

Family

Preferred flowers are petunias

It's not often that this "vegetable garden lover" goes off the deep end and writes about flowers. I mean, what kind of a gardener wants to plant something you can't eat? Why spend all that time weeding, watering and bug watching, trying to grow something you can only look at?



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

lifetime have we seen such an influx of beautiful, newly developed, colorful flowers. And while the choices of sizes, colors, and growing habits is almost endless, Americans seem to have settled on petunias as the flower they plant most.

The petunia. Not a gorgeous grouping of gaillardias, not a row of rudbeckia, not even a bed of begonias.

It's the dazzling display of new colors and the cascading, mounding effect of the many offerings of the Wave petunias, and the newer exciting series of Supertunias that are now seen in most flower gardener's beds, in their borders and

in their patio containers and hanging baskets.

All over the nation, flower lovers have seemed to embrace the petunia.

Wave petunias have now been available to gardeners for only 12 to 15 years, but have won many, many awards and medals for their abundant blooms and visual impact. There are presently six Wave varieties available, all different in size, color and growing habit.

I have been a great fan of the Tidal Wave Silver, of the new cascading type of petunias. It is one of a few that grows in a more upright position.

All Wave seed is now available in pelleted form, which is much easier to handle, and I grow my own Tidal Wave transplants each year.

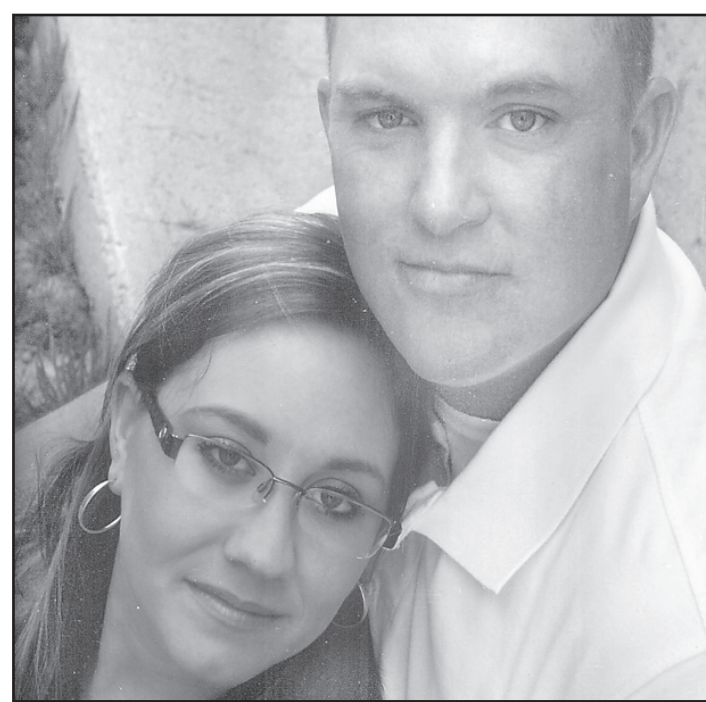
But the newest of the cascading, mounding petunias is the absolutely drop dead gorgeous Supertunia

Vista Bubble Gum, an extremely vivid pink petunia that you will see growing all over Northwest Kansas this year, perhaps in your own borders or patio containers. They are simply unbelievable! Supertunias, including the Vista Bubble Gum, are highly recommended by Dr. Alan Stevens and his Prairie Star series of annuals, tested for several years now at several different sites in Kansas, including the Colby Research Farm.

Petunias are just beautiful, and so easy to grow.

Flower gardeners in Goodland may want to plant a few Phantom variety of petunia, new this year. It too is very pretty, with a huge gold star, on a black velvet background. The school colors never looked better. Burpee has them available in plant form.

Colby gardeners may want to avoid them.



Stephanie Gatz and Adam Ryan

July wedding planned by Colby, Menlo pair

Adam Ryan of Menlo and Stephanie Gatz of Colby plan to marry Saturday, July 16, 2011, in Colby.

The bride is the daughter of John and Juanita Gatz of Colby and granddaughter of the late Josephine and Robert Gatz of Colby and the late Bernard and Genevieve Campbell of Hoxie. She graduated from Colby High School in 2005 and Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland in 2006 with a degree in cosmetology. She is employed by Dillons.

The groom is the son of Bill and Kathy Ryan of Colby and grandson of Viola and the late Oliver Lindeman of Oakley and Ethel and the late Henry Lawrence Ryan of Gem. He graduated from South Grey High School, Montezuma, in 1997 and attended Colby Community College. He owns Agriculture Spraying Services in Menlo. The couple plans to live in Menlo on the Lindeman farm.

