

## COLOR IS NOT ALWAYS BLACK AND WHITE

By Tony Tomeo

UNITED STATES—Several months ago, warm season vegetable plants replaced cool season vegetable plants. More recently, new cool season vegetable plants began to grow from seed, to replace warm season vegetable plants. Annual vegetables grow only within specific seasons. As they finish, they relinquish their space to those that grow in the next season. Annual color operates in the same manner.

‘Color’ is another word for ‘annuals’ or bedding plants that provide colorful bloom. Those that grew earlier were warm season annuals or summer annuals. Those that replace them through autumn are cool season annuals or winter annuals. Of course, there is nothing black and white about color. Some color from last summer can linger late. Some for next winter prefers an early or late start.

Furthermore, much of the color that cycles through gardens as annuals actually has

potential to perform as perennials. If cut back and obscured by more seasonable color through their dormancy, some types can regenerate when it is again their season to perform. For example, cut back busy Lizzie that bloomed last summer can overwinter underneath primrose, and start over next spring.

There are many choices for cool season color.

Marigold and chrysanthemum can start bloom early, before summer ends, but may not perform for long. Some chrysanthemum bloom only once, before vacating their space for other cool season color that does not mind starting later. Cyclamen and ornamental cabbage happen to prefer late planting, to avoid Indian summer. Warmth causes cabbage to bolt, and promotes rot of cyclamen.

Pansy, viola and various primrose have always been popular. Sweet William, Iceland

poppy and stock are not as common. Stock should be, since it is so delightfully fragrant. Both nasturtium and alyssum bloom nicely through either summer or winter, depending on when they started to grow from directly sown seed. Some fibrous begonia can perform through winter if sheltered from frost.

Most color does well from cell packs. Nasturtium should only grow from seed. Chrysanthemum and cabbage might be better from four inch pots. Cyclamen may only be available in four inch pots.

Highlight: Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemum compensates for its lack of fragrance with rich color and variable form. Centuries of breeding have produced countless shades and tints within the yellow, orange and red range. This includes pink as a tint of red, cream as a tint of yellow, and bronze as a shade of orange. Some reds and pinks are precariously close to purple or lavender. There is, of course, white as well.

Flowers may be solitary big pom-poms, multiple small buttons, or anything in between. Many are daisy types, mostly with bright yellow centers. Spider chrysanthemums have strangely elongated and hooked ray florets, which are generally thought of as ‘petals.’ Some chrysanthemums that would otherwise bloom with many small flowers can be groomed to bloom with fewer bigger flowers.

Chrysanthemums with compact growth and uniform bloom are popular as short term annuals for autumn. Their primary bloom phase is impressively profuse. Unfortunately, few get an opportunity to bloom again. Other cool season annuals replace most of them for winter. In ideal situation, with rich media and regular watering, chrysanthemums can actually perform as short term perennials.

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## THE BREAK-UP (9)

By Grady Miller

UNITED STATES—Forty-five years have elapsed. The world has grown bigger and smaller and weirder.

In the station house of the Twin Underground Cities, Detective Devon Zorba, was cleaning his desk and a little scraps of paper turned up. “Wilcox.” Because of an attachment to paper almost completely lost, the detective ensured the mocking scorn of the police force that he really belonged “Up there.” “Up there” was a theoretical jurisdiction that had no legal standing.

When they burrowed down here all the records were transferred and “Wilcox” caught his eye, it corresponded to a cold case, an ice-cold case. It was his hobby, now and then, when his desk got cleaned, thinking about these unresolved cases in a land which now had no legal standing. It was called whistling in the dark. He played with the edges of these conundrums like dry ice between his fingertips. He liked to pore over the old files in off moments. Who were these people? What had happened and how?

If he had ever tried to follow one of these ice-cold cases all the way to the end (which he hadn’t yet) there was a dry pleasure to be derived tantamount to winning the war between pawns and horsemen on a chessboard. But, Devon Zorba knew a thing or two about the human condition. Pleasure of any kind, even abstract ones, were not to be balked at.

He looked out the window, which you still had down here.

The sun was setting, the sky turned from orange to burnt umber. They had done a good job of it, since it was the only sky he had ever known and and it and been created because research had determined there is something deep in human being that feels a great reassurance from the old planetary movements.

He remembers his grandma, the one who put it all into the lottery, bet it all on a chance to be educated and brought up in one of the underground cities. She would always say how the sky didn’t seem quite right and then after a few years, the old feelings about sun-

rise and sunset just kicked in.

“I don’t argue between how things were, and how they are,” said Grandma.

Grandma’s words in mind, Detective Zorba with a practiced swivel of the eyeball switched on to receptivity mode to review the reports and information of this case on his desktop.

The young detective didn’t flinch when he saw the pictures of the victim in hoodie prone on the sidewalk, in daylight. More than half rotted. In the special period, as garbage and debris piled up all around, it had been days before somebody on Cosmo Street had even bothered to make a call.

The autopsy set the time of death, caused by blunt-object trauma, at between 3:00 and 3:15 a.m. one morning 45 years ago.

The world had moved from the time of that forgotten killing on a side street a long time ago, so much so there were two worlds now, separated in every way. One lived rather like the Amish with horses with no computers and they had lost the knack of read-

ing.

Diplomatic relations with the land “up there” had long been severed; now and then reports emerged from clandestine travelers, of a barbarous subhuman land where the animals couldn’t be told from the humans, and when they died, beasts of burden dumped them onto the shores of one of the radioactive zones.

The reigning technophobia contrasted with remarkable concentration that developed and evolved as people developed deep memories. Since they had no outside media, the dwellers up there were said to have two lives, since they were reputed to recall every living instant of their lives. Detective Zorba didn’t know if that was a bane or blessing.

To be continued...

Graydon Miller is the Wizard of Fiction and author of the thriller, “Hostages of Verracruz,” available on Amazon.

## DODGERS WORLD SERIES VIEWING PARTY

By Diara Fowler

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Dodgers are going will be making their third appearance in four years at The World Series. In honor of the Dodgers making it to the World Series the organization will be hosting drive-in viewing parties at the stadium starting Tuesday, October 20.

The cover charge will be \$75 per vehicle and are on sale now at [Dodgers.com/DriveIn](http://Dodgers.com/DriveIn). Reserved for lots 2/3 the viewing will be shown on a 60 foot screen with audio via radio. The organization asks that all those that wish to participate review the safety procedures upon entry.



Dodgers MLB player.

Some amenities will not be available at this time because of the ongoing pan-

demic. Concession stands will be closed, but participants can bring their own

food and drinks, but alcohol is not prohibited. Parking lot gates will open a hour prior to showing. The Dodgers will be playing against the Tampa Bay Rays.

“We have the best fans in baseball, and the support of Dodger fans has meant so much to us this year,” said Dodgers Manager Dave Roberts.

The Dodgers came to Los Angeles back in 1958 and have been to the World Series a total of 12 times and won 24 National League pennants for the franchise.

“We’re excited that the Dodgers have created a safe way for the community to come together and hopefully cheer us on in the World Series,” claimed Roberts.