

HOMESTYLE

Cool stationery elevates the handwritten note



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This photo shows a stationery design from The Stationery Studio. Embossed elements, as well as watercolor prints and other artistic imagery, elevate the handwritten notecard even further. Stationery Studio has a broad selection, and notecards may be monogrammed or otherwise personalized.

By Kim Cook
The Associated Press

We're all emailing, texting and DM'ing as fast as our thumbs can type these days, but there's also some Old School pushback. For many style-savvy communicators, handwritten notes are the thing.

Whether it's a follow-up thank you or a stand-alone communique conveying anything from warmth to wisdom, the humble notecard can rise above life's digital froth. A thought or two is composed. Pen meets paper. And then the result must be transported. So much more than the pressing of a "send" button, the handwritten note implies effort, and is thus special.

Stationery Studio specializes in

well-designed notecards. There are hand-illustrated botanical patterns, nautical and sporting motifs, preppy striped designs, and animals. All can be personalized with names or initials in a range of fonts.

At Papyrus, notecards come engraved with tiny sea turtles, hummingbirds, pineapples, vintage airplanes, lightbulbs or ginkgo leaves.

Art lovers should check out the Museum of Modern Art's online store, where notecard sets include the works of Matisse, Rothko, Klimt, Calder, Toulouse-Lautrec and Monet. More art cards can be found at other museums' shops, including that of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where William Morris prints and Impressionist

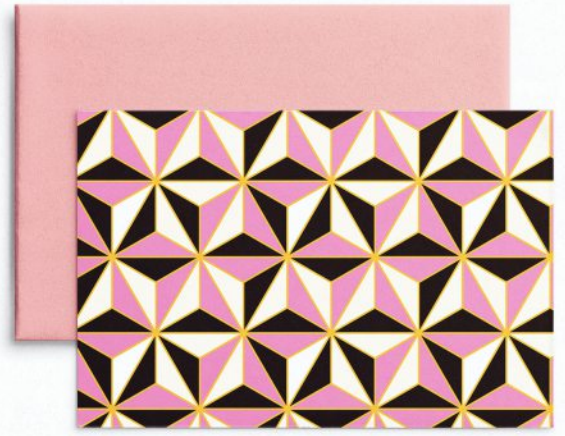
prints are on offer.

Understated, foil-stamped paper clips and pushpins embellish the notecards at Russel & Hazel, making them ideal for business correspondence.

Austin, Texas, designer Katie Kime's notecard line has several patterns with a swingly Palm Springs vibe, including Riviera, Greta and Lucy, in color combos like pink and navy and citrus and lime.

Block printing brings an artsy, rustic charm to paper. Etsy shops JenAitchisonArt and Maple-MoonDesign have lovely woodland animal and winter forest designs.

Kirsti Scott has been collecting sea glass for years around her



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This undated photo shows a stationary design by Katie Kime. Kime's vibrant patterns in fresh eye-catching hues have a swingly Palm Springs vibe. The patterns are available in notecards and other accessories.

home in Capitola, California. A graphic designer, she creates art prints as well as notecards, transforming the bits of water-washed glass into flowers, land and sea animals, beach balls, even VW camper buses. She'll do custom designs as well. Her online shop is EtchedByTheSea.



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This undated photo shows a stationary design by Katie Kime. Kime's vibrant patterns in fresh eye-catching hues have a swingly Palm Springs vibe. The patterns are available in notecards and other accessories.

purpose oval box, pen holder and ruler, and a work pad. Containers are made of solid walnut, and all the pieces are covered in rich saddle leather.

David Irwin has designed a tidy collection of Portuguese cork boxes for Case that he calls Trove; they're available at Design Within Reach.

And at Container Store, there are storage boxes clad in linen-look fabric, lined in faux leather. For cards that are all dressed up, with somewhere to go.

Kim Cook writes the Right at Home column for The Associated Press.

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GARDENING

How to get bold, beautiful alliums for every garden

By **Melinda Myers**
Garden Columnist

Short or tall, big or small, ornamental alliums are a treat for flower gardeners and for butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Plant the bulbs in fall and enjoy months of colorful spring and summer blooms – this year, and for years to come.

