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Color: Beyond the Basics by Lydia Holley

Want to add a designer's touch to your garden? Do you think the only way to enhance the color in your garden is through the dominate color of blooms? Do you want the colors in your garden to coordinate and not clash? I have a secret to share with you.

Take a very close look at each flower's bloom. Do the petals have more than one color in them? Most petals have more than one color, even if you must look closely to see it.



Perhaps the outer portion of the petals is a different color than the inside bloom color. You might also notice something as small as colorful spots, stripes, or even a different color outlining the petals. You should even consider the color of stamens. Enhance these secondary colors through the addition of other blooms.

For instance, a yellow-dominated bloom may have secondary colors of orange or red. Try planting some orange or red-dominated blooms beside it. The added plant enhancing the secondary color of the first plant's blooms will make both blooms more vibrant to your eye.

This trick also works with parts of the plant other than blooms. Does your plant have a different stem color other than regular green? Some stems may be yellow, black, red, or even white. If so, place that plant next to one that has blooms with the same color of the first plant's stems.

Foliage can be red, purple, yellow or variegated. Place blooms of another plant to coordinate with the same color as the first plant's colored foliage. The color of bark and berries should also be considered.

Not only should parts of plants be looked at, but also the exterior of your home. No matter if your home has brick, wood, stucco or a painted exterior, try using plants that enhance the colors of your home.

Using brick for instance, just one brick may have several colors on it. Choose blooms or foliage that display any of the colors that show up on your brick to achieve a coordinated look. Additionally, other hardscaping or garden accoutrements can be enhanced by a coordinating bloom, even if the bloom displays just a few dots in the same color.

Unfortunately, blooms can be fleeting. Make certain if you place two plants together with a coordinating bloom color, that these plants bloom together at the same time.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.