



Introduction

There's nothing like the pride and joy you feel when looking at your beautiful yard filled with lush leaves and bright blooms. But wait...doesn't that daisy over there look a little droopy? And hey—that rosebush was covered with buds yesterday, but now they're all chewed up. Your border of begonias? It looks like a train wreck! What's going on? You need some serious help—and quick!

Well, never fear, folks: ol' Jer is here! In all my years of growing flowers, first helping in Grandma Putt's garden, and then working in my own, I've come across just about every problem that can rear its ugly little head. And thanks to Grandma's old-time wisdom, plus a little hands-on experimenting, I've figured out how to beat all of 'em. The result? *Jerry Baker's Flower Garden Problem Solver!*

In this how-to helper, you'll discover hundreds of top-notch tips, tricks, and tonics for bringing out the best in your beds and borders, right from the get-go. And if bothersome bugs or funky fungi *do* get a foothold, I've included plenty of hints and super secrets to send those pests packing—*pronto!*

Ready to get growin'? Here's an overview of what you'll find in the following pages, to help you on your way:



 **Part 1: “Create a Garden with Flower Power”** is packed with pointers for growing flower gardens with plenty of pizzazz. Never again will you have flowerbeds that look great in spring, but are boring during the dog days. You’ll learn how to turn tough sites into fabulous features, and oh, so many ways to create fun and flower-full new gardens. It’s all right here!



 **Part 2: “A Healthy Garden Is a Happy Garden”** covers all my down-and-dirty tips for building a great garden from the ground up. You’ll find all kinds of options for getting a new garden started (nope—digging isn’t the *only* way to do it!), plus plenty of tricks for feedin’, weedin’, and waterin’ to get those baby bloomers growin’ like gangbusters.

 **Part 3: “Favorite Flowers—A to Z”** is the place to turn to when you’re at your wit’s end, looking for the scoop on specific flowers. From sun scorch on ageratums to mildew on zinnias, I’ve included a bushelful of problem-solving tips that’ll *guarantee* you get the best from each and every flower in your yard.

 **Part 4: “Pest and Problem Patrol”** is your quick-and-easy reference for identifying pesky pests and datardly diseases to help you pick just the right control measures. I’ve also included a complete summary of all my fantastic Flower Power Tonics, so you’ll have ‘em right at your finger-tips when you need ‘em.

So, if you’ve got flower garden problems, don’t throw in the trowel just yet! You, too, can grow the biggest, brightest, bloomingest beds on the block—*dazzling* daylilies, *breathtaking* begonias, or *ravishing* roses—that’ll make your garden the Blue Ribbon winner of the neighborhood!