Just like their relatives, onions and chives, ornamental alliums are easy to grow and trouble free. Pest, diseases and even deer don't bother them. Most types are reliably perennial and winter hardy in zones three to eight. Alliums prefer well-drained soil and full sun,

though they will also grow in partial shade.

You can choose flowers that are white, yellow, pink, purple or even blue. All are long lasting and combine nicely with other perennials. They are also excellent cut flowers. When alliums finish blooming, their foliage fades away quickly, so surrounding flowers can take center stage.

Alliums bloom at different times during the growing season, starting with early spring and continuing to midsummer. Consult Longfield Gardens' allium bloom time chart (longfield-gardens.com) for help choosing which alliums

you want to plant in various spaces around your yard and garden, or in containers.

Plant *Allium hollandicum* 'Purple Sensation' for a burst of color just prior to peony bloom. These raspberry-violet globes measure 3 to 4-inches across and are held high on 3-foot stems that rise above most newly emerging perennials. The bulbs are inexpensive, so it's affordable to create large displays. Plus, they multiply over time, so are a great choice for naturalizing.

Be sure to include some show stopping Globemaster alliums. These flowers are the size of bowling balls, on sturdy, three-foot-tall stems. Bloom time is the same as most peonies, which make excellent companions. The dried seed heads are striking when left in the garden and will usually last into early autumn.

Shorter but just as impressive, *allium christophii* has eight-inch diameter flowers atop 12- to 18-inch

tall stems. The spiky, violet-pink blossoms have a silvery sheen that adds to the stunning appearance. Plant the bulbs in flower beds, along pathways and in rock gardens where their late spring blooms can be admired close-up. Allow the dried seed heads to remain in the garden for months of added interest.

Plant the drumstick allium, *Allium sphaerocephalon*, amongst ornamental grasses or allow it to grow up through other perennials. The two-toned, raspberry and green flowers have long, slender stems and are a fabulous addition to early summer arrangements. Drumstick alliums will self-sow, so they're ideal for naturalizing.

Add an exotic look to the late spring garden with *allium bulgaricum*, also known as *Nectaroscordum siculum* or Sicilian honey garlic. The sprays of dangling, cream and burgundy florets have a look that's completely different from other alliums. Plant them in flower gardens, informal



IMAGE COURTESY OF LONGFIELD GARDENS

The flowers of Globemaster allium are the size of bowling balls atop sturdy, three-foot-tall stems.

naturalized areas and cutting gardens. They will return to bloom again year after year.

Once you start growing ornamental alliums, you'll find yourself looking for more varieties and more ways to include these beauties in the landscape.

Their long-lasting, pollinator-friendly blossoms and easy-care nature make them a good choice for any gardener.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including Small Space Gardening.

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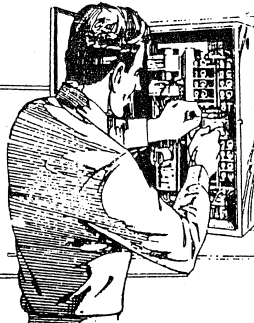
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GARDENING

Extending your season with perennials

A New York Times crossword puzzle is the inspiration for this week's column. The 61-Across clue: "One who catches up eventually." The answer: LATE-BLOOMER. As I filled in the squares with the correct letters, I found myself recalling the many unknown road edges I've driven by recently, full of bright yellow goldenrod. Along with our native asters, these plants are one of the iconic signs of the transition from summer to fall.

These late bloomers provide more than welcome splashes of color in the landscape and in our gardens. They're also important continuing sources of nectar

for pollinators. While most plants have finished blooming by this time of year, many insects are still foraging, including butterflies, bees, moths, and wasps. These creatures depend on late-flowering plants to supply the food-energy they need to store up for winter hibernation or dormancy.

For adding color and bringing beneficial insects to your late-summer/fall garden, here are some top native perennials. (I think it's interesting that so many are members of the Aster (a.k.a. Daisy) family.) An added overall benefit is that most of these species are not attractive to deer.

▪ Goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) Aster family: Goldenrods are among the most important late-season pollinator plants. Some varieties can become invasive. Try one like stiff goldenrod

(*S. rigida*) (<https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/flowers-plants/plant-guide/goldenrod/>)

▪ New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) Aster family: Purple blooms with a yellow center. They can grow to four feet or more, but there are many different cultivars that don't grow as tall and also produce blooms in different colors.

