a 'sweet and sour' perfume.

Beware, for it will keep you awake at night if you plant a bed of these flowers outside your bedroom window, for the scent is very potent.

You can pick a cluster of flowers, bring them inside for the evening, and then after a couple hours, you may wish (or demand) to delegate them outside again. The fragrance is exquisite but overly produced and can smell a room in no time, especially a bedroom. Here, the scent will send you off to a night of blissfully sleeping or subject you to being always awake, possibly to the point of nausea. You don't need all that sleep, do you?

It is better to plant it where you will spend your evenings and allow the night air to spread this delightful perfume all over your garden. It is best here — among the Nicotiana, Petunias, Moonflowers, and moonlight.

Only one variety is available and called **Midnight Candy**. It is easy to grow, but sow many seeds to provide plenty of perfume for the summer. This plant prefers full sunlight to part shade in beds or containers. Northern gardeners need to plant the seeds early indoors to get maximum blooming for the summer.

## Conclusion



**Let your garden enlighten you to the beauty of the night.**

Many people work from morning to late afternoon and have limited time to enjoy a colorful garden. By evening, what was brightly colorful by daylight, floral colors have now darkened with the sky.

Base your gardening pleasure on your lifestyle, work schedules, and personal preferences. Create your own unique evening garden by growing the above plants, including many non-fragrant flowers and variegated leaf selections.

No matter which season, make sure to plant white or pale-yellow annuals, perennials, shrubs, and flowering bulbs in your beds or borders. These flowers reflect whatever evening light (moonlight, house lights, or decorative lighting) to brighten small garden areas.

Many of the above plants grow well in full to partial sunlight, either in a bed or border. If you have a patio or deck, you can easily move about container-grown plants. Surround yourself with these flowers while tranquilizing in a comfortable chair.

No matter what you plant in your evening garden or in containers, gaze at the ultimate grandeur of the universe above you. Let your mind become at-ease while relaxing with your evening flowers before bedtime.

Those sweet-scented flowers will nourish your sweet dreams throughout the night.

# Thank you for reading this ebook.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this ebook about evening and nighttime blooming garden flowers.

As noted in the preface, readers who purchased my previous ebooks, collectively entitled ***The Scent of Your Garden***, will notice some plants described there are in this ebook. I dislike repeating information word-for-word in my ebooks. Here, I added additional information and restructured my older works for better clarity and syntax.

Please visit my author website of <https://gedwinvarner.com> concerning my other gardening ebooks and contact information.

# About the Author

G. Edwin Varner grew up on a farm helping his father in the crop fields and assisting his mother in the flower and vegetable gardens. This early experience and learning led him to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with a minor in Botany.

For twenty years he successfully owned and operated a fragrant flower mail-order nursery. Unlike most mail-order nurseries publishing colorful but expensive pictorial catalogs, his frugal catalog extensively described the flowers he grew. He once said, "I write a thousand words worth a picture in my catalogs." Today, he has the same style of writing (thankfully with fewer words) through a variety of enjoyable and informative ebooks. This time, the ebooks include color photos of each flower.

He encourages you to cultivate something unique and beautiful in your gardens. His motto is "read about it, see it, grow it, and enjoy it!"

G. Edwin Varner lives in a rural area of northeastern Ohio, USA.