

Postcards From Plants

Advice for Garden Makers and Houseplant People



A Talk By C.L. Fornari

Welcome Home!

Nature is your best garden coach.

No such thing as “bad soil.”

New USDA Zone map is about winter hardiness.

Stop using the phrase “out of control!” Plants are just growing according to genetics.

Welcome to Style!

Different strokes for different folks...there is no one right way.

Make your own plant playlist of what you want your plants to do.

Rethinking foundation plantings...fires? No plants by the house.

Who says red doesn't go with pink?

Greetings From Perennials

It's a kaleidoscope...the point of perennials is *change*.

Consider the foliage as well as the flowers. Leaves are there before and after.

Plants that spread quickly are more work. You've been warned.

Welcome to Container Gardening

Always use a pot with a drainage hole – never cover it up.

Winter container plants need to be hardy two zones colder.

Raise pots up for better drainage and avoiding rot.

The Green Man's Container Recipe

Greetings From Tropical Plants

We're all about the foliage...consider the back lighting.

We're all about heat. Avoid temps below 50° F.

Welcome to Houseplant High

Get down and dirty: feel the soil to know if it's dry.

Don't be afraid to cut tall plants down and root the tops.

Send us to summer camp!

Greetings From The Vegetable Garden

Don't start seeds indoors too early.

Planting in "hills" doesn't mean on mounds of soil.

Pick vegetables frequently to encourage more to grow.

Greetings From the Cutting Garden

Plant a variety of annuals and perennials for cut flowers.

Don't overlook green flowers...they make a bouquet sing.

Many cutting flowers good for bees and butterflies as well. Zinnas & Phlox!

Welcome to the Herb Garden

Grow herbs close to your kitchen door.

Watch for self-seeders, such as dill and cilantro.

Deadhead chives so they don't take over.

The Route To Roses

Rosa is the diva of the plant world. She want's better lighting, snacks & an entourage.

Not every disease needs to be treated...blackspot and mildew, for example.

Shrub roses renovate well by cutting them down in the spring.

Welcome to Hydrangeas

Start with the ultimate size of the plant...don't fight the height!

Growing blue hydrangeas in containers.

Drying Hydrangea flowers - most dry by putting them in a vase without water.

Greetings From Seeds

The seed packet is your best friend. Good seed companies have all you need to know.

Forget starting seeds in eggshells...they are too small to grow vigorous plants.

The seed leaves of many plants look just the same...wait for true leaves to id the plant.

Don't Panic!

Give up on perfection, and don't make an enemy of insects and animals.

There's always an acceptable level of damage.

Leaf spot is usually a cosmetic problem.

Welcome to Weeds!

Weed seeds can be viable for years and years....no such thing as a weed-free garden.

Some native weeds are important for insect and wildlife support.

For control, consider cup of coffee, glass of wine weeding.

Enjoy the journey, grow great things, be creative, and when you encounter something wonderful...send postcards to others.

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This talk is based on a book I'm writing, titled Postcards from Plants. All of the illustrations have been created in Photoshop with photographs I have taken.