

# MICHIGAN GARDENER

Your guide to Great Lakes gardening 🌿 May 2010

free

PLANT FOCUS:

## Caladium

**PLUS:**

**Feature:** New annuals for 2010

**Garden profile:** The secret garden

**Thyme for Herbs:** Dill

**How-To:** Cut down ornamental grasses

**Perennial Perspectives:** Fern-leaf bleeding heart



Grow. Celebrate. Experience.

# Flowering Hanging Baskets

## Buy 1, Get 2nd 50% OFF

Discount taken off basket of equal or lesser value.

**Starting at \$19.99**

Includes Impatiens, Petunias, Begonias, Geraniums, Bacopa, New Guinea Impatiens, English Gardens exclusive combos, Boston Ferns & lots more!

Sale starts May 4, 2010

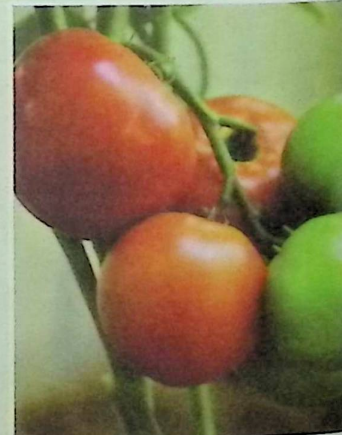


## NEW for 2010

### BURPEE HOME GARDENS. Vegetable Plants

A collection of more than 75 vegetable and herb plants grown from Burpee Seeds, trialed and selected to ensure your gardening success. Let Burpee Home Gardens help take the guesswork out of starting your own garden.

#4 pots. Reg. \$3.99



MICHIGAN'S BEST: NURSERY • GARDEN CENTER • FLORIST • LANDSCAPING • PATIO SHOP • SEASONAL CHRISTMAS CENTER  
*A Michigan Family Business Since 1954*

Ann Arbor  
734-332-7900

Brighton  
810-534-5059

Clinton Township  
586-286-6100

Dearborn Heights  
313-278-4433

Eastpointe  
586-771-4200

Royal Oak  
248-280-9500

West Bloomfield  
248-851-7506

**OPEN MAY 1:** Rochester Hills Flower Market  
Hampton Village Center • 248-894-3174

**NOW OPEN:** Livonia Flower Market  
36622 Five Mile Rd. (W. of Levan) • 734-678-2537

**Award-Winning Landscape Services: 248-874-1400**  
[www.EnglishGardens.com](http://www.EnglishGardens.com)

# New Logo! New Plants! New Locations!

Flats of  
Impatiens  
**\$9.99**  
The Entire Month of May

## Same Incredible Quality, Selection, Service & VALUE!

**OPENING IN MAY**

**bordine's**  
on Woodward

33779 Woodward  
BIRMINGHAM  
248-594-8880

**Bordine**  
**Xpress**

Open Daily  
9am to 7pm

ROYAL OAK..... 4850 Coolidge Hwy..... North of 14 Mile Rd.  
WEST BLOOMFIELD ..... 7300 Haggerty ..... 14 Mile Rd. & Haggerty  
NOVI..... 41600 W. 10 Mile Rd. .... 10 Mile Rd. & Meadowbrook  
LIVONIA ..... 37661 5 Mile Rd. .... 5 Mile Rd. & Newburgh Rd.  
NORTHVILLE TWP. .... 15522 Sheldon Rd. .... 5 Mile Rd. & Sheldon Rd.

Xpress locations have plant material only and do not offer our full selection.

Visit our website for store hours!

[www.bordines.com](http://www.bordines.com)

**bordine's**

ROCHESTER HILLS..... 1835 S. Rochester Rd ..... 248-651-9000  
CLARKSTON..... 8600 Dixie Highway..... 248-625-9100  
GRAND BLANC ..... 9100 Torrey Rd..... 810-953-1111  
BRIGHTON..... 6347 Grand River Ave..... 517-552-9300



# Put a little **SPRING** in your Spring

## Telly's Spring Events

### Hardy Ferns

May 4, Tuesday, 7pm

Mike Harvey will show the many varieties of ferns available and guide the class through selecting and growing them in the garden.

### Take Back Your Garden

May 11, Tuesday, 7pm

Learn how easy it is to cope with deer, squirrels & other browsers and take back your garden! Julia Hofley will show you how.

### Vegetable Gardening

May 18, Tuesday, 7pm

Telly's staff will provide information on how to get the most out of your vegetable garden.



Class fee \$5 unless otherwise noted (materials not included). Registration required – please call 248-689-8735. All classes held at Troy location unless otherwise noted.

### Edible Ornaments

May 25, Tuesday, 7pm

We decided to offer this class because of the growing interest in beautiful, ornamental plants that can also be eaten. Learn how to use these plants in both your beds and containers for a double dose of garden enjoyment.

### Herbs

June 8, Tuesday, 7pm

Learn the nuances of growing & using herbs in this delightfully informative presentation.

**FreezePruf**  
It's like antifreeze  
for plants!  
Plant Earlier—  
Garden Longer!



**VISIT TELLYS.COM  
FOR MORE EVENT  
INFORMATION**

## Introducing our **NEW** Shelby Township location

We are proud to announce a new addition to Telly's – a new production facility and garden center in Shelby Township. We offer an outstanding selection and the same service, quality, and value that has made the original Telly's so successful for over three decades. Telly's in Shelby will also have a full spectrum of trees and shrubs as well as classes, workshops, and more.



### TROY

3301 John R—1/4 mile north of 16 Mile  
248-689-8735

### SHELBY TWP

4343 24 Mile btwn Dequindre & Shelby Rd.  
248-659-8555

Spring Hours (both locations):

Mon-Sat: 8am-9pm Sun: 10am-5pm

**Telly's**  
GREENHOUSE  
THE GARDENER'S PARADISE.  
www.tellys.com

## Contents

May 2010

Clippings.....	6	Where to pick up MG.....	34
To-Do List.....	8	Feature: Growing nutrient-packed produce at home.....	35
Ask MG.....	10	Garden TV.....	35
Tools & Techniques.....	12	Calendar.....	36
Healthy Lawns.....	14	Bulk Subscriptions.....	39
Feature: 15 years of Wave petunias.....	16	How-To: Cut down ornamental grasses.....	40
2010 Hosta of the Year.....	18	Places to Grow.....	42
Weather Wrap.....	18	Profile: The Secret Garden.....	44
Books for the Michigan Gardener.....	19	2010 All-America Selections Winners.....	47
Feature: Independent garden centers.....	20	Janet's Journal.....	Back Cover
Advertiser Index.....	20		
Perennial Perspectives.....	22		
Thyme for Herbs.....	24		
Plant Focus.....	26		
New Annuals for 2010.....	30		
Subscription Form.....	34		

## Garden Wisdom

There are no happier folk than  
plant lovers, and none more  
generous than those who garden.

—ERNEST H. WILSON

**On the cover:** 'White Queen' caladium

Photo by Eric Hofley / Michigan Gardener

Correction: The plants on the April issue  
cover were alyssum and primula (*Primula  
malacoides*).

## To Our Readers...

As we begin another fabulous season of gardening in Michigan, please keep in mind that *Michigan Gardener* exists because of the support from our advertisers. It is crucial that they receive **enthusiastic response from you**, our readers. Please purchase their plants, products, and services, and tell the owners and their employees that you read their ad in *Michigan Gardener*! Thank you.

May your gardens grow well!

*Eric Hofley* *Jonathon Hofley*

## MICHIGAN GARDENER

### Publisher/Editor

Eric Hofley

### Design & Production

Jonathon Hofley

### Advertising

Eric Hofley

### Circulation

Jonathon Hofley

### Editorial Assistant

Carrie MacGillis

### Contributors

Jeff Ball

Karen Bovio

Martha Ferguson

Eric Grant

Julia Hofley

Janet Macunovich

Steve Martinko

Steven Nikkila

George Papadelis

Sandie Parrott

Jean and

Roxanne Riggs

Jim Slezinski

Steve Turner

16291 W. 14 Mile Rd., Suite 5

Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327

Phone: 248-594-5563 Fax: 248-594-5564

E-mail: publisher@michiangardener.com

Website: www.michiangardener.com

### Publishing schedule

April to November, monthly (first week of the month).  
8 issues per year.

### Subscriptions

(Please make check payable to *Michigan Gardener*)  
8 issues/\$16 16 issues/\$29 24 issues/\$39

### Back issues

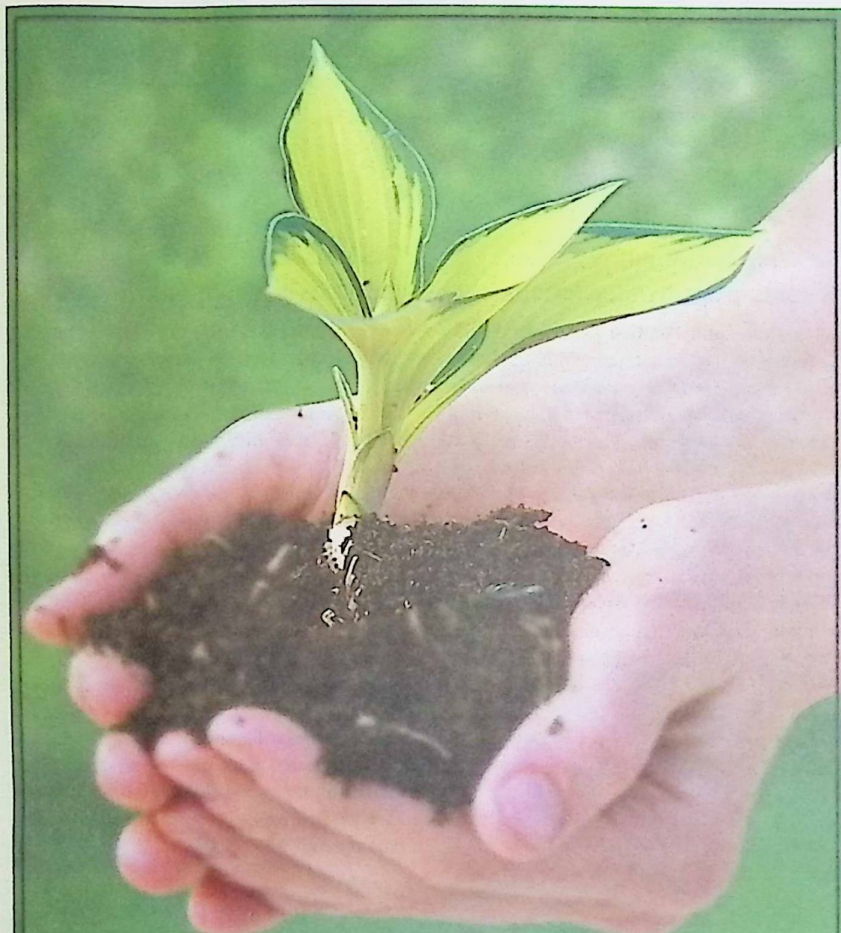
All past issues are available. Please send your request  
along with a check for \$3.00 per issue payable to  
*Michigan Gardener*.