▪ Vernonia fasciculata (Ironweed) Aster family: This native grows up to seven feet tall, with vibrant, fuzzy, purple flower clusters at the branched ends. For best flowering, be sure to provide moist soil.

▪ Sedum spp. (Stonecrop) Stonecrop family: Somehow this seems to be a favorite "mailbox garden" plant in my neighborhood. I love the soft, mauve flowers and watching the bees clambering all over

them. They tolerate dry conditions.

▪ Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) Aster family: This butterfly "magnet" can grow from five to seven feet tall. It's a great opportunity to observe butterflies at eye level. Soft-looking, mauve-pink flowers.

▪ Salvia (*Salvia* spp.) Mint family: I've been noticing how the purple salvia (*Salvia* 'Mystic Spires Blue') (new in my garden this year) is continuing to bloom, attracting bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This is a smaller version of 'Indigo Spires,' believed to be a cross between two salvia species native to Mexico. (<https://piedmont-mastgardens.org/article/in-celebration-of-salvias/>) This compact salvia hybrid stands up to heat and humidity all summer long. Probably need to grow this as an annual in our zone.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sedum and other late-blooming plants provide much-needed nectar for insects.

▪ *Helenium autumnale* Aster family: In browsing the internet for late-blooming species I wasn't already aware of, I came across this orange-and-yellow-flowered perennial. Also known by the common name "sneezeweed" (though it doesn't cause allergies), it is native to much of the United States and southern Canada, and is hardy in USDA zones 3-8. (<https://wimastergardener.org/article/helenium-autumnale/>)

▪ *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oakleaf hydrangea) Hydrangea family: The flower heads of the oakleaf hy-

drangeas seem particularly full and large this year, real standouts when most shrubs have finished blooming. I was surprised to find out that they attract bees of different kinds.

▪ Zinnias (*Zinnia* spp.) Aster family: They're annuals, but I wanted to mention zinnias. They're bright, beautiful, bloom until frost, and provide a good nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds.

While they may not be particularly sightly, the seed heads of some flowers are a great source of fall/winter food for birds. I learned this one year when I didn't get to cutting down the dead echinacea flower stalks and found goldfinches—six, eight, or even more at a time—coming to feed on them. Beautiful to watch!

Note: If you're interested in more information on how insects survive the cold of winter, here's a brief article from the University of Delaware: <http://www1.udel.edu/udaily/2011/feb/insects-winter-020311.html>

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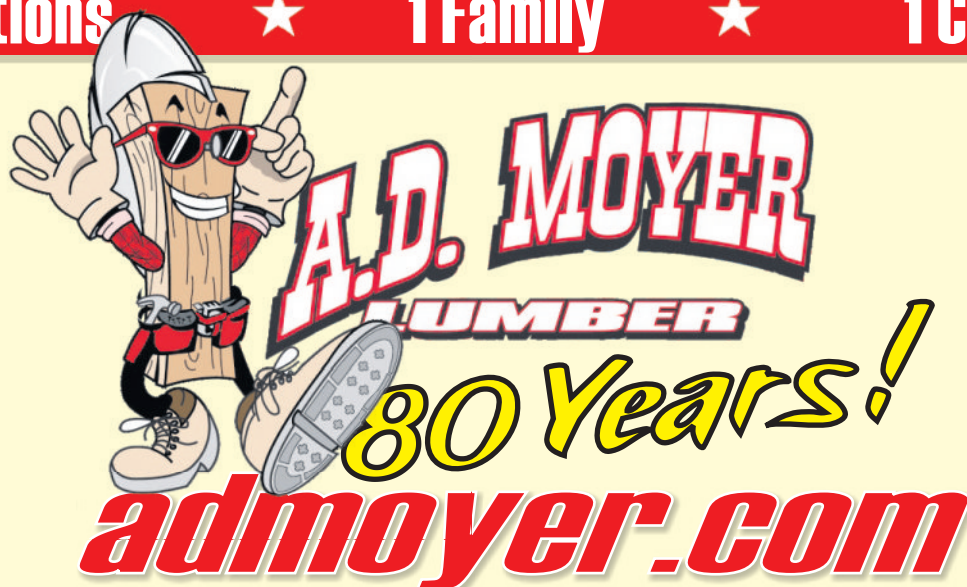
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