

P. Allen Smith Introduces a Trio of How-To Card Decks

Designed to Teach Beginner Gardeners and Pros Alike

One of the joys of gardening and designing gardens is sharing what I've learned with others. I enjoy interacting with gardeners, hearing their questions, offering up solutions to their problems, and helping them with creative responses to their challenges. So it goes without saying that I'm excited about the release of the first of three of my new card deck and DVD collections that are designed to teach both novice and seasoned gardeners alike. These were designed to be a portable size to take along to the garden center when you're planning new planting projects!

P. Allen Smith's Bulb Garden, P. Allen Smith's Rose Garden, and P. Allen Smith's Veggies & Herbs each have more than 30 cards packed with growing information, tips, projects and more, as well as an hour-long DVD filled with bonus material! In the bulb deck, there's growing and care information for classic spring-blooming bulbs like tulips, daffodils and irises, as well as more unique bulbs like ornamental onions and spring snowflakes. In the summer-blooming bulbs, you'll find colorful flowers like lilies, cannas and dahlias, plus foliage-focused bulbs like caladiums and elephant ears. And of course there are plenty of projects both in the

cards and on the DVD, which also includes some great garden tours.

In P. Allen Smith's Rose Garden, it's all about that one thing I don't think a garden can have too many of—roses. They are a spectacular addition to every garden when used properly, and there's a rose for every garden. This deck is divided into four categories, including small spaces, fragrance, climbers and landscape, and within each you'll find growing tips, background information and more. There is also a section that includes creative projects and suggestions for companion plants that combine well with and complement roses. And on the hour-long DVD, you'll

also get to visit some amazing rose gardens, and I also share plenty of tips for organic pest care and controls, as well as a few more fun projects.

The garden to table movement continues to grow, and I created P. Allen Smith's Veggies & Herbs with the purpose to help teach people how easy it is to grow your own organic produce right in your own backyard, whether you have a few containers, a series of raised beds or several acres! The herbs and vegetables are divided into two seasons—cool-season and warm-season—and each card includes growing information from transplants and seeds alike, as well as a coordinating recipe for each herb and vegetable, so you can really take it from garden to table! The deck also includes several project cards, and the DVD features some great garden tours, organic pest care and controls, and more how-to projects.

You'll be able to find all three decks at bookstores and garden centers around the state this spring, but until then, I hope you enjoy a sample of the many projects included in the new deck collection! 🌱



FROM P. ALLEN SMITH'S BULB GARDEN: WATTLING

1. Fill a 20-inch terra cotta pot about 2/3 full with commercial soil mix. Be sure the container has a drainage hole. Soggy soil is the kiss of death for Asiatic lilies. Arrange a dozen bulbs over the surface four to six inches apart, and cover the bulbs with six inches of soil mix. Gently tamp the soil in place and water well.

2. Cut 6 vertical stakes (bamboo will work) long enough to rest on the pot bottom and still extend 12-18 inches above the top of the pot. Be sure the diameter of the stakes is at least twice as thick as the stems that will be woven around them.

3. For the sidewalls, choose long, limber shoots to weave around the stakes. Willows and forsythia are ideal, but any pliable branch will work. Cut the branches about 30 inches long, then strip away the leaves before weaving through the supports.

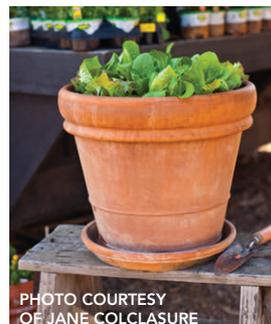


FROM P. ALLEN SMITH'S ROSE GARDEN: THE KNOCK OUT® ROSE & ROSEMARY CONTAINER

1. Use a large 18- to 20-inch container with good drainage so plants can thrive. Move and plant in final position, as it will be large and heavy.

2. Fill container over half full with good quality potting mix and mix in organic fertilizer formulated for roses.

3. Remove rose from nursery pot and gently disturb the root system so roots aren't tightly wound. Place rose in container and add soil around rose to bring up the soil level. Then plant four four-inch pots of herbs around the edges. Water in and add additional soil. I recommend a top dressing of mulch and a saucer to reduce watering needs. Enjoy your creation and, when established, don't be afraid to cut an occasional table top arrangement.



FROM P. ALLEN SMITH'S VEGGIES & HERBS: LETTUCE BOWL

Growing a variety of fresh lettuces for salads and sandwiches is easy as one, two, three. This container is perfect for both spring and fall gardens.

1. Fill your container 2/3 full with potting soil specially blended for container gardening. Plant lettuce transplants.

2. Fill between the plants with more soil, firmly pressing it in. Water with a mixture of water and all-purpose liquid fertilizer, like Bonnie's Herb & Vegetable Plant Food.

3. Place your containers in a location that receives at least 4 hours of sunlight per day. Water weekly and pick leaves regularly once they're big enough to eat.

Visit P. Allen Smith online at www.pallensmith.com.