### Canadian subscriptions

8 iss./\$19 U.S. (\$38 CAN.) 16 iss./\$34 U.S. (\$62 CAN.)

Copyright © 2010 Michigan Gardener. All rights reserved. No part of  
this publication may be copied, reproduced or used in any form without  
the expressed, written permission of the publisher. Neither the adver-  
tiser nor the publisher will be responsible for misinformation,  
typographical errors, omissions, etc. contained herein.

Michigan Gardener is published by Motor City Publishing, Inc.



**Grown  
Earth Friendly<sup>®</sup>**



*Endless Possibilities...*



Grown Earth Friendly<sup>®</sup>

-  GROUND COVERS
-  CLIMBING VINES
-  FERNS
-  ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Available at Your Favorite Garden Center or Landscaper.

[www.premiumplants.net](http://www.premiumplants.net)



# Grow More. Weed Less.

It's sturdy paper mulch, not plastic.  
Prevents weeds all season long.



Get more  
time to  
enjoy your  
garden!

Give your garden plants a stronger,  
healthier start.

- 100% Biodegradable – Breaks Down Fully Over One Growing Season with No Removal
- Excellent Natural Weed Prevention
- Eliminates Need for Herbicides
- Porous – Allows Air and Water Through
- Improves Water Efficiency
- Lots of Sizes to Choose From

**WeedGuard<sup>®</sup>  
Plus<sup>®</sup>**  
Patent Pending



Blocks weeds **naturally!**

1-800-654-5432 [www.weedguardplus.com](http://www.weedguardplus.com)



DOWNTOWN LAKE ORION

## Flower Fair

SATURDAY, MAY 22 | SUNDAY, MAY 23  
9 AM - 6 PM | 10 AM - 4 PM

HOME · GARDEN  
WILDLIFE · LEISURE PRODUCTS  
SERVICES · OUTDOOR ART

Gorgeous Flowers & Great Family Entertainment  
Free Admission

Brought to you by  
Genisys Credit Union  
Renewal by Andersen  
Waste Management, Inc.

[downtownlakeorion.org](http://downtownlakeorion.org)

For information contact Denise 248.425.2003  
or [events@downtownlakeorion.org](mailto:events@downtownlakeorion.org)



INTRODUCING...

# The Weekender

The water saving, lifelong hanging basket. Now you can go away for the weekend and not come home to dead plants!

Ask for **The Weekender** at your local garden center:

- Abele Greenhouse – Saginaw
- Alexander's Farm Market – Dexter
- Andy T's Farms – St. Johns
- Barson's Greenhouse – Westland
- Bigelow Berry Farm – North Branch
- Brohl's Flower Garden – Almont
- Croswell Greenhouse – Croswell
- Downtown Home & Garden – Ann Arbor
- Eckert's Greenhouse – Sterling Hts
- Fitkins Greenhouse – Ottawa Lake
- Hessell's Greenhouse – Shelby Twp
- Kutchey Family Farm Market – Macomb
- Piechnik Greenhouse – Clio
- Plymouth Nursery – Plymouth
- Ray Weigand's Nursery – Macomb

## MADE IN MICHIGAN

Designed by Eckert's Greenhouse in Sterling Heights, and produced right here in Michigan! 100% recyclable. Available in black, white, sand, seafoam & terracotta.



LEARN MORE AT: [WWW.H2OLABORSAVER.COM](http://WWW.H2OLABORSAVER.COM)



Invincibelle Spirit Hydrangea



Bloomerang Purple Lilac

## Just two of the new varieties we have for you this season!

### Invincibelle Spirit Hydrangea

- The first pink-flowered mophead Hydrangea arborescens!
- As hardy & adaptable as 'Annabelle' but produces hot pink flowers from early summer to frost
- For each plant sold, \$1.00 will be sent to the Breast Cancer Rsrch Foundation

### Bloomerang Purple Lilac

- Revolutionary NEW kind of lilac!
- Blooms in spring, then again later in summer until frost
- Compact, mounded variety fits easily into any landscape

Please visit our newly expanded selection of:  
Vegetables (including heirlooms!)  
Fruit trees • Specialty annuals  
Fruit plants • Pottery & statuary

Find us on [facebook](#)

Proudly serving Metropolitan Detroit for 79 years

20815 Farmington Rd. (1 blk N of 8 Mile)

Farmington Hills / 248-474-2925

Mon-Fri: 8am-8pm Sat: 8am-6pm Sun: 10am-5pm



**Steinkopf  
Nursery**

## clippings

### Berkshire Community Garden donates crops to soup kitchens

The Community Garden at Berkshire Middle School, part of Birmingham Public Schools, is looking forward to their third season growing vegetables, which are all donated to local soup kitchens and food banks. The garden is cared for all summer and fall by families who sign up for one week to tend to the garden. They are asked to water, weed, turn compost, and harvest any ripe vegetables and deliver them to places feeding those in need in the area.

The garden is completely organic. They have grown onions, carrots, radishes, potatoes, tomatoes, collard greens, eggplant, cauliflower, broccoli, red cabbage, peas, beans, peppers, zucchini, and cucumbers. Last year alone they harvested and donated over 2000 tomatoes. This spring one of the alumni is going to build raised beds for his Eagle Scout project.

The goals of the community garden: provide an opportunity for students and the Birmingham Public School community to give back by tending the garden which will feed the hungry; teach respect and nurturance of natural resources by learning about composting, recycling, sustainability and organic methods; learn patience from seeing things grow and experience gratification (not instant) from efforts resulting in food for those in need; and encourage families and neighborhood groups to team together to work the garden and deliver produce to soup kitchens throughout the growing season.

Last spring the Berkshire Community Garden was featured as one of the stops on the Franklin Garden Walk. The garden receives support from the Franklin Garden Club, Goldner Walsh Garden and Home, Birmingham Education Foundation, ACE Hardware (13 Mile and Southfield) and the Berkshire PTA. To find out more, please contact Mrs. Lachowicz at 248-203-4706 or ll02bps@birmingham.k12.mi.us.

### Dow Gardens' Children's Garden program wins national award

The centerpiece program of Dow Gardens' Children's Garden in Midland has won the 2010 Jane L. Taylor award, which is given by the American Horticultural Society to an individual, organization, or program that has inspired and nurtured future horticulturists through efforts in children's and youth gardening.

As reported in *The American Gardener*, through the Growin' Gardeners program, families are assigned a four-by-four-foot plot where they can choose, plant, and grow their own vegetables. With the aid of weekly lessons and a workbook, they learn the basics of gardening and the use of gardening tools.

Growin' Gardeners, which began in 2003 with 10 garden plots and 34 participants, has grown under the leadership of Melissa Butkiewicz to include 84 garden plots and 270 participants.

### Feather pots provide an alternative to expanding landfills

As reported in the *Avant Gardener*, the poultry industry in this country has a problem of what to do with five billion pounds of feathers each year. To avoid the expansion of landfills, the Agricultural Research Service's Environmental Quality Laboratory in Maryland has developed a method of converting feather keratin into a lightweight, strong plastic. This plastic could be used by the horticultural industry for "sustainable" products, including greenhouse films and nursery containers. Initial efforts are focusing on developing biodegradable pots, and so far 11 formulations of keratin plastics have been successfully produced. Cooperating pot manufacturers are making test runs of these formulations, and biodegradability trials are being conducted.

## NEED A HAND?

CALL  
"THE LITTLE GARDENER  
THAT COULD"

15 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
AT BOTANICAL GARDENS

FREE ESTIMATES  
586-214-9852 PAT  
[WWW.AGARDENSPACE.COM](http://WWW.AGARDENSPACE.COM)

OUR BOTH ANNIVERSARY

**OLDANI**  
LANDSCAPE NURSERIES

Calling all Tree & Shrub lovers...

- Over 50,000 container-grown woody ornamentals
- Large selection of grafted rare & Dwarf Conifers, including large field-grown specimens
- Thousands to choose from!
- SPECIAL PRICES on many of these choice plants!

2666 TOZER RD • NORTH BRANCH • 810-688-2363

HOURS: MON-SAT 8-6, SUN 12-4

[www.oldanilandscapenurseries.com](http://www.oldanilandscapenurseries.com)

**TRUSTED FOR 30 YEARS**



**MAY SPECIAL**

**Boxwoods 3 for \$30**

Regularly \$29<sup>99</sup> each  
Large, Full, Michigan-Grown

Some restrictions apply / While supply lasts / Limit 6

STOP BY FOR MORE MAY SPECIALS

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

14471 W. 11 Mile Rd  
Oak Park • 248-543-4400

Btwn Coolidge & Greenfield • Parking in back • Please call for store hours

[www.fourseasonsgardencenter.com](http://www.fourseasonsgardencenter.com)

**FOUR SEASONS**  
GARDENCENTER  
& Custom Landscape Services

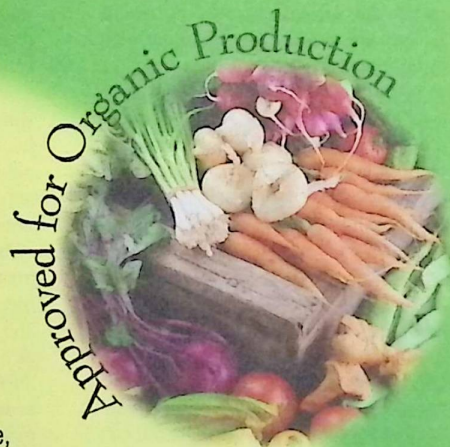
**Don't Panic.  
Go Organic.**

**Summit Year-Round<sup>®</sup>  
Spray Oil**

- No dangerous chemicals
- No odor
- Kills aphids, spider mites, scale, thrips, leaf beetle larvae and more
- Use on garden plants and fruit trees right up to the day of harvest.

