Seasonal Color at Ole Miss

by Denise Hill
How do you make the flower beds look so nice?

Dusty Miller borders Red leaf begonias. Purple & White pansies with light pastel tulips.
Tell me your secret

Yellow pansies mixed with purple tulips
7 Secrets to beautiful seasonal color...
Pleasurable Experience

1. Pleasing plan

Make it a…

by using a…
Pleasing plan

- Make a mental arrangement or sketch on paper.
- Think mass beds!!!
- Single row borders tend to get lost and the color just doesn’t happen. Minimum 3 rows.
- Match colors that complement each other.
- Work focal points.
Make it a…

Pleasurable Experience

by using a…

1. Pleasing plan
2. Proper plant(s)
Proper Plant(s)

- Select the right plant for the area.
- Sun, shade, limited spaces, reflective heat, moisture available.
- Use 4” pots, roots are more mature. Try to avoid cell packs.
- If selecting perennials make sure they will survive in our zone.
Make it a…

Pleasurable Experience
by using a…

1. Pleasing plan
2. Proper plant(s)
3. Proper bed prep
Proper Bed Prep

- Remove all turf & weeds first. If you spray, read/follow label. Some materials require waiting before planting.
- Add a good soil amendment 1:3 ratio and a little Humas.
- Till bed throughout, very fine.
- Rake bed even, slope to drain.
- Bed should be raised 2 to 6” when completed.
- Compaction & poor drainage are major causes for poor results.
Pleasurable Experience
by using a…

1. Pleasing plan
2. Proper plant(s)
3. Proper bed prep
4. Plan to properly plant
Plan to Properly Plant

- Set out the plants in the bed and make adjustments before planting.
- Check spacing. We generally space 8” from center of plant to center of next plant.
- Plant a foot away from sidewalks and turf.
- Make sure you plant them at the right height (allow for mulch).
- Make sure the soil on the plants is very wet before you plant!
- Tease roots.
- Make sure you are happy with the look.
- A common mistake is spacing plants too far apart, they never grow together for that massive look of color.
Make it a…

Pleasurable Experience
by using a…

1. Pleasing plan
2. Proper plant(s)
3. Proper bed prep
4. Plan to properly plant

5. Protective FM plan
Protective FM plan
Fertilize & Mulch

- Slow Release Fertilizer such as:
  - Osmocote 14-14-14 at the time of planting, then again every 45 to 60 days.

- Light layer of Annual Mulch or similar.
  - Help control weeds
  - Help retain moisture
  - Helps to build soil
  - Helps with soil erosion

We use Penick Natural Annuals Mulch
Make it a…

Pleasurable Experience

by using a…

1. Pleasing plan
2. Proper plant(s)
3. Proper bed prep
4. Plan to properly plant
5. Protective FM plan
6. Proper watering process
Proper watering process

- Summer color will not like drying out.
- Automatic systems make life simple and easy.
- Keep beds moist not soaked.

Dwarf Pentas flanked by Dusty Miller, full sun summer Lyceum.

Impatiens shade Carrier House.
Make it a…

Pleasurable Experience

by using a…

1. Pleasing plan
2. Proper plant(s)
3. Proper bed prep
4. Plan to properly plant
5. Protective FM plan
6. Proper watering process
7. Persistent care practices
Persistent care practice

• dead heading
• trimming
• weeding
• general maintenance every 14 to 21 days.
• Monitor for insects and diseases.
• Watch for drying out.
Seven Secrets to Super Seasonal Color beds

1. Pleasing plan
2. Proper plant(s)
3. Proper bed prep
4. Planting properly
5. Protective FM plan
6. Proper watering
7. Persistent care
To learn more about seasonal color at Ole Miss go to:

www.olemiss.edu/depts/landscape

and click on Seasonal Color.