

GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE

Gardening is not for the faint of heart but persevere and you'll want to spend all your time in it!



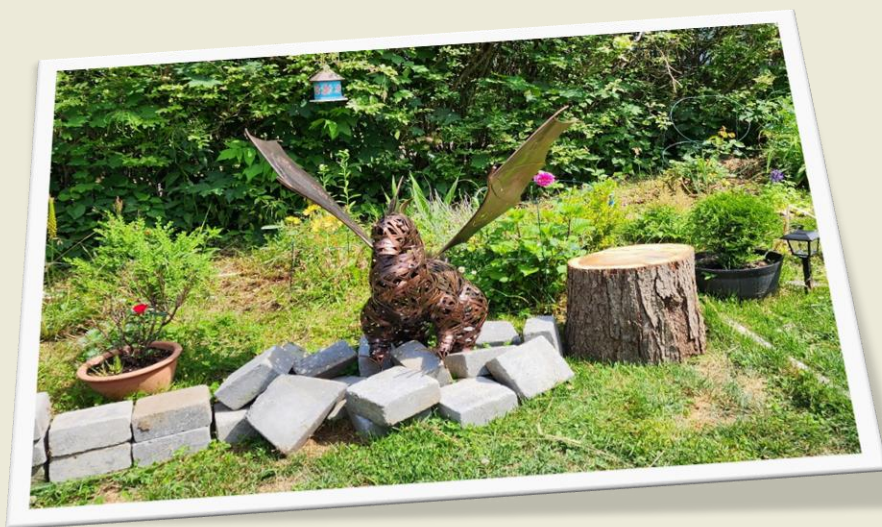
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This summer has been pretty hot and humid! Keeping the plants hydrated and vibrant has really been a struggle! One thing I did that has helped is to water the entire garden early in the morning, before the sun goes up and then again in the late afternoon after the sun has started to go down. If you water in the middle of the day, the leaves of the plants will burn, and you stand to potentially kill it.

Lauren's Landscape Escapades!

I've been working (or trying to) work on my hardscaping this year. With the heat, it's been a challenge. I finally got my dragon put together and set out. To make it look more realistic, I messily put some stones around the bottom of it (to also help with wind issues) and then a mini "wall" about three feet long. So, it gives the appearance that he landed on the wall and knocked part of it down! Then I added a big tree stump next to it to sit on and be able to view the gardens in the back yard.



News from the garden

By Lauren M.

This month's flower talk is on [gladiolus](#). Last fall I planted some sporadically here and there in the garden. I bought the variety pack so was not sure what colors would appear where. So far, I have been pleasantly surprised by how well the color coordination is going. I have white ones blooming by the soft white trellis roses; I have purple and pinks by the salvia and the champagne-colored roses, and a bright pink by the green hydrangeas. I still have a few waiting to bloom, and I am hoping one of them will be a yellow one. I did notice that the ones over by the dragon appear to be orange. So that should be complimentary with the copper of the dragon!



A lot of people cut their glads and stick them in a vase. I leave mine untouched, because I have a lot of people who are walking their dogs or taking strolls with their loved ones, and they enjoy looking at the blooms as much as I do! Plus, in addition to seeing all the colors they can smell all the scents of the garden.

I consciously tried to plant things so that when one plant dies down, another is blooming in its place. The glads though are just a treat to give a much needed pop of color and beauty to the dry summer heat. So while the grass may be turning yellow and burnt, and the weaker blooms drooping, the glads are perky and colorful. I plan to find some yellow ones and plant them this fall to correspond with the yellow roses and the daylillies I planted last year.

For those of you who are thinking you now want to plant some glads in your garden, the link above is a good place to start. Here are a few other external sites I found that may also be useful! Until next time—Happy Gardening!!

Website Resources: (All links link to external websites)

- [22 Types of Gladiolus Flowers \(w/Pictures & Names\)](#)
- [How to Grow Gladioli: The Complete Gladiolus Flower Guide](#)
- [How to Plant, Grow and Care for Gladiolus](#)
- [How to Grow Gladiolus - Harvest to Table](#)
- [Gladiolus // How to Plant, Grow, Harvest, and Store Gladiolus Corms// Northlawn Flower Farm \(video\)](#)