**Mosquito Dunks<sup>®</sup>**

- America's #1 biological mosquito killer
- Kills mosquitoes before they can become disease-carrying adults.
- Keeps working for 30 days in ponds, bird baths, water troughs and any standing water.
- Will not pollute water or harm animals, fish or birds.



Available at Meijer  
& other fine retailers.

**meijer**  
Member Since 1987

**Summit<sup>®</sup>**  
*...responsible solutions.*

(800) 227-8664  
[summitchemical.com](http://summitchemical.com)

© is a registered trademark of Summit Chemical Co.



People are talking about why Wave<sup>®</sup> petunias grow so well...

"My neighbor thinks I hired a landscaper."

Wave is the easy-care, color-all-season petunia. Look for it in the pink package at your favorite garden center. Join the Fan Club at [wave-rave.com](http://wave-rave.com).

© 2010 Ball Horticultural Company PAS10170-MG WAVE is a registered trademark of Kirin Agrificio Company, Ltd.

## Discover Flowers & Plants at Great Prices!

*Our Specialty is Spectacular Hanging Baskets!*

Bedding Plants • Roses • Herbs  
Vegetable Plants • Perennials  
Proven Winner Plants  
Garden Ornaments

Over 12 Acres of Greenhouse  
and 2 Acres of Shopping!

Open May  
Mon-Sat 9am-8pm Sun 9am-6pm  
June—Call for hours



# SCHWARTZ'S GREENHOUSE

30705 Sibley, Romulus  
734-753-9269  
www.schwartzgreenhouse.com

All Flats  
(48 plants) \$8.99

## to-do list

### Annuals

- Spring came early this year, so it seems the garden is a bit ahead of usual. Keep in mind the last frost-free day in Michigan is usually around May 15. Don't try to push the season too much unless you're prepared to cover tender plants in the event of a frost.
- Plant containers first. They can be easily moved or covered if there's a frost this month. Plant annual flower beds later in the month. The soil will be warmer and the

chance of frost should be past. If the soil isn't warm enough, annuals won't perform well.

- Prepare beds early in the month. Remove any perennial weeds and mix in organic, rich soil amendments. For sandy soil, add peat or compost for more texture and water-holding properties. To break up clay soil, add finely shredded pine bark. Adding cow manure, compost, or other organic materials every year helps maintain healthy soil. Compost also helps with wa-

### Feature Task: Growing potatoes in containers

Growing potatoes in containers is a lot of fun for kids and adults, plus it doesn't require tons of garden space. The benefits: 1) The plants are less likely to be harmed by bugs or other pests; 2) The potatoes will grow more quickly, giving you fresh potatoes earlier in the season; 3) Because you control all aspects of the environment of the potatoes, you won't have to worry about the potatoes rotting.

Everybody who sees your container of spuds will be delighted—it's quite a sight! There is no comparison between home-grown and supermarket potatoes; the flavor difference is truly dramatic.

**Getting started.** Find a clean garbage can, 1/2 whiskey barrel, recycle bin, or even a 10-gallon pot. Just remember that the larger the container, the more difficult it will be to move around and harvest your potatoes.

Next, drill drainage holes in the bottom and sides of the container, about an inch from the bottom. To keep the container from direct soil contact on the ground, elevate it using bricks or a plant dolly with wheels.

**Soil.** Make sure the holes in the bottom of the container are covered with newspaper or broken clay pot pieces or rocks to keep the soil from coming out of the holes. Now make your soil using quality potting mix with pre-moistened peat. Add about one shovelful of additional pre-moistened peat moss to each 1 cubic foot bag of potting mix. The peat moss provides the potatoes with the acidity they require. Mix a slow-release fertilizer into the soil. You could also add composted manure or compost instead. Now fill your container with 4 to 6 inches of soil.

**Planting the potato seeds.** The potatoes you will purchase aren't actually seeds, they are potatoes that have not been treated and have been grown in controlled conditions to minimize the chance of disease. Space potatoes 5 inches apart and 5 inches away from the sides of the container.

You'll need 3 to 8 seeds, depending on the size of the container. Separate the potatoes from the package, and push them into the planting mix until they are covered by 2 inches of soil. Maintain the spacing.

**Watering.** Water thoroughly until the water comes out the bottom of your container. From this point forward, the soil must not dry out, otherwise the potatoes could get disfigured and lumpy or not grow at all. Keep the container moist, but not soggy.

**Growing.** In a few weeks the plants will break through the surface. When the plants measure 4 inches tall, cover them (leaves and all) with more planting mix until only 2 inches of the new growth shows. Every time the plants reach 4 inches above the soil, add another couple of inches of planting mix. Remember to keep watering each time you add soil, until water comes out of the bottom. Watering may be necessary two or three times a week, particularly as it gets warmer. Stop adding soil when you've reached 3 inches from the top of the container.

At this point, plant some bush beans in between the potato plants. This serves two purposes: the bean plants keep the potato beetle away and the potato plant keeps the bean beetle away (this is called companion planting). The top growth of the potato will grow to 3 feet tall and will require staking so the plants don't fall over or break.

**Harvest time.** When small blossoms appear on the plants, the tiny, tender "new potatoes" are ready to harvest. Simply feel around in the container and pick some, trying not to disturb the root system of the others. Or leave them to grow into full size potatoes. When the plants turn yellow and start to dry up, the rest of the potatoes have matured to full size. Dump the whole container and harvest your potatoes, or gently dig up your container.

**Store your potatoes.** Store potatoes in a dark, cool location or in a paper bag. DO NOT RINSE the potatoes until they have hardened for a few days. Just lightly brush them off with your hands.

## WAVE PETUNIA HANGING BASKETS

REG. \$24.99

NOW \$14.99

Now thru May 31, 2010

### PROVEN WINNERS

*A special group of annuals and perennials that are:*

- Tried and tested
- Superior colors
- Fast growing
- Superior garden performance



*Now available at Plymouth Nursery.*

**PLYMOUTH NURSERY**  
HOME & GARDEN SHOWPLACE



We carry a HUGE  
selection of annuals  
with many  
new varieties!

734-453-5500

GROW GREEN WITH US!

www.plymouthnursery.net

Mon.-Fri. 8-8

Sat. 8-6 • Sun. 9-6

9900 Ann Arbor/Plymouth Rd.

7 Miles East of US-23 • 7 Miles West of I-275

1 1/2 Miles South of M-14

Corner of Gotfredson Rd.





ter retention in sandy soils. Be sure to mix it in well about 4 inches down.

### Seeds

- Generally, it's safe to sow your seeds for warm-season crops directly into the soil after May 15. You should also be able to plant seedlings. Watch them carefully to make sure they're getting the proper amount of water and fertilizer. If there's a late frost, keep a floating row cover available to protect them. It also helps keep scavengers away until they are fully established.

### Vegetables

- Early in the month, plant cool-season vegetables, like peas, turnips, and lettuce. Plant tomatoes, peppers, and basil once temperatures are consistently warm. These plants really dislike cooler temperatures, and usually don't recover after being nipped with cold.
- Prepare garden beds with a thick layer of organic material like compost. Till it in as deep as possible; don't just layer it on the top of the soil. After planting, apply a layer of fine mulch or even wet newspapers between the rows to create walking paths. Walking on mulch will keep the soil from becoming compacted and help keep weeds down. This fine mulch and newspapers will break down over the season and can be tilled into the soil next year.
- Watch out for critters, because they can find a garden early and destroy it before it gets established. Plan a variety of defenses and change them frequently to be most effective.
- Consider planting an extra row of vegetables to help feed the hungry. Then during the growing season, drop off your harvest at any English Gardens store. Forgotten Harvest will pick up the produce weekly and distribute it to emergency food providers in the tri-county area. For more info, visit [www.forgottenharvest.org](http://www.forgottenharvest.org).

### Fruits

- You can still add fruit trees and bushes to your garden this month. Remember that newly planted fruit trees and brambles need time to get established. Do not expect any real fruit yields for several years. During this time, fruit trees should be pruned to form a strong structure to bear the fruit.
- Plant strawberry plants early this month.

### Lawn

- Regular applications of fertilizer and water are the best ways to keep the lawn green and healthy throughout the year.
- Fertilizer comes in two forms: liquid and granular. Liquids are great for a quick green, but don't last long. They encourage a lot of green growth, which means more frequent mowing. Granular fertilizers are

typically slow-release formulas.

- Bagged organic fertilizers are slower release than chemical fertilizers because they're broken down by microbial action and improve your soil. They won't green up the lawn as quickly, but have micronutrients that will make the lawn healthier in the long run.
- Weed control, grub control or both may be necessary. Frequently it's easiest and most effective to treat with a granular grub control when you fertilize and to use a liquid weed killer to spot treat your problem areas. You do not need to overdo it.
- It is best to have your soil tested before applying any fertilizer to determine what your lawn is missing. A soil test will save you money in the long run and will save the environment because you are using only what you need.
- Regular mowing is essential. Only remove one-third of the grass blade at a time. Mowing grass too short causes stress, which leads to damage.

### Perennials

- Remove all debris and clean up all perennial gardens before adding any new plants. Any of last year's dead plant material should be cut back to allow new shoots to grow. Give existing plants an application of a good organic fertilizer for a needed boost this season.
- When planting perennials, be sure to read the tags for spacing. Bare areas can be filled with annuals to let perennials reach their full size in a few years. Don't overfill the garden now with too many spring bloomers. If beds are full now, you may run out of room for seasonal bloomers later. A good ratio is 25 percent spring blooms, 50 percent summer blooms, and 25 percent fall blooms to keep the garden in bloom throughout the growing season.

