

## PLANTS IN THE MARY NIMMO MORAN BORDER

July 2018

Attached are photos and names for the plants used in the Mary Nimmo Moran border. The notation (DR) indicates that a plant is designated as deer resistant.

Susan Cohen, FASLA, designed the double border to evoke the garden Mary Nimmo Moran painted in 1894, titled "The Garden Path, East Hampton," on display at the Moran's home in East Hampton, commonly referred then and now to as The Studio. We chose a mix of annuals and perennials to create a palette of soft colors and lovely textures. The border has four identical 20-foot sections, so patterns repeat along the length.

While Thomas Moran designed the house at 229 Main Street, Mary Nimmo Moran designed the gardens. Visitors entered the property by a gate on Main Street at the southeast corner of the property and walked up the path to the front porch. She died in 1899, but her daughter Ruth and the family's gardener (and gondolier), a Montaukett Indian named George Fowler, continued to curate her vision of the garden in later years, as is evident in photos.

The border depicted in Mrs. Moran's painting was typical of the Grandmother's Garden style popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Inspired by the nation's 1876 centennial, the Grandmother's Garden was lush and overflowing with old-fashioned, colorful flowers, many reminiscent of colonial gardens. These plants were widely available at the time, through seed catalogues and nurseries that flourished along the East Coast and shipped long distances by rail. Some of the best seed companies and nurseries were located in Philadelphia, Mrs. Moran's childhood home, and on Long Island, and thus undoubtedly would have been known to her.

All photos are by Julie Sakellariadis

The signature plant of Susan Cohen's design is dahlia 'Stolz von Berlin.' This particular dahlia was introduced to the U.S. in 1884, the year the Morans started building their house in East Hampton. In its place for the moment is *Cleome x 'Clio Magenta'*, an old fashioned flower popular in Grandmother's Gardens and introduced to the US in 1817. Philadelphia nurseryman Bernard McMahon listed the annual *Abelmoschus manihot*, or sunshine hibiscus, as well as 'Common Snapdragon' in his 1806 *American Gardener's Calendar*. Other plants in the border are improved cultivars or hybrids of old fashioned plants, or plants that recall those used in gardens of the time. Hollyhock 'Sunshine' is a recent cultivar that blooms annually, not every other year as do most hollyhock. Mrs. Moran used hollyhocks extensively in her border; they both dominate her paintings of the garden and are easily recognizable in historic photos. Two other plants of note are also evident in her painting, although we have chosen modern cultivars: Iris 'Feedback' is a tall bearded iris that blooms twice, in late spring and again in early fall. Phlox paniculata 'Jeana' was discovered recently in the wild, and its leaves have superior mildew resistance compared to other phlox. It's also a pollinator magnet. Rose of Sharon is evident in both her own and her son's paintings of the garden.

While many plants used in the borders are deer resistant, every list or expert we consulted noted that hungry deer will eat anything! We fence early in the growing season and spray with deer repellent regularly once the fence is removed.

Julie Sakellariadis, 7/1/18  
Garden Club of East Hampton

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**Annuals:**

Abelmoschus manihot (DR)



Ageratum 'Blue Horizon' (DR)



Angelonia 'Angel face Blue' (DR)



Cleome x 'Clio Magenta' (DR)



Lantana yellow & white bicolor (DR)



Salvia 'Amistad' tall, back of border (DR)



Salvia farinacea 'Victoria' short, front of border (DR)

Antirrhinum majus 'Golden Rocket' (DR)



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**Perennials:**

*Achillea millefolium* 'Appleblossom' (DR)



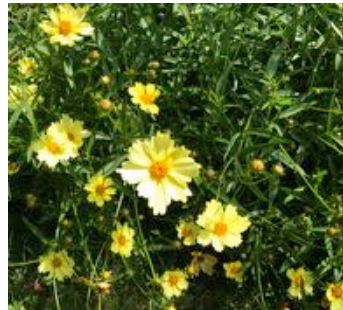
*Aster x frikartii* 'Monch' (DR)



*Alchemilla mollis* 'Auslese' (DR)



*Coreopsis* 'Full Moon' (DR)



*Agastache* 'Purple Haze' (DR)



*Geranium* 'Rozanne' (DR)



*Aster macrophyllus* 'Twilight' (DR)



*Iris* 'Feedback' (DR)



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**Perennials, cont.**

*Perovskia atriplicifolia* (DR)



*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana' (DR)



*Scutellaria incana* (DR)



Hollyhock 'Sunshine'



**Tubers:**

Dahlia 'Stolz von Berlin'



**Shrubs:**

Rose of Sharon 'Aphrodite' (DR)