Newlyweds: consider insurance issues

With wedding bells pealing throughout June, Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger urges couples who are tying the knot to review their insurance coverage.

Commissioner Praeger offers these insurance tips for upcoming newlyweds.

Homeowners and renters insurance: Whether you're staying in your current home or finding a new one, make sure your home and its contents are properly insured. If you need to buy insurance, shop for a policy by asking for quotes from several insurers. If you're choosing to add on to a current home to accommodate an expanding family, call your agent. Always review your insurance coverage after any home improvement projects over \$5,000.

Auto Insurance: It is important to inform your insurer when a new driver becomes a

resident in your household and/or when you move. Most insurers consider married couples a lower risk than single drivers, and depending on the ages of the drivers, your insurance may cost less. If each spouse has his or her own car, it is usually less expensive to insure both cars on one policy. However, if a spouse has a poor driving record, this could also affect your premiums.

Health Insurance: If you have group health insurance, you are allowed to add your spouse, and new dependent children, to the plan outside annual open enrollment because marriage is considered a qualifying major life event. Contact your company's benefits administrator to find out what you need to do. However, be aware: Some insurance companies require formal notification of marriage within a certain number of days.

Life Insurance: A life change, such as marriage, can be a good time to consider life insurance that may help secure your family's financial future. It also helps ensure that your estate will go to the beneficiaries you have chosen. You may want to update your beneficiary information to include your spouse if you already have a policy. If this isn't your first marriage, you may need to consult an attorney to see if there are any legal restrictions to changing your beneficiary information.

"Kansans with questions about insurance coverage should always first contact their insurance company, broker or agent," Commissioner Praeger said. "You can also contact the Kansas Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance Hotline, (800) 432-2484, or go to our website, www.ksinsurance.org, for more information."

Golf Scores

Winners for ladies' night at Meadow Lake golf course first flight on Tuesday were Audrey Hines and Pam Augustine. The results for the second flight are Mary Lou Jones and Susan Wark tied with Cheryl Edmundson and Tammy Strutt. Winners for the third flight were Wendy Weishaar and Wanda Brown.

Next week's game will be poker hand/five holes.

Phone finds stolen truck

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Police say an iPhone left in a stolen truck is how officers were able to capture a burglar suspected of multiple auto break-ins in Colorado Springs.

Officials at the El Paso County Sheriff's office said 29-year-old Joshua Mitzelfelt allegedly stole a truck left unattended and running in a driveway Tuesday morning. The owner's iPhone was on the front seat.

The truck's owner began tracking his vehicle's location through a website monitoring the phone's GPS application while updating sheriff dispatchers. Officers spotted the truck about seven miles from the owner's residence and arrested the driver.

Police were able to link items found in the vehicle to other burglaries in the area. Mitzelfelt has been charged with possession of a controlled substance, second degree aggravated motor vehicle theft and first degree burglary.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.



Webinar to cover wheat harvest

As harvest of U.S. crops approaches, Kansas State University's International Grains Program faculty are offering a series of webinars to update the grain program's alumni and global buyers of U.S. grains and oilseeds on the state of the U.S. market and harvest.

The first of these monthly webinars will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 22. This webinar will focus on the U.S. hard winter wheat harvest.

Each webinar will include two or three 15-minute presentations, which will be followed by a 15-minute question and answer session with faculty. The presentations will cover issues such as crop development, harvest progress, transportation issues and

other market influences.

The first webinar will feature a presentation by Fowler on the quality of the hard winter wheat harvest and an update by the program's Senior Agricultural Economist Jay O'Neil on the state of the supply and demand of the market, focusing on the U.S. supply of hard winter wheat.

O'Neil said that the topics will be especially interesting and helpful to grain buyers.

There is no fee to participate. While webinars will be broadcast live at the scheduled time, archives of recorded webinars will be available after the broadcast. For information or to register, go to www.grains.k-state.edu/igp.

Black bear removed from outside airport

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — Montana wildlife officials say they have tranquilized and removed a black bear from outside the Great Falls International Airport.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials say the young bear had been running in front of the terminal doors at about 3 a.m. May 23. The bear's antics caused the motion detectors to open the doors, but the bear stayed outside.

Great Falls police called warden Brett Logan, who found the bear


in a tree near the west end of the terminal. Logan tranquilized the bear and it was taken out of town to a remote location.

Wildlife officials say the rising waters from nearby rivers may have forced the bear into the area of the airport.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.83
Corn (bushel)	\$7.49
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.71
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.65



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