Provided by the professionals at English Gardens.



## AMERICAN ROOTS

Michigan Wildflowers & Native Plants

Add some American Plants to your American Garden!

Butterfly Host Plants  
Woodland & Prairie Wildflowers  
Grasses, Sedges, Ferns & Shrubs

Open weekends 10-4 starting May 8

1958 Hidden Lake Trail • Ortonville, MI 48462  
[www.americanrootswildflowers.com](http://www.americanrootswildflowers.com)  
248-627-8525

Michigan's Largest Home and  
Lawn Decoration Center

## Krupp's

Novelty Shop

Lawn Furniture • Lighthouses • Steps  
Gazebos • Religious • Statuary  
Fountains • Bird Baths • Windmills  
Gazing Globes • Memorials  
Gift Certificates • Layaway available

Corner of M-21 & M-13  
Lennon, MI • 810-621-3752

Open 7 days - please call for hours  
Visa, MC, Discover, AmEx & personal checks accepted

Find Serenity, Beauty, and Inspiration in



## Garden Inspirations

Scripture readings illustrated by garden settings

[www.GardenInspirationsBook.com](http://www.GardenInspirationsBook.com)

Come see the **finest quality & largest selection** of NY and PA Bluestone in SE Michigan!



We have both cut and irregular shaped FLAGSTONE for:  
Patios • Sidewalks • Steps • Pool decks • Treads • Hearths • Countertops  
Copings • Radius Copings • Custom projects • Wallstone also available

## Loeffler STONE CENTER

We are a third generation, family-owned company, supplying architects, masons, and contractors with top-quality landscaping and building stone.

32730 Northwestern Hwy  
Farmington Hills

248-626-4048

[www.loefflerstone.com](http://www.loefflerstone.com)



## Des-ti-na-tion.

n. A special place that people should make a point of visiting.

4570 Sterns Rd, Ottawa Lake, MI

US-23, Exit 1 - 15 minutes south of Cabela's

734-568-6868

[www.jacobs-garden.com](http://www.jacobs-garden.com)

Open year-round

May hours: Mon-Fri: 10-7

Sat: 9-6 • Sun: 10-5

- Annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, specialty conifers, tropical plants, houseplants
- Enormous selection of pottery & statuary: terra cotta, cast stone & concrete, including glazes in a rainbow of colors
- Garden ornaments
- Fountains & patio furniture
- Birding department with specialized feeders & seed
- Fertilizers, tools, etc.
- Home décor, tabletop & gifts
- Caren specialty lotions & bath products
- Vera Bradley collections
- April Cornell apparel and accessories

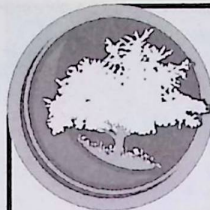


## Gardener Needed

Mature, active, and very responsible individual or couple sought for landscaping and on-site management of residential complex consisting of one apartment building and several houses in central Oakland County—ideally someone who is retired from a first career and wanting to remain physically active with EXTENSIVE GARDENING in a pleasant setting. Mowing not included. In the growing months the landscaping/gardening is a full-time job as there are several acres needing care. This is not a second job. Rental management is part-time all year, involves providing an on-site presence, occasionally (when owner not available) showing units/properties, taking tenant applications and receiving rent from tenants not paying by electronic transfer. Various odd jobs come with the territory.

Compensation will include free housing—an apartment with all utilities included or a single family home with personal garden area.

Send Resumes/letters of application to:  
Situation Offered  
16291 W. 14 Mile Rd., Suite 5  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025



### Dream Gardens, LLC

Landscape Design, Installation & Maintenance

Jennifer Blankenship

248-980-8719

jennifer@dreamgardensmi.com

www.dreamgardensmi.com

Personalized designs with a focus on

sustainability and low environmental impact

Our plant inventory includes over 55 different varieties of Japanese Maples, \$85 & up



**Abbott's**  
Nursery & Garden Center  
2781 Scio Church Road  
Ann Arbor • 734-665-8733

## ask MG

### Eradicating bull and Canada thistle

*The few bull thistle plants that we saw in our yard are now taking over, even in the nearby rock garden. How do we stop it? Don't want little kids' hands getting scratched. P.S., Milford*

Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), once mature, is a very tough, prickly weed. The mature leaves end in long, sharp spines, the upper leaf surface has short prickles (like soft hairs), and the under surface is cottony. The flower head bracts are tipped with prickles, while the purple flowers are 2 to 3 inches across.

It is a tap-rooted biennial with spiny, winged stems and grows in clumps. Older plants are best dug up, after which you have to monitor the site for any new growth. Spray any new young plants with herbicide as soon as possible. Or, if you want to be environmentally friendly, use a weed-torch to burn the above ground parts. You'll have to repeat that multiple times.

Bull thistle is often confused with Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). The latter one always colonizes in patches and is far less prickly than the bull thistle. Canada thistle has an extremely well-developed, creeping root system that grows several feet deep and is therefore very hard to eradicate. You'll have to be persistent. Monitor the site frequently and spray with herbicide as soon as you see new growth.

With both plants, make sure to remove flower heads from mature plants to prevent seeds from forming. One flower head will produce thousands of seeds! Both species are related, belonging to the aster family. Species of this family can be toxic to the skin for some people, so be sure to wear gloves and protective clothing when trying to eradicate them. No matter what method you use, it may take several years to totally get rid of these weeds.

### Storing paperwhites for next holiday season

*My paperwhites were beautiful this holiday season. How do I store the bulbs? Is it possible to use them next holiday season? If so, are there any special preparations I need to do? C.K., South Lyon*

Paperwhites are a favorite plant for the holidays, with striking white color and enticing fragrance. They make great gifts as they can grow in just pebbles and water, from a coffee cup to a table planter, need no soil, and will go

### Have a question? Send it in!

E-mail: publisher@michiangardener.com

Fax: 248-594-5564

Mail: 16291 W. 14 Mile Rd., Suite 5  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327

from bulb to blossom in just about 4 weeks.

To prepare them for storage, reduce watering and allow the foliage to brown out. The cleanest way to store them is by removing the bulbs from the planting medium. If planted in soil, you run the risk of damaging the bulbs with bacteria and fungus if you store them in the pot. Snip off the spent leaves. Lay out the bulbs on a paper towel or newspaper in a sunny, dry, and cool place, around 50 degrees for about a week. Dry them off with a soft dry cloth, removing any planting medium from the bulb indentations. Place them in a mesh bag (like one for onions) or in a cardboard box with shredded newspaper. Store the box or bag in a dry, cool area that isn't subject to large shifts in humidity.

Since it only takes the bulb about 4 weeks to go from dormant to blossom, consider staging several shifts of bulb containers in your home so that you have continuous fragrance and the presence of fresh flowers all through the winter holidays.

### Topsoil and compost: bagged vs. bulk

*I need to buy roughly 3 yards of topsoil to build up a predominantly shady area of my garden. Should I get bags or bulk soil? I have read that bulk soil can be risky due to storage outside, and has potential for weeds and other random "things" to be living in the soil. S., Ferndale*

If you need 3 cubic yards of soil, it is more economical to buy bulk. The average bag of soil is 2 to 3 cubic feet. One cubic yard equals 27 cubic feet. That's about 11 bags to get one cubic yard.

Since you are building up a shady area, consider a compost mixture. Shade plants tend to prefer a more acidic soil. The humus of the compost will add nutrients to the soil your plants will love. Those "things" that live in soil are the very microorganisms that keep the soil healthy and, in turn, your plants vigorous.

If purchasing from a commercial supplier, choose wisely by asking key questions. Don't let price per yard drive your choice. Where does the compost come from? What is the content? Is it local shredded leaf mulch? Is it topsoil skimmed from large developments that includes all those vagrant weed seeds you are concerned about? How is it screened of debris and larger plant material? Is it stored covered or left open to blown-in seed?

Even the best-prepared compost will contain a few weed seeds, since some can lay



### Large Selection of Fountains

## Rice's Garden Ornaments

Producers of Quality Concrete Statuary

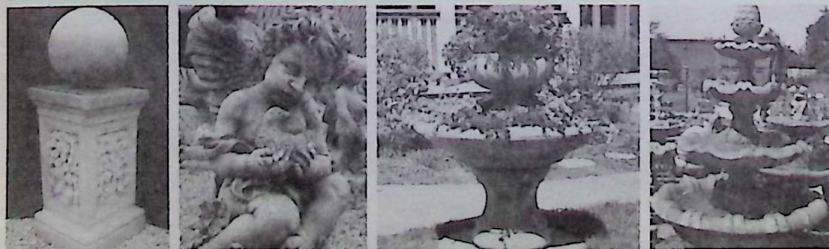
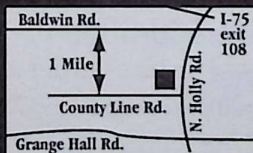
Hundreds to choose from • All of Enriched Cement • Unique Selection • Low Prices  
Many new & old world finishes including permanent colors

810-694-2915

10510 N. Holly Rd. • 1-1/2 Mile S. of I-75

May-Aug: Mon-Sat 9-6pm (Open Sundays 12-3pm in May & June Only)  
September-April: Mon-Sat 9-4:30pm

www.ricesgardenornaments.com





### Mailbox area planting ideas

*Can you suggest plants that would fill in the space around my mailbox area? It is not flat and tricky to mow. It faces east, has sandy soil, and my sprinkler system can water it easily. K., Goodrich*

Mark off a minimum 2 to 3 foot perimeter, running left, right and behind the mailboxes. Remove the grass and thoroughly amend the sandy soil with compost. A short wall stack of small boulders placed on the backside of the bed, similar to the ones by the background junipers, will give plant and soil support. Nest and stack the boulders on landscape fabric to help prevent soil loss.

On the street edge, consider angle cut limestone, about 2 to 3 cubic feet. Place landscape fabric only under this area. Cut limestone locks together and gives a stable foot traffic pad for retrieving your mail, eliminates a mud bath, and no plants are brutalized when the mail truck runs over this area.

