



In Your Backyard

What's happening in your garden? A reader-driven feature in *Iris*!
Submit your stories and photos to the editor for future inclusion in this segment!



Sharee Solow, Pennsylvania

Accidental Combinations

ACCIDENTAL COMBINATIONS ARE MY FAVORITE GARDEN SURPRISES WITHOUT A DOUBT. I AM ALWAYS SAD TO HEAR PEOPLE FRET OVER PLANNING EVERY PLANTING DETAIL FOR THEIR GARDEN IF IT MEANS THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE THE FLOWERS THAT THEY REALLY LOVE. With about 6 feet of full sun in my yard, aside from the sidewalk strip, irises had to go in there and everyone simply had to play together. Well, you'd think I carefully calculated how the columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) would play off of the dark 'Red Hawk' (Schreiner, 1995), the borrowed view of the neighbor's Japanese maple, plus the soft yellow *Baptisia* 'Carolina Moonlight' spikes. 'Immortality' (Zurbrigg, 1982) picks up the flash of white *Baptisia alba* and connects across the path to the moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) and variegated salvia. The lime foliage of *Juniperus* 'Lime Glow' and *Hakonechloa macra* 'All Gold' in the background support the show with glowing foliage and texture contrasts. ♣