

Sammy Long
Region 14
1st Place
9 & Under Age Group

My Heart-Shaped Garden Of Love And Butterflies

In my new garden, I want my irises to be red and purple because they are my favorite colors. I would plant 'Fort Apache' iris because it is red and purplish, and my daddy used to live there (at the Fort in Arizona not in the iris). I would also plant 'His Royal Highness' because it is very tall and a very pretty purple, and it blooms twice a year in our yard. I would also like to have 'Chihuahua Night' in my iris garden, because Chihuahuas are my friend's mom's favorite animal, and it has both of the colors I wanted-purple and red. It is really pretty; I know because my brother grows it in his garden. I want to add 'Shop Talk' iris because it's my favorite color and the name is kind of funny.

I want my garden shape to be a heart because it is the shape of love. I want my decorations to be steppingstones that are circles with dots inside them, and a statue of a butterfly. I would make one of the steppingstones a puddler so that butterflies will be able to drink water in my garden. I would want to feature butterflies because I like insects. My favorite museum is the Bohart Museum of Entomology because they visited my school for science day.

I want my plant mix to have dandelions because they are fun to play with when you blow their fluffy seeds. Dandelions are also important to butterflies because they give them nectar early in the spring. I also would plant daffodils because they are pretty with white on the outside and yellow on the inside. I also want pretty purple coneflowers because they will give butterflies nectar to drink.

My garden will have animal traps to prevent animals like squirrels from destroying my garden because my brother told me that sometimes they take irises.

I want my garden to have an arch over the entrance with the title "Garden of love and butterflies." I want people to feel happy and surprised when they visit my garden. And I want butterflies to feel happy too, because they will get so much nectar and water to drink.

Sammy Long Age 7
Region 14
1st Place
9 & Under Age Group



Wyatt Willis
Region 7
2nd place
9 & Under Age Group

Plant A New Iris Garden!

I don't have to pretend! I did move into a new house with no irises. All my irises at my old house were lost when we moved last year.

My uncle gave me 4 big planter boxes, so I used one of those as my iris bed. I really didn't pick irises because of their colors, I picked them because of the names. "Firefighter" (Hugh Stout 2018) my favorite went right in the middle. Flames of Fire, Fire Breather, Fire Danger, and Cowboy Campfire were planted all around Firefighter. Then added Smoking Embers, Up in Flames, and Dangerous Fire. These were just a few of my new ones. This year I am thinking of adding a couple of water names, because every firefighter needs water.

As for companion plants. I don't know what they are called but they look like little flames, and they bloom all summer. I think they would look fun with the irises. They come in different colors. Reds, oranges, yellows, and pinks. But I don't want pink in my iris beds. I don't like pink.

I have other iris in my other beds, but the first box is my favorite. I really want them to bloom so I can enter the iris show this year.



Rachel Martin
Region 18
3rd place
9 & Under Age Group

August

Dear Garden Diary, I just moved into a brand-new house and there is no garden! I am so excited to be able to plan this garden, I've never gotten to plan one before. Where should I start? I think I will plan my garden around two irises. I have to think about it.

September

Dear Garden Diary, I've decided on my iris colors, purple and pink. You know, these are my favorite colors! I need to find Midnight Thunder and Okapi Poppy varieties. I chose Okapi Poppy because of the way the gorgeous pink hues change from the tip of the petals to the middle. I also chose Midnight Thunder because the purple in the petals is deeply vivid. Both are about the tall bearded irises, although the Okapi Poppy is a little bit taller. Now I need to choose plants that will go with my irises.

October

Dear Garden Diary, I've chosen the other plants for my garden! I think miniature white knock-out roses will make my purple and pink irises stand out. Plus, they will stay in bloom longer. I will plant monkey grass in the front of my garden. I will put down black mulch to not distract from the flower colors.

April

Dear Garden Diary, I am so sorry I haven't written more. I have been busy with the holidays, but I did get my garden planted! It is a circular bed around my mailbox. My mail carrier is so happy to have a pretty place to put the mail. The irises are arranged right around the mailbox in a pattern (one Midnight Thunder, and one Okapi Poppy). The miniature rose bushes are in the middle ring, and the grass is on the outside ring.

Since it is spring now, it rained a little bit and that made the irises start to bloom. It seems the sunshine is falling because the days are getting warmer.

May

Dear Garden Diary, This is my last entry. This month my irises will lose all of their petals. But I want to arrange them, but I can't because the irises are dying. I cannot wait to show my friends my pretty garden!