Many plants enjoy the good drainage of amended sandy soil augmented by ir-

rigation. Consider readily available, low maintenance spirea, one on each side of the mailbox pair. There are many varieties to suit your color preferences. If you prefer an evergreen, choose a low-growing juniper such as 'Blue Star' or 'Gold Star.' They grow slowly and can handle roadside conditions.

Place a trellis of your choice behind the mailboxes about a foot back. Plant a couple clematis vines that bloom at different times, for vertical interest. Trumpet vine or a fiveleaf akebia are vigorous alternatives. Compost, mulch, and irrigation will enable plant success. Behind the trellis, plant 3 ornamental grasses in a slight arc as a backdrop and screen. Look for cool weather grasses such as feather reed grasses (*Calamagrostis*) 'Overdam' or 'Karl Foerster.' They remain upright even in winter and give long-term interest. Add 2 inches of mulch to the planted area.

To avoid having to mow the drainage ditch entirely, consider a rain garden using native Michigan plants. You already have the boulder retaining wall and a great green backdrop of junipers to show off your creative solution.

dormant in soil for over 50 years. You can't eliminate them all. But minimize the invasion by seeking quality product and a reputable supplier. Ferndale accepts leaves and grass clippings, which are delivered to SOCRRA, a premier composting facility with a knowledgeable staff. Go to their website ([www.socrra.org](http://www.socrra.org)) to learn how they prepare their product. They have helped set the standard for compost methods. This compost is available to both residents of SOCRRA communities and non-residents as well. Go to the SOCRRA website for more details.

Answers compiled by Martha Ferguson and contributed by Beverly Moss and Jacqueline Seymour.

**Sunny Fields**  
Botanical Park

OVER 1000 PLANT VARIETIES

## LILAC FESTIVAL

Come see Michigan's most complete lilac collection, with over 300 different varieties

Sat-Sun, May 8-9, 10am-5pm

Music • Food • Crafters

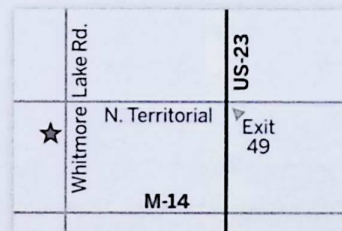
\$3 admission - No pets please

5444 Welch Rd, Emmett, MI 48022  
810-387-2765 • [www.visitsunnyfields.org](http://www.visitsunnyfields.org)



## A destination well worth the drive.

We're locally owned with thousands of locally grown annuals, vegetables, herbs, and perennials—including climbing vines, ornamental grasses, and ground covers. Plus hundreds of original, in-house designed planters and hanging baskets, Jackson & Perkins roses, small fruits, shrubs, fruit trees, and hardy ornamentals. All top quality products, competitively priced.

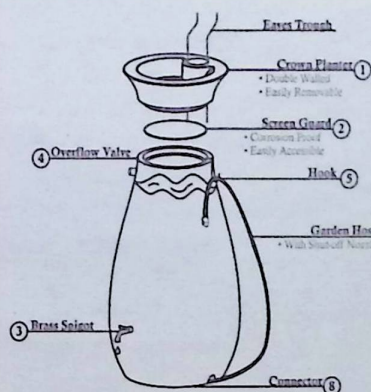


## ALEXANDER FARM MARKET & GREENHOUSES

Providing dedication and quality since 1978

Corner of N. Territorial and Whitmore Lake Rd.  
6925 Whitmore Lake Rd. • Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

734-741-1064



## Rain Barrels

2 sizes: 50 gal. & 65 gal.  
Starting at \$139<sup>95</sup>

1. Crown planter
2. Corrosion proof screen guard
3. Brass spigot
4. Overflow valve in back
5. Hook for hanging garden hose
6. Clamps
7. 6' garden hose with shut-off nozzle
8. Elbow connector for hose attachment



## Chipper/Shredder

- The ECHO Bear Cat SC2206 features an easy-to-start Briggs & Stratton engine and a wide-opening, gravity feed system.
- Portable - Easy to move by hand.
- Incredible Shredding Performance - Can chip limbs up to 2.75" diameter. Six reversible shredder knives feature a serrated edge and are arranged in a staggered pattern for more efficient shredding and increased life. A standard 1.5" diameter debris screen reduces mulch to a consistent size. A .75" diameter screen is also available.

Starting at \$849<sup>00</sup>

Come see these and other quality products to help you build and maintain your garden.

## Saxton's Garden Center

Plymouth • 734-453-6250 • [www.saxtons.com](http://www.saxtons.com)

## Eagle Landscaping & Supply

Manure (Composted & Fresh) • Compost • Soils • Straw  
Sands • Shredded Cedar & Bark • Sod • Gravel • Grass Seed  
Decorative Stone • Colored Mulch • Edging • Patio Blocks  
Retaining Wall • Timbers • Tools • Garden Statuary • Ornaments

### ⚡ FAST DELIVERY! ⚡

Our trucks are clean and our drivers are friendly! We can also deliver 2 products (mulch & topsoil) to one location, which saves you money!  
Or, visit our clean and organized supply yard to pick-up.

20779 Lahser Rd. (just north of 8 Mile) • Southfield  
248-356-4342

## ARE YOU A RARE SPECIMEN?



IF YOU ARE irresistibly drawn to the exotic and unique. IF prostrate and variegated, goldens and pendulous are your thing...

Oh My! You may want to come and take a stroll through our rare collection of conifers and ornamentals. Be sure to visit our weirdo collection...(plants with character.) On your way to our SPECIMEN NURSERY STOCK COLLECTION, you won't be able to help but notice our overwhelming variety of specialty plants and cutting edge garden displays.

After your shopping experience, you'll want to catch lunch at our outdoor cafe and stroll through our gourmet market.

## PRODUCE • STATION

GREAT GARDENS BEGIN AT THE PRODUCE STATION  
1629 S. STATE • ANN ARBOR • PRODUCESTATION.COM • 734-663-7848

## tools & techniques

### Tools for dealing with deer

Those of us living in southeastern Michigan suffer from an incredibly large population of deer causing landscape destruction on a very scary scale. What is worse, the damage they impose on our landscapes is going to increase as time goes on. So what can we do?

There are many products now on the market designed to deal with deer in one way or another. Deer prevention products are sold assuming that one product is all you need to do the job; unfortunately that is far from reality. Almost everyone, wanting to gain some protection from deer damage, will need to use a combination of products to have any hope for success. Here is a list of the deer-related products organized by repellent technique.

If you want to try to repel deer, we recommend using the strategy of aggravating the deer so much they decide to avoid your property just because it is too much of a hassle. What you must do is insult the different senses of the deer (smell, taste, touch, sight, and motion) on a rotating basis over time. For example, you could use a smell repellent for two weeks, then use a taste repellent for two weeks, and then use a hot pepper repellent for two weeks. There are many combinations to consider.

**Deer fence.** Because deer are able to jump as high as 6 feet from a standing start, traditional fences must unfortunately be higher than 7 feet. An 8-foot tall plastic netting deer fence, professionally installed, does in fact prevent deer from coming into a normal-size yard. However they are very expensive and you need to establish gates, including one on the driveway. See [www.bennersgardens.com](http://www.bennersgardens.com).

**Electric fence.** Battery- or solar-powered electric fence kits are effective for protecting a vegetable or flower garden. They do not harm children or pets; if you choose you can turn the fence off when children are outside. See [www.fishock.com](http://www.fishock.com).

**Fence flat on the ground.** Many homeowners are successful protecting shrubs, a small flower garden, or vegetable bed by laying 3-foot wide lengths of chicken wire flat on the ground around the vulnerable plants. Deer do not like to walk on the wire and will avoid that area. The fencing can be rolled up while a family or guests are moving about the yard.

**Deer repellents.** Repellents applied properly and frequently enough can protect a single plant such as a newly planted tree or a group

of plants (such as a yew hedge) from attack by deer. They are usually not practical for protecting the whole yard or even a large garden.

Deer can get used to almost any repellent over time if they are hungry. The repellent we prefer is called Plantskydd and we have found it to be effective protecting our small trees and shrubs. See [www.plantskydd.com](http://www.plantskydd.com).

**Wireless deer zappers.** This is a battery-powered device on a stake. On the top are small wires connected to a battery that give a deer a good electric shock on its nose. It has a strong pheromone lure inside the hot wires

The damage deer impose on our landscapes is going to increase as time goes on.

to cause the deer to stick his nose down to the zapper. One to three of these products can be effective protecting an individual plant you want to save. The battery works for about eight months. See [www.wirelessdeerfence.com](http://www.wirelessdeerfence.com).

**Repelling ribbon.** Deer Stopper Barrier Ribbon is a 3/4-inch tape impregnated with a repellent. This device would be appropriate to protect a small garden or a grouping of plants. The ribbon is rigged at 30 inches off the ground and you can recharge the ribbon with new repellent every 30 days. See [www.messinawildlife.com](http://www.messinawildlife.com).

**Scarecrow spritzer.** Attached to your garden hose, this device has a motion detector. When it spots motion, it spritzes water out 30 feet. The noise of the sprinkler and the contact from the water will definitely cause a deer to go someplace else. This tool works well for a modest garden or flower bed. It is most effective if it is moved to different locations every day or two. Yes, it will spritz your cat. See [www.contech-inc.com](http://www.contech-inc.com).

**Fishing line.** If your yard is surrounded by trees, you can string a 30-pound test, monofilament fishing line around the periphery of your yard, secured on tree trunks about 36 to 40 inches off the ground. The deer cannot see it, but when they touch it, they jump back and go in a different direction. It cannot protect deer coming in by the driveway or other open entrances.

**Home remedies.** In my experience, all those cute tricks such as hanging bags of human hair, stringing up scented soap, or hanging old CD's on a string may work sometimes but are definitely not long-term solutions.



Jeff Ball

Jeff Ball has authored eight books on gardening, vegetables, and lawn care, and gardens in Lapeer County, MI.

# AGUAFINA

GARDENS INTERNATIONAL

Now Offering  
Quality Essentials  
so everyone can  
design • create • build

Bulk Supplies and  
Specialty Items

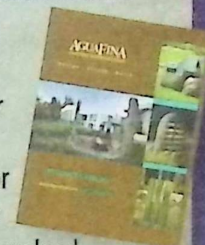
Topsoil  
Compost  
Mulch  
Gravels  
Boulders

Decorative Stone

Contact our design studio for  
product inquiries and services.

