

“MASTERING THE ART OF GARDENING” ...is exactly what Richard has accomplished with his love of gardening with flowers, shrubs, and vegetables. A walk through his garden, any time from spring to fall, will present you with a picture straight out of the painter’s palette. From the driveway lined with iris, knock-out roses, peonies and tulips for the spring, to annuals and perennials such as profusion petunias, profusion zinnias, cleome, and Asiatic lilies through summer to fall you will be impressed with the color, design and peacefulness of a garden designed to speak to the senses.

You will find a shade garden filled with hostas,



clematis and ferns that line a winding streambed that is adorned with walking bridges that carry you over to a winding mulched walkway that leads you to a huge vegetable garden where he demonstrates his love of home grown vegetables and back again to his garden streambed.

As a boy, Richard’s parents always had a garden and he spent many hours tending, picking, hulling and snapping vegetables ... and though he hated every moment at the time ... his love of gardening grew from these earlier experiences. Not only does he grow his vegetables, he still tends, picks, hulls and snaps them — and then he cans or freezes his produce ...



Profusion Zinnias

Richard moved to his current four (4) acre location eight (8) years ago and has been challenged in the process of developing a garden that has moved from overgrown, dense forest of cedar trees and yews, locust trees, wild roses and rambling honeysuckle to the delightful landscape of today’s garden.



Richard's Top 10 Plants

1. *Daylilies* (Hemerocallis) an easily grown perennial that will produce flowers over a long period of time, even though the blossom lasts only one day each. They grow best in full sun but will accommodate some shade making them a most versatile perennial.



2. *Oriental lilies*— are colorful, late-summer bloomers with a fragrance that is delightful. .

3.

3. *Bearded Iris*— Irises have been one of my garden favorites for years.

I especially like the blue/lavender shades.



4. *Hostas*— There are hundreds of cultivars within the hosta family and I try to collect as many as I can. It has beautiful foliage and loves the shade.

5. Annual—*Blue Victoria Salvia*

6. *Profusion Zinnia*— easy to grow annual with a huge gift of blossom from spring through autumn. .

7. *Trees*—Eastern Red Bud, Maple and White Pine.

8. *Knockout Roses*— A dream come true — roses that require little care, few insects bother them. They are planted throughout the landscape.

9. *Shrubs*—Dwarf Burning Bush (along driveway), Beauty Berry and Butterfly Bush (in plantings around house foundation).

10. *Vegetables*— Corn (Peaches and Cream), Green Beans (Top Crop, Derby, Blue Lake); Tomatoes (Early Girl, Rutgers, Better Boy, Jet Star), Green Pepper (Big Bertha), Pumpkin (Small Sugar Pie).

RICHARDS TIPS:

- ⇒ Never bag your grass — collect and use to mulch in the garden.
- ⇒ Put newspaper under mulch — it decomposes and adds to the mulch!
- ⇒ Use newspaper between the rows in the garden.
- ⇒ If you want that perfect circle in your garden scape, use a hula hoop... it's the perfect circle!!
- ⇒ I like to use hardwood mulch because it does not float or wash away in rain.
- ⇒ I choose plants that do not require dead-heading ... lessens the workload and enhances the beauty of the garden.
- ⇒ I love to use bird feeders because it attracts birds who in turn eat insects and bugs — good for both of us!! Also the birds are beautiful to watch and musical to the ear. We have a lot of blue birds and the martins like to swoop down and eat the insects when I am mowing. I first thought they were diving for me until I realized they were after the insects.