

W O N D E R L A N D

Plant Guide

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Plant donation, wisdom, and love-filled labor shared by guest and permaculturist:

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General Information & Care Instructions

THE WONDERLAND ROOF DECK IS ALREADY A BEAUTIFUL LIVING GREEN SPACE, and it so much more potential to evolve further. As with all gardens, the roof deck is an ongoing experiment where one can participate fully in observing nature in action. Gardens are exciting as they are continually changing. They respond to human interaction and/or lack thereof and to environmental factors such as sun, heat, water, and insect involvement. The roof deck is a special environment due to the extreme light and heat to which it is exposed. The cement block draws and retains the heat of the blazing sun as the deck receives both morning (Eastern exposure) and peak sun (Southern exposure).

Currently the potted garden has a diversity of plant material, including annual, perennial, ornamental and edible varieties. Annual plants will typically live just one season; however, if they go to seed, you may likely see them sprout again next year. For instance, some herbs, like cilantro, produce many seeds and will self-seed and return the following year. Perennials will die off with the first frosts, but they will return year after year.

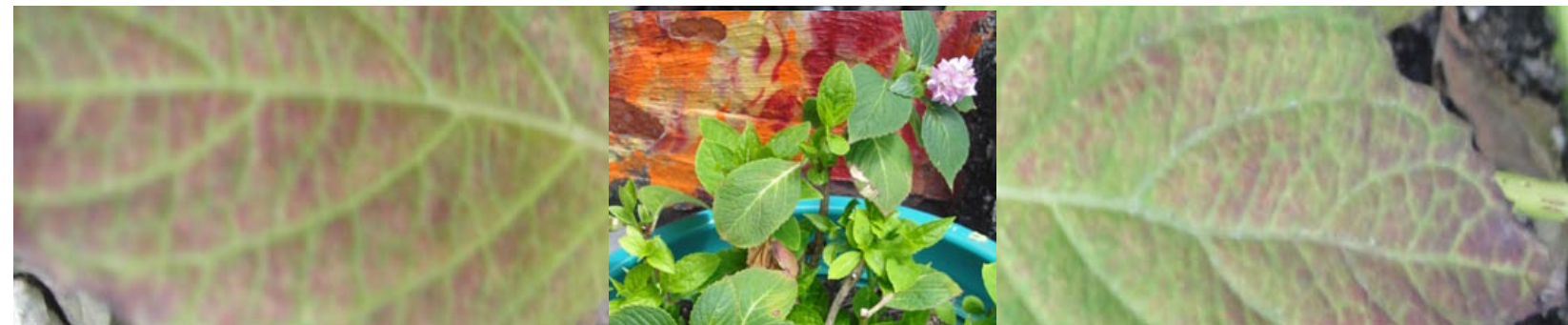
Because of the extreme heat on the roof, these plants will require much more water than if they were in a different environment. A good measure of water needs is if the pot feels light-weight when lifting it, it is dry and needs a good soaking. GENERALLY, THIS GARDEN WILL REQUIRE DAILY WATERING UNLESS THERE IS RAIN. Also, tomato plants require large quantities of water, so please be generous when watering them. Watering is best done early in the morning before the sun gets high in the sky, and/or in the evening. Regular pruning and clearing of dead matter is needed to promote growth, and tools can be found below the basil/herb shelves.

Gardens are places of beauty, sanctuary, and interest. I hope you enjoy your roof deck potted garden, and that in the coming years the roof deck evolves into its full potential.



Hydrangea

THE HYDRANGEA IS A PERENNIAL FLOWERING BUSH. Most varieties are suited to the planting zone of Astoria, zone 6. Although the hydrangea can tolerate full sun, as we saw early on, it is vulnerable to the extreme heat of the roof deck and requires adequate watering to deal with the drying effects of the heat. It is also very resilient, too, and it made a great come back from death's door. The bloom color of the hydrangea is dependent upon soil pH. Acidic soils produce blue flowers, neutral soils produce very pale cream petals, and alkaline soils result in pink or purple flowers.



Salvia

THE WORD SALVIA MEANS SAGE, but this variety is not the culinary herb. The variety on the roof deck is an ornamental perennial. It belongs to the mint family. It will bloom year after year, and it tends to attract bees and butterflies with its beautiful purple flowering stems. This species is not to be confused with *Salvia divinorum*!



Licorice

ALONG WITH THE SALVIA, you have the most commonly used member of the *Helichrysum* genus. This plant will not tolerate the Winter weather of zone 6, and therefore will only be an annual plant. It is fairly drought tolerant, and it should do well in the hot conditions of the roof deck. In other regions where it grows as a perennial it has many uses. Ailments such as coughs, colds and infections are treated with this popular medicinal plant. The leaves are used by Rastafarians to make an infusion to treat asthma, chest problems and high blood pressure. The smoke of the burning leaves is inhaled as a pain reliever. The leaves are also widely used on wounds to prevent infection.