New Online Catalog  
for Garden Décor

Our catalog  
highlights  
many of our  
distinctive  
garden décor  
pieces. View  
online or download,  
[www.AguaFina.com/catalog](http://www.AguaFina.com/catalog)



AguaFina Pond Store


Water garden supplies for  
beginners to experts. Stroll our  
studio gardens and décor  
exhibits for design ideas and  
expert guidance.

Spring Hours

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm,  
Closed Sundays

**AGUAFINA**  
GARDENS INTERNATIONAL  
[www.AguaFina.com](http://www.AguaFina.com)  
248.738.0500

See what's new on our website,  
and join AguaFina's mail list  
for eblast updates on products,  
news, and events.

 Join AguaFina  
on Facebook

design • create • build

Established for over twenty years, AguaFina Gardens International is a complete Landscape Architectural Design and Installation firm specializing in detail oriented projects. Over the years we have earned a reputation for our expertise in stone setting, unique features, and a garden style that merges modern fusion, Asian influences, and natural elements. Each project is unique on its own with a vision that comes from a collaborative effort between our designers, project owners, and craftsmen. For information and inquiries, please contact 248.738.0500 or [info@AguaFina.com](mailto:info@AguaFina.com).

Visit us on the Franklin Garden Walk • Wednesday, June 9th



AguaFina brings the beauty of the world's landscape to Detroit through Water, Garden Décor, and Design.

# Westcroft Gardens

Oldest farm in Michigan

Come visit 4 acres of lush botanical gardens on the oldest farm in Michigan still owned and operated by the same family—established in 1776!

Call us to reserve the gardens for your wedding, party or special event

Our nursery offers shrubs, perennials, annuals, wildflowers, trees, herbs and vegetable plants. Our specialty: Azaleas and Rhododendrons, including hybrids created here that are not available at other nurseries. Our custom-blend Greenleaf Compound is a fabulous acid soil conditioner for broadleaved evergreens. We also offer a Petting Farm and Halloween Hayrides!

21803 West River Rd.  
Grosse Ile • 734-676-2444  
www.westcroftgardens.com

## FRALEIGHS

LANDSCAPE NURSERY



8600 Jackson Road  
Dexter, Michigan  
734.426.5067

www.fraleighs.com

## GARDEN RHYTHMS

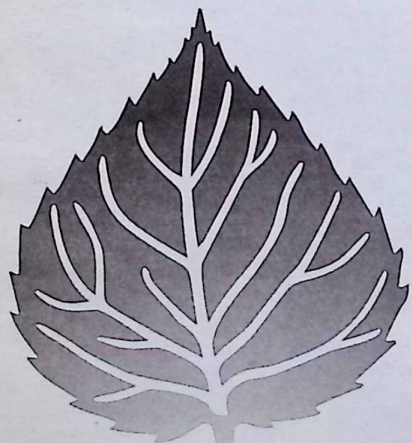
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR  
RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES

Have an old, worn-out garden? We specialize in renovation & rejuvenation

Ornamental Tree & Shrub Pruning  
Certified Master Gardeners & Designers

Reasonable Rates

248-217-6459



Schuman  
Landscape Lighting, Inc.

Residential • Commercial  
(248) 761-9377

Award-Winning  
Landscape Lighting:  
Named "Michigan  
Contractor of the Year"  
by

*Nightscaping*

Lighting for

- Safety
- Security
- Beauty...

Enhance the appearance of your property with an excellent return on investment.

Enjoy your landscape as an extended living space after sunset.

We are specialists.  
Landscape Lighting  
is our only business.

## healthy lawns

How to properly water your lawn

Proper watering of your lawn is the most important cultural practice there is to maintain your lawn's health. Yet many people do not give it the importance that it deserves. No amount of fertilizer or any other practice will improve the quality of your lawn if it does not receive proper irrigation. Lawns that do not receive proper watering become brown and do not grow. During periods of high heat and little rainfall, dry areas of the lawn may turn purple then quickly turn brown.

Interested in showing your kids or grandchildren a neat experiment? On a summer day take them outside and see if they can point out dry areas in the lawn. Then hand them a pair of polarized sunglasses and have them see where the dry areas actually are. Many are surprised that grass is actually blue, not the green we see with our naked eye. When the grass is dehydrated, the blue fades to red, yellow, and brown based on the severities. Water makes the grass cell walls swell up and look their healthy color. It's always fun demonstrating how our eyes can deceive us!

Researchers at Michigan State University have found that the old practice of deep and infrequent watering is not the best system for your lawn. The current recommendation is to water your lawn every day (or every other day) in the late morning, for about 20 to 30 minutes per area. This will give your lawn about 1/10 inch of water per day. Due to a relatively shallow root system, grass growing in clay or heavy soils should be watered 2 times a day, every day (or every other day), starting at approximately 6:00 a.m. and then again in the afternoon around 3:00 p.m. You may have

to adjust these recommendations according to your yard's soil conditions, but actual experience has shown that light, frequent watering gives better results than soaking the lawn once a week. During longer periods of hot, dry weather it may be necessary to increase watering times and frequency.

If you cannot water in the late morning, choose a time that better fits your schedule, but try not to water after dark. Moist, warm, and dark conditions will encourage fungal diseases, something you definitely do not want to happen.

During peaks of heavy spring rainfalls, mushrooms will begin to emerge. The cause is from saturated soils containing any woody matter below the lawn. To alleviate a mushroom problem you should turn your sprinkler system off for 3 to 4 days, allowing the soil and the water table to dry out. It takes 10 to 14 days for most mushrooms to dry out and disappear.

When the temperatures cool off in the fall (as they always do), many people are tempted to stop watering their lawns. This is a critical mistake. Because of continued and active root activity that occurs, turf grass plants need regular watering right through the fall. Typically, but not always, rain amounts will increase in the fall. Relying only on rainfall may not give lawns the water needed to recover from summer stresses. Keep watering right through the end of October.

Steve Martinko is the owner of Contender's Tree and Lawn Specialists in Oakland County, MI.

Steve Martinko



## Le Fleur Décor

An eclectic mix for home & garden

Specializing in Unique Flowers, Vines, Container Gardens, Herbs & Heirloom Varieties

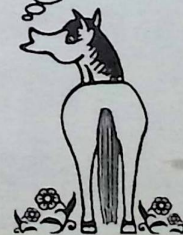
A great selection of local artists' wares always on hand:

Metal & Ironwork • Pottery • Sculpture • Glass  
Birdhouses and Feeders • Fairies • Garden Art

Mother's Day Celebration May 8-9  
Sales throughout the store!

3442 Hadley Rd • Hadley • 810-797-4745  
Tuesday-Saturday 10-7 Sunday Noon-5

YAHOOOO!  
GOLDEN  
NUGGETS!!



AGED HORSE MANURE  
BAGGED OR IN BULK  
248-634-3560



**ecoChic**  
landscape design  
Eco-Friendly Garden Services

**Prepare for Summer Color & Cooking!**

- Patio/Deck gardens ♣ Container plantings
- Organic vegetable & herb gardens
- Edible landscapes ♣ Rain Barrels & Gardens
- Timely pruning ♣ Low-Maintenance lawns
- Gardening Counseling

**248-978-2300**

www.ecochiclandscape.com  
ecochiclandscape@yahoo.com

## The Iron Barn

Iron Work for the Home & Garden



- Custom Railings
- Fence, Gates
- Outdoor Lamps
- Restoration
- Powder Coat
- Finishing

*Bring us  
your design!*

6823 N. Lapeer Rd. (M-24) 12 mi. N. of Lapeer

OPEN Sat & Sun 9-5 - Appts. Available

**989-795-2112 / 810-358-0010**

# ASK FOR IT

AT YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTER

MICHIGAN  
GARDENER

# Haley STONE

*Your Patio & Landscape Stone  
Specialists for over 50 years!*

**NEW!**  
We now have  
premium hardwood  
mulch—Low prices  
& fast delivery!



## THE AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF UNIQUE NATURAL STONE

Cut & Tumbled Bluestone  
Wallstone Flagstone  
Boulders Ledgerrock  
Stone Pavers

**COMING SOON:** Another Haley  
Stone location! On Lapeer Road, across  
from The Palace of Auburn Hills

- Do-It-Yourself instructions from our staff of EXPERTS!
- Brick Pavers and Maintenance Supplies
- Water Garden Pumps & Filters
- Garden Walls & Edgings

May/June Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm Sat 8am-4pm Sun 10am-2pm

3975 S. Rochester Rd.  
(Just South of M-59)  
Rochester Hills

**248-852-5511**

Prompt, Courteous Delivery Available

# gardenviews

*Now located right in the middle of Downtown Northville!*

*After 15 years at the "Old Gas Station," we now start the next 15 years at the "Old Hardware Store." We're very excited to be at our new location and believe you will be too!*

You'll love our new collection of spring florals, trees and wreaths. Choose from an incredible assortment of fiberstone and copperglass outdoor planters, statuary, benches and birdbaths. Beautiful fiberglass containers for the home come in bronze & stone finishes.



## NEW fiberstone has arrived!

Choose from a new shipment of planters, bird baths, benches & statuary

- Fiberstone is fiberglass with a mixture of sand and stone, cast into the surface
- Lighter weight and less fragile than concrete and safe for outdoor use
- Hand stained to give the appearance of aged stone

## Perfect Mother's Day Gifts

A collection of intricately designed jewelry that is floral inspired  
Beautiful assortment of candles and luxury soaps  
Exquisite lamps and clocks  
Humorous and inspirational wall plaques, and much, much more!



## FREE Seminar Janet Macunovich "Great Garden Designs"

Saturday, May 15, 9:30am-11am

Please call for reservations — seating is limited

## 15th Anniversary Celebration!

Saturday, May 29, 9am-5pm

- We'll give away \$50 gift certificates every hour from 11am - 5pm!
- Farmer John's Barnyard Express makes its 15th appearance at Gardenviews. Baby goats, a piglet, a lamb, a calf and pony rides. ALL FREE. 9am - 5pm
- Please stop in for special anniversary offers and a piece of anniversary cake!



