

Stars of Summer by Cindy Stockett:

Chores for Sept: Water, deadhead, order bulbs, assess the good and bad of the garden borders.

Roses: Provide color all summer, dead easy and fragrance.

Very social plants, get along well in the borders and if deadheaded regularly they will provide color into October. Good choices: Julia Child, Knockout Roses, Sally Holmes

Hydrangeas: Make their presence known mid summer but boy do they shine once they open up with flowers. The most striking are the mopheads and paniculata variety.

Good choices: Paniculata varieties: Limelight, Bobo. Stargazer series, Perfection series

Kniphofia or red hot poker

Has gotten a not so nice reputation for being big, and ugly. In California, they are ubiquitous and are indeed big and ugly. But the explosion of new cultivars have produced small, plants, (12-18 inches) with sword like leaves and almost delicate flowers. Placed in the perennial border they can provide a nice vertical element and a contrast to other plants.