



Coloring lesson in Boise

■ Nancy Day of Boise describes her gardening style as “cottage garden casual.” Despite the apparently arbitrary array of flowers, there’s nothing random about her design. Day, a professional gardener, says she combines plants that “complement each others’ bloom color, foliage, and texture.” The red border shown here exemplifies her approach—from the ground all the way up to the eaves.

At the front edge of the border, coral and salmon impatiens establish the color foundation. Above them, a miniature Old Glory rose provides bursts of red. Behind this rose, tree peony offers foliage contrast. A red-and-white-striped ‘Fourth of July’ climbing rose adds height to the border.

Day irrigates with a sprinkler for half an hour twice a



week (three times a week in the hottest summer weather). As the roses fade, she removes spent blossoms. The miniature rose doesn’t require any pruning; the climbing rose only needs thinning to improve air circulation. Every autumn, Day spreads a 2-inch layer of straw and manure-based compost over the border.

— Suzanne Kelso