**gardenviews**

117 E. Main St.  
Northville  
248-380-8881

Open 7 days a week

## Culinary Herb Workshop & Tasting

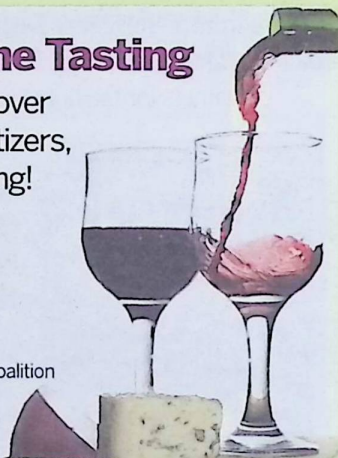
Saturday, May 8, 11am-12pm  
\$12 – Please call for reservations

### Market Square Wine Tasting

Join us for a Wine Tasting of over 40 wines and gourmet appetizers, all in a beautiful botanic setting!

Friday, May 14, 6-9pm  
At Goldner Walsh Nursery  
\$30 per person

- All net ticket proceeds will be donated to the HAVEN Garden Project
- Presented by The Michigan Young Farmer Coalition
- Purchase tickets at Goldner Walsh or any Market Square store



### Containers & Cocktails

Thursday, May 20, 5-8pm  
\$18 per person — reservation required

Visit Goldner Walsh this spring and let your planting spirit free.

**Step 1** – Bring your own pot or choose from our large inventory from around the world.

**Step 2** – Fill your container with a gorgeous selection of this year's hottest plants and flowers.

**Step 3** – Be the envy on your block and walk away with some valuable knowledge for making your containers fabulous!



**10% OFF** all containers and plants during event!



goldner walsh  
GARDEN & HOME

559 Orchard Lake Rd • 248-332-6430 • www.goldnerwalsh.com

# Wave petunias celebrate 15 years of coloring our world pretty

It's hard to believe, but one of the world's most beloved flowers turns 15 years old this year. Those pink pots are just about everywhere and there's a reason for it: public demand. It all started with 6-packs of colorful pink petunias, inviting you to ride the wave—meaning plant them in full sun, water regularly, fertilize weekly, and then stand back and catch the wave. No deadheading, no hand-holding, and when you come back from a week's vacation up north, they'll greet you in full glory all dressed up waiting for the garden party to begin.

There is one for every type of garden. From small spaces, hanging baskets, and containers to large garden beds, they'll fit in any space available. This high tech 'tunia has climbed mountains since its inception, and the Wave family now presents gardeners with five different series:

**Wave.** The original series creates a ground-hugging carpet in 8 colors, growing 4 to 6 inches high and spreading 3 to 4 feet.

**Easy Wave.** Like the original Wave, but with more height, growing 6 to 12 inches high and spreading 2-1/2 to 3 feet.

**Double Wave.** The pretty, frilly fashionista of the Waves. Great for baskets, pots or beds in 8 colors, growing 4 to 6 inches high and 18 to 24 inches wide.

**Shock Wave.** Great for small space gardens and containers in 10 colors. Small-flowered and spreading, growing 7 to 10 inches tall and 2-1/2 to 3 feet wide.

**Tidal Wave.** The tallest of the Wave family. Mountains of color for big beds and containers, or even a traffic-stopping hedge in 4 colors, growing 16 to 22 inches tall and spreading 2-1/2 to 4 feet wide.

Gardeners asked for more colors and the 2010 lineup delivers just that. The Easy Wave series presents the first star pattern in spreading petunias: 'Burgundy Star,' alongside the newly introduced 'Violet' (deep magenta) and 'Plum Vein' (lavender background with violet veins).

The Shock Wave series has a hip, new color edition called 'Denim' which changes colors as it ages, giving the flowerbed different hues all at once while new flowers open and old ones fade—kinda like your favorite pair of jeans.



'Burgundy Star'



'Plum Vein'

Wave petunias ([www.wave-rave.com](http://www.wave-rave.com)) are a modern flower but can still be reminiscent of old-fashioned sensibilities. If you're looking for that unforgettable fragrance that makes you remember being hugged by your grandma, go for the dark purples that grab your nose in the evening from many feet away before you even see them.

Julia Hofley is a freelance garden writer, lecturer, and independent sales rep (E-mail: [julia@juliabiglife.com](mailto:julia@juliabiglife.com)).





BEFORE

AFTER

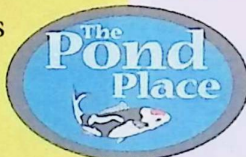
## Pond Cleaning Services

For ESTIMATE go to [www.pondplace.com](http://www.pondplace.com) or call 248-889-8400

Pond Cleaning · Pond Start-Up Services · Leak Repair  
Aeration, Fountain & Pump Installation · Consultations

### Free Pond Design & Construction Seminars

Register at [www.pondplace.com](http://www.pondplace.com) or call 248-889-8400



## FREE Koi

to all Mother's on  
Mother's Day with  
\$10 Purchase

Sunday, May 9, 11am-3pm



**The Pond Place** Complete Pond Supplies, Pond Kits, Koi  
3505 W. Highland Rd. (M-59), Milford, MI 48380  
248-889-8400 [www.pondplace.com](http://www.pondplace.com)

Directions: On south side of M-59, 4 miles east of US-23 or 1/8 mile west of Hickory Ridge Rd.

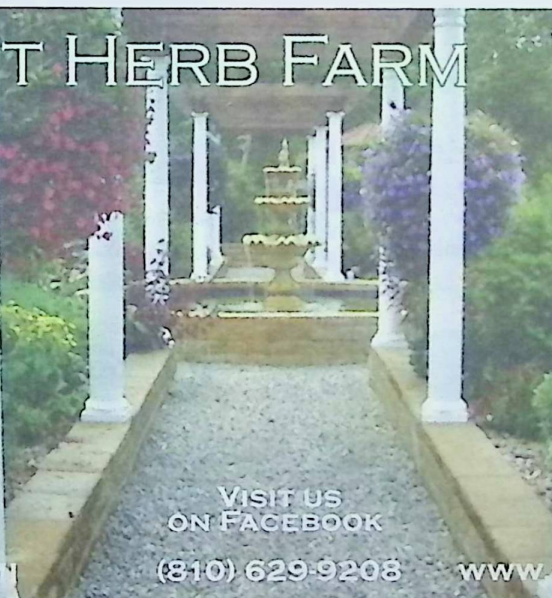
## HEAVENLY SCENT HERB FARM

*Experience the destination,  
retreat from the everyday.*

### ELEGANT GARDEN EVENTS

COME CELEBRATE YOUR WEDDING,  
RECEPTION, OR OTHER EVENT IN OUR  
GARDENS, AMONGST OUR TRANQUIL  
WATERFALLS, PLANTS AND NATURAL  
SETTING.

13730 WHITE LAKE ROAD, FENTON, MI



VISIT US  
ON FACEBOOK

(810) 629-9208

[WWW.HEAVENLYSCENTHERBFARM.COM](http://WWW.HEAVENLYSCENTHERBFARM.COM)

## A GARDENERS PARADISE

ARTFULLY COMPOSED CUSTOM  
WINDOW BOXES AND CONTAINERS

EUROPEAN ANNUALS

EXQUISITE HANGING BASKETS

SCENTED GERANIUMS

FAERIE HEADQUARTERS

- SMALL PLANTS
- ACCESSORIES - FURNITURE,  
TRELLIS, GATES
- CASTLES, COTTAGES, AND  
STONE WALLS
- FAERIE GARDENS
- FAERIES
- FAERIE DOORS AND LOTS MORE

## Go Organic! Dr. Earth Probiotic® Products

Available ONLY at your favorite Independent Garden Center

### Adrian

Barrett's Flowers & Gardens  
1033 W. Beecher St.  
517-263-2660

### Ann Arbor

Downtown Home & Garden  
210 South Ashley St.  
734-662-8122

### Chesterfield

Van Thomme Greenhouse  
32385 23 Mile Rd.  
586-725-3708

### Detroit

Allemon's  
Landscape Center  
17727 Mack Ave.  
313-882-9085

### Macomb

Ray Weigand's Nursery  
47747 Romeo Plank Rd.  
586-286-3655

**DR. EARTH**

Healthy Garden  
Healthy You

**DREARTH.COM**

### Novi

Glenda's Florist  
40575 Grand River Ave.  
248-471-5482

### St. Clair Shores

Soulliere Garden Center  
23919 Little Mack Ave.  
586-776-2811

### Shelby Twp.

Hessell's Greenhouse  
14497 23 Mile Rd.  
586-247-4675

### Warren

Beste's Lawn & Patio Supply  
21410 Schoenherr Rd.  
586-776-1794

### Warren

Harry's Garden Center  
24500 Dequindre Rd.  
586-758-6020

### Warren

Young's Garden Mart  
27825 Ryan Rd.  
586-573-0230

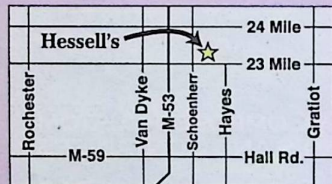
Check our website for *in-store specials*: [www.hessellsgreenhouse.com](http://www.hessellsgreenhouse.com)



*Grown local since 1968*

Come browse our beautiful selection of:

- Annuals
- Perennials
- Unique hanging baskets
- Colorful planters
- Aquatic plants

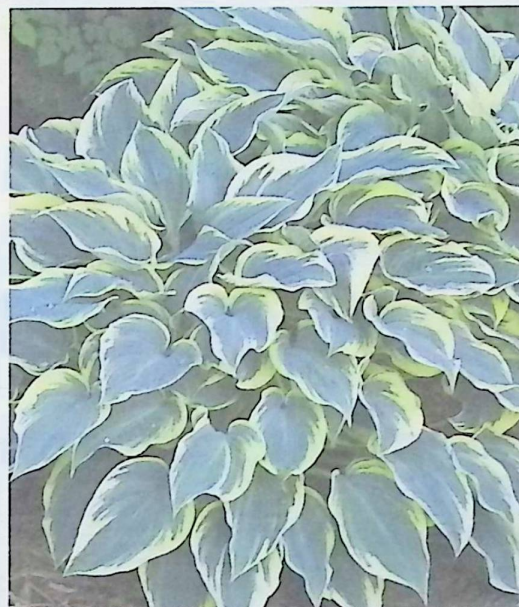


14497 23 Mile Rd. • Shelby Twp  
btwn Schoenherr & Hayes 2-1/4 Miles E. of M-53

586-247-4675

May Hours: Mon-Wed & Sat 8am-8pm  
Thu & Fri 8am-9pm • Sun 8am-7pm  
[www.hessellsgreenhouse.com](http://www.hessellsgreenhouse.com)

## 2010 Hosta of the Year



'First Frost'

Walters Gardens, Inc.

