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# AZALEAS BY DESIGN

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Azalea plantings are a continual source of enjoyment for me, always providing information, if I am observant enough to see what is being related. The planting which is the subject of this article has been particularly enjoyable because of its changes in appearance throughout the year.

The Dallas, Texas, planting is positioned in full sun. Advantages of full sun are dense foliage, heavy flower bud set, and enhanced leaf color in the fall and winter. Disadvantages of full sun are stress to the plants, increased water requirements, and susceptibility to lace bug.

The bed is approximately forty feet in length and seven feet in width. The azaleas were planted two feet on center. 'Festive' generally begins the color display in February. If the winter is mild, 'Christmas Cheer' will be the first to bloom in late January or early February with flower color persistent until late March. March, April, and May provide the greatest show of color with the 'Cloud Nine' dogwood, 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing' and 'George Lindley Taber' leading 'Fashion', 'Delaware Valley White' and 'Watchet'. 'Macrantha Orange' is the last to bloom in May sometimes lasting until early June. Summer months have color from begonias and caladiums planted in the vacant spaces in the front of the bed. Plantings of pansies in October through April are augmented by the fall flowers of 'Watchet' and 'Fashion'. The dogwood has red leaves and red berries in the fall with conspicuous bract buds on the branch tips in winter. The 'Fashion' azalea has a deep bronze leaf coloration from November through April which contrasts beautifully with the yellow green leaves of the 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing'. 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing' is coarse in leaf texture next to 'Fashion' which is relatively fine. The planting tends to be mounding to upright in form with the exception of the 'Macrantha Orange' which is decidedly horizontally layered. The planting is viewed from two windows which are twenty feet apart in the home. The seasonal flower pockets are individually positioned so that each provides the primary focal point when viewed from the nearest window. The form, texture, and color contrasts in this planting are a continual delight.

C = 'Christmas Cheer'  
D = 'Delaware Valley White'  
F = 'Fashion'  
F<sub>E</sub> = 'Festive'  
G = 'Mrs. G. G. Gerbing'

M = 'Macrantha Orange'  
N = 'Narihira' (BG 0477)  
T = 'George Lindley Taber'  
W = 'Watchet'  
+ = *Cornus*'Cloud Nine' □



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# Stirring the Nomenclatural Pot

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Not quite by accident I recently checked the printed registration descriptions of the Robin Hill azaleas and came across variant spellings of the cultivar name 'Vervaeneanum'. After some checking with American Rhododendron Society plant-name registrar Jay Murray and learning that the name of the person commemorated is spelled "Vervaene", I stumbled (quite by accident) on the following note published at the end of the plant registry section of the Spring 1980 issue of the American Rhododendron Society Quarterly Bulletin (Vol. 34 No. 2):

As is *Soulangiana* (*Magnolia*) often misspelled *Soulangiana*, the Indian azalea name is properly spelled 'Vervaeniana', not *Vervaeneana* or *Vervaenana*.

Wrong (doubly)! 'Soulangeana' and 'Vervaeneanum' are correct. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants - 1980 states in Article 28 [article 30.1 of the 1995 code]:

The orthography of words in Latin form which are used as cultivar names should be in accordance with the Botanical Code; if not, the spelling should be corrected.

Example (b) of Article 28 states: "Cultivar names, when adjectival in form, should agree in gender with the generic name concerned..." (The -an- form of the endings identify the names considered here as adjectival.)

Regarding epithets formed from modern (in contrast to Greek, Latin, or well established Latin-form) personal names, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Tokyo Code) [1994] in Article 60.11 and Recommendation 60C.1 provides that: