

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL GARDEN
Interview with CPVGC Member Lo Juana Davis
by Kim Watson and Kathy Dennis

LoJuana Davis has always had a garden to envy. Her flowers are amazing, and everyone enjoys strolling through her gardens! Here are a few questions we asked LoJuana concerning her gardens:

How do you prepare your beds?

LoJuana said if it is a new flower bed, she would recommend placing the sprinklers on the edge of the bed, spraying in, with tall heads, rather than having the sprinklers inside the beds. She said she works both “Eko” compost, and peat moss into the soil. You can do this in the fall and/or the spring. LoJuana said she also spades up the soil around her perennials, mixing in the compost and the peat moss, rather than just sprinkling them on the top of the soil. In her vegetable garden, LoJuana uses sheep or cow manure, which is available at nurseries.

When do you plant? LoJuana usually plants her dahlia tubers around the end of April. Those were the tall dahlias towards the back of her garden. She plants perennials about the same time, when they show up in nurseries. About May 15-20th LoJuana plants her annuals – for example petunias, blue and red salvia, and marigolds (she likes “Inca Marigolds #2). The smaller dahlias LoJuana grew were seed dahlias. She likes Connell’s dahlia catalogue from Tacoma, Washington. Their website is www.connells-dahlia.com. LoJuana also planted gladiolus around her vegetable garden, from bulbs. She has had success digging up her dahlia bulbs, after the first hard freeze. Then she stores them in a cool dry place, that doesn’t freeze.

What do you fertilize? LoJuana fertilizes her roses with Bayer’s



Fertilizer, and her tomatoes with Miracle Grow Tomato Fertilizer.

What do you use to help control weeds?

LoJuana uses grass clippings as mulch anywhere there is bare ground. In addition to help controlling weeds, it helps to keep the soil moist.

How do you “take care of” varmints that want to eat your plants?

LoJuana uses “Plantskydd” to keep deer, elk, squirrels, rabbits and voles out of her gardens. Also see the article titled “Two Effective Wildlife Deterrents on this website. LoJuana also uses “Clark’s Tree Wrap” listed in that article. In addition, LoJuana uses mouse traps to catch voles - those critters that tunnel through the yard, eating the roots of the grass and thus killing the grass! On occasion LoJuana has set rat traps laced with peanut butter to catch the big pack rats.

Which flowers did you have in your garden this year?

Some of the flowers that LoJuana grew this season included: dahlias, marigolds, angel trumpet (“datura”), petunias, four o’clock, nicotianas, snap dragons, gladiolus, larkspur, salvia, lilies, and delphiniums.

What type of plants did you have in your vegetable garden?

LoJuana grew strawberries, rhubarb, spinach, lettuce, beets, carrots, eggplant, green pepper, green beans, tomatoes, zucchini, yellow squash, onions, parsley, thyme and rosemary.