Basil



BASIL IS AN ANNUAL CULINARY HERB IN THIS CLIMATE, and like *Salvia*, it belongs to the mint family. You have many pots of this delicious herb, mostly of the sweet variety. Pick often to extend the season, and use it in salads, for pesto, in pasta, etc.

Herbs

IN THE TALL TERRA COTTA POT with the side openings, there are various herbs and strawberries. Due to the extreme heat, these plants have not fared well. And that is part of the experimental aspect of gardening to discover what grows where best. In this pot, there are still chives and cilantro growing. The strawberries are struggling. The basil is still growing, and you will even see a purple variety of this tasty plant. The photo below shows the cilantro beginning to flower and eventually produce seeds.



Wildflowers



Mint



Lavender



Strawberry

THE PHOTOS ABOVE ARE A MIX OF WILD FLOWERS that were sowed by Andriana. We are waiting for them to flower to begin to identify them. Mint and lavender are culinary and medicinal herbs. These plants are both perennial in this climate.



LAVENDER IS FAIRLY DROUGHT TOLERANT, and mint will spread with wild abandon in a garden. It will be well contained in the pot. Strawberries are delicious perennial fruiting plants. They are doing better in the larger blue pot.



Magic Sprouts

THIS PLANTER IS THE RESULT OF WILD EXPERIMENTATION. Left over grocery store sprout package were soaked and placed in the planter. Potential growth could include garbanzo bean, bush beans, alfalfa among other sprouted veggies. It appears that the bush beans are the dominant variety growing. Watch and wait to see what will be produced!



Mystery, Evergreen & Peppers

EVERY GARDEN SHOULD HAVE SOME MYSTERY, and the roof deck garden is no exception. The plant in the metal urn belongs to Andriana. It is likely a bulb perennial, perhaps in the lily family. It may survive and bloom again next year. The evergreen is also a bit of a mystery. Evergreens are called such because unlike deciduous trees, they keep their leaves all year round. This one is likely a type of fir tree, but its exact identity is unknown. And finally, the edibles! The peppers were sowed and cared for in their early days by Andriana and co. The variety is unknown, but with a little luck this annual plant will produce some delicious peppers next month.





Basil & Peppers

A BEAUTIFUL MARRIAGE INDEED! Basil and peppers grow well together. In this instance, the basil seems to be dominant in these pots, and the peppers may need their own living space to thrive. Peppers are part of the nightshade family along with tomatoes, eggplant and potatoes. Nightshade plants are more commonly known as drugs. Some common nightshades that fall into this category are mandrake, tobacco, and belladonna.



Tomatoes

AS MENTIONED ABOVE, the tomato is an annual edible plant of the nightshade family. Here you have two varieties: beefsteak, which will produce a large tomato great for slicing, and heirloom cherry tomato, which is already bearing candy-sweet fruit.



Holly



THE ROOF DECK IS HOME TO TWO ILEX GLABRA AKA INKBERRY HOLLY. While these hollies are native to the Southern states and the Atlantic seaboard, they are amazingly adaptive. These plants were pruned significantly to encourage new growth and are doing well. At some point they will produce small creamy white flowers, and berries will appear in mid-Autumn. The birds love these, but they are poisonous for human.



NEPETA IS AN AROMATIC PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE MINT FAMILY. The lovely blue violet flowers accent the grey green foliage. Run your hands in the foliage to experience the beautiful aroma of this plant. This plant has a long season, and to promote reblooming, cut off spent flowers, and cut back plant to 2/3 in late July. Nepeta likes sun and dry conditions, so it should be a winner on the roof deck.



Nepeta





Petunia & Vine

PETUNIAS ARE A FAVORITE IN THE ANNUAL GARDEN. They come in many colors, and they are tolerant of the heat on the roof deck. Of course, they still need adequate watering to continue to be tolerant of the heat. The sweet potato vine is an ornamental annual in this climate. It is grown for its foliage and will do well with average watering.





Daylily

DAYLILLIES ARE SOME OF THE MOST ADAPTABLE LANDSCAPE PLANTS as they can grow in zones 1-11. They are perennial, and as you can see by how they are surviving on the roof deck, they are resilient, even blooming in the most inhospitable soil environments.



Your mind is a garden,
your thoughts are the seeds,
the harvest can be either flowers or weeds.

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer
when we stoop than when we soar.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH