



Green Is the Word

Our 2018 panel of garden experts casts its vote for verdant oases



Layers Of Color
Plumbago, shown here in a Penroyer Newman pot (THIS IMAGE), can take the Hamptons heat and stands out against a vivid green backdrop. (BOTTOM) Quincy Hammond juxtaposed clipped privet and box hedges against an allée of London plane trees.

This summer, *HC&G*'s 2018 panel of garden experts will be weighing in on everything from their favorite native plants to poolside garden design to veggie patches. In this first installment, they discuss the importance of color in the garden—although it's no surprise that the consensus is green, green, and more green.

HC&G: What plants do you lean toward for color in the garden during the summer?

QUINCY HAMMOND: Well, I confess that I'm not a huge color person! It's all about green trees, hedges, and lawns for me. When I'm using color, I like a lot of white because it looks so fresh against green, all season long. Roses can be troublesome out East, but white iceberg roses bloom all summer if they have enough air circulation. Not surprisingly, I prefer [white] Annabelle



TOP: COURTESY OF VIRGINIA NEWMAN; BOTTOM: LAURIEN COLEMAN



"We don't love 'color bombs' and prefer to limit our palette to whites and purples"



Green Acres (CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE) Box frames white roses in a Quincy Hammond garden. Meadow rules at a LaGuardia Design Group project. A clipped lawn by Landscape Details. Tony Piazza likes *Verbena bonariensis* for a shot of color.

hydrangeas, but hydrangeas in all colors are pretty.

IAN HANBACH: We don't love "color bombs" in our designs and prefer to limit our palette to whites, purples, and lavenders. If a client has the space to do a good mixed border, that can be really successful. We'll typically design a garden with layers, so that you get moments of colorful flowers anchored by the underlying structure of mostly green plants or shrubs. A lot of color in a small area is just too busy for us.

MICHAEL DERRIG: At my home, we have a box-edged garden with blue delphiniums, which later get pulled out and replaced with purple Russian sage. It looks great, but can do a number on your budget!



Do you at least do pots with color for your clients?

TONY PIAZZA: For pots, I rely on tropicals that like the heat, but don't necessarily look too exotic for our part



of the world. For color all summer long, you can't beat plumbago—it looks like little sky-blue hydrangea and can take the heat from Memorial Day well into the fall. I also like *Verbena bonariensis* in pots or in the garden.

MD: In the spring, we plant up our clients' pots with tons of grape hyacinths for that first jolt of color. And in the summer, I love masses of single perennials—the texture of something as simple as rosemary can look really terrific.

QH: Lavender also works well in containers. I usually use Provence, but the lavender called Phenomenal is being marketed as the miracle plant—I'm curious about trying it. **TP:** Dilly Dilly lavender is the best. It has the long stems of Grosso or Provence, but it's a better plant for the long haul. In general, though, lavender can be really difficult to use on the South Fork because it doesn't like the humidity.

IH: Definitely. It doesn't like too much water and doesn't play well with others. —*Alejandro Saralegui*

HC&G'S 2018 GARDEN EXPERTS PANEL

Michael Derrig
landscape architect,
Landscape Details

Quincy Hammond
landscape architect,
Quincy Hammond
Landscape Architecture

Ian Hanbach
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Tony Piazza
garden designer, Piazza
Horticultural Group

TOP LEFT: LAURIEN COLEMAN; TOP RIGHT: MICHAEL DONNELLY; MIDDLE: VICKI LAURON/BEYOND AND BEYOND PHOTOGRAPHY