Since 1996, the American Hosta Growers Association has selected a hosta based on outstanding merit. This hosta must be distinctive, grow well in gardens throughout the country, and be readily available. The selection for 2010 is 'First Frost'

When mature, 'First Frost' can reach 16 inches high by 36 inches wide. With thick substance, the intensely blue-green leaves grow 7 inches long by 5 inches wide, and emerge with yellow margins that become pure white. In August the plant is topped with dense clusters of pale purple flowers on scapes that rise to 22 inches.

## Floral Fireworks

A Perennial Farm like no other!  
Set in a Botanical Garden 25 years  
in the making. Grown by people  
that know and love their plants.

### Offering

- \* Rare and Unusual Perennials
- \* Hostas 80 types
- \* Daylilies 150 types
- \* Annuals
- \* Large sizes

**merrittscape**

5940 Cooley Lake Rd.  
Waterford, MI 48327

[michmerrittscape.com](http://michmerrittscape.com) (248) 681-7955

## weather wrap

### Precipitation

	March 2010			March 2009		
	NORMAL Monthly	ACTUAL Monthly	DEVIATION from Normal	NORMAL Monthly	ACTUAL Monthly	DEVIATION from Normal
Detroit	2.52	1.07	-1.45	2.52	4.17	+1.65
Flint	2.22	0.65	-1.57	2.22	2.71	+0.49
Lansing	2.33	0.45	-1.88	2.33	3.08	+0.75

2010 Year to Date: Jan 1 - Mar 31

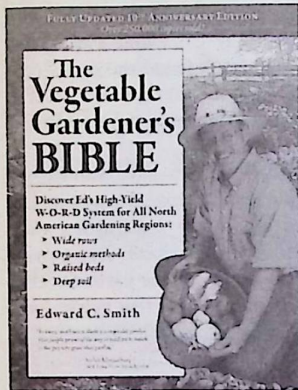
	2010 Year to Date: Jan 1 - Mar 31			2009 Year to Date: Jan 1 - Mar 31		
	NORMAL Yr. to Date	ACTUAL Yr. to Date	DEVIATION from Normal	NORMAL Yr. to Date	ACTUAL Yr. to Date	DEVIATION from Normal
Detroit	6.31	3.73	-2.58	6.31	7.39	+1.08
Flint	5.14	2.85	-2.29	5.14	6.22	+1.08
Lansing	5.39	2.66	-2.73	5.39	6.46	+1.07

### Temperature

	March 2010			March 2009		
	NORMAL Avg. High	ACTUAL Avg. High	DEVIATION from Normal	NORMAL Avg. High	ACTUAL Avg. High	DEVIATION from Normal
Detroit	45.2	52.5	+7.3	45.2	48.7	+3.5
Flint	43.1	50.1	+7.0	43.1	46.2	+3.1
Lansing	43.5	50.6	+7.1	43.5	47.3	+3.8
	March 2010			March 2009		
	NORMAL Avg. Low	ACTUAL Avg. Low	DEVIATION from Normal	NORMAL Avg. Low	ACTUAL Avg. Low	DEVIATION from Normal
Detroit	28.5	32.3	+3.8	28.5	28.6	+0.1
Flint	24.3	27.0	+2.7	24.3	24.9	+0.6
Lansing	24.3	28.6	+4.3	24.3	26.2	+1.9

Data courtesy National Weather Service

## books for the michigan gardener



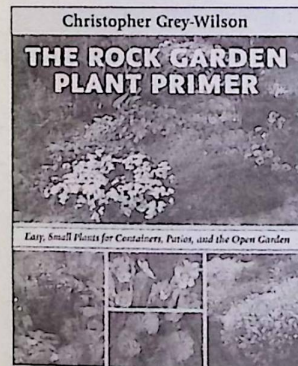
### **The Vegetable Gardener's Bible**

by Edward C. Smith

The updated, best-selling gardening book *The Vegetable Gardener's Bible* (Storey Publishing, 352 pages, \$24.95) includes coverage of 15 additional vegetables; an expanded section on salad greens; more attention to European and Asian vegetables; growing information on more fruits and herbs; new cultivar photographs; a much-requested section on extending the growing season into the winter months; and more. Each food lists information on the growing site, sowing, growing, harvest, and varieties. Soil issues, watering guidelines, seed tips, pest control and plant diseases are also addressed in a practical approach.

Wide rows, organic methods, raised beds, and deep soil is the advice given to create the W-O-R-D system and is

credited for the high-yield results described. Sustainable and healthier eating is an underlying theme throughout the book. Also, solutions for small-space gardens are provided. The author tends a garden of over 1,500 square feet filled with raspberries, blueberries, flowers, herbs, and nearly 100 varieties of vegetables.



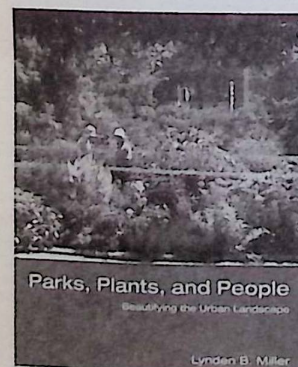
### **The Rock Garden Plant Primer: Easy, Small Plants for Containers, Patios, and the Open Garden**

by Christopher Grey-Wilson

It is not necessary to have a traditional rock garden to enjoy rock garden plants. In fact, these colorful, small plants are perfect for the pots, containers, window boxes, and raised beds that are the mainstays of modern gardens.

In *The Rock Garden Plant Primer* (Timber Press, 232 pages, \$29.95), world-renowned botanist Christopher Grey-Wilson recommends easy-to-grow plants for a variety of garden situations including shade, mixed borders, and patios. Introductory chapters explain how to grow and care for these gardener-friendly plants that are cold-hardy and adaptable. Detailed plant descriptions are based

on his personal experience of seeing the plants in the wild and growing them in the garden. This resource also includes colorful photographs to aid in selection and identification.



### **Parks, Plants, and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape**

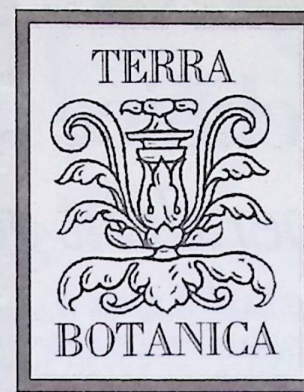
by Lynden B. Miller

An internationally-renowned public garden designer with 27 years experience, Lynden Miller has dramatically changed New York City's public places, providing a connection with nature for neighborhoods, rich and poor.

*Parks, Plants, and People* (W.W. Norton & Company, 206 pages, \$49.95) describes the elements of successful public spaces. Designing, improving, and maintaining year-round plantings, advocating for increased public funding, and attracting private funding are all covered.

Miller calls on the general public, gardeners, urban designers, architects, landscape architects and public of-

ficials—everyone who cares about the quality of life in urban areas—to create and support well-planted parks and gardens as essential urban oases that reduce crime and have positive effects on the economic welfare of cities and their citizens. She effectively describes how the power of plants can soften and civilize public life, and proves that beautiful public spaces, planted and maintained to high standards, have the power to transform the way people behave and feel about their cities. Miller's motto: *Make it gorgeous and they will come. Keep it that way and they will help.*



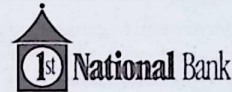
## GARDEN and LANDSCAPE Design • Installation Maintenance

Serving Franklin, Birmingham,  
Grosse Pointe, Bloomfield Hills and the  
Detroit Metropolitan Area since 2000

[www.terrabotanicalc.com](http://www.terrabotanicalc.com)

Mobile: 313-804-1721 Fax: 248-591-0383

Major Sponsor



Media Sponsor



In Partnership with



## Howell's Sunday Farmers' Market

May 2 through October 31 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Located in Downtown Howell at State and Clinton Streets,  
adjacent to the historic Livingston County Courthouse.

Over 60 booths • Weekly live entertainment

Take I-96 to exit 137. Go north to Grand River Avenue.  
Make a right one block to State Street.

Hosted by the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce 517-546-3920

## Celebrating 30 Years!

### 4½" Annuals Bakers Dozen Buy 12 get the 13<sup>th</sup>

# FREE

with this coupon thru 5-31-10

### MARIGOLDS \$9<sup>99</sup> Flat

expires 5-31-10 • Limit 5 flats

## Your Pond Headquarters

Custom-made filtration systems  
Liners • Pumps  
Fish and Plants



- Perennials - Flat of 18 \$29<sup>99</sup> Mix & Match

- Large Selection of plants to attract butterflies and hummingbirds

- Check out the NEW Barson Bargain Barn for great sale items



6414 N. Merriman • Westland, MI

Located between Ford and Warren

734-421-5959

Check our website for more information

[www.barsons.com](http://www.barsons.com)

# A thoughtful choice for Michigan gardeners:

## Your local, independent garden centers

I love my gardening girlfriend road trips. They are part of what make the spring, Spring for me. We're already discussing strategy on which garden centers we're going to first, and which ones are going to have the new plants we've read about. As we pick a direction to head the car in, we often use *Michigan Gardener's* "Places to Grow" map to plan our course.

As you plot your own gardening road trips this spring, I encourage you to shop at Michigan's fabulous independent garden centers. They support our gardening habits, answer our questions, inspire and teach us, give to our Little League teams and churches, recycle pots, and they are the risk-takers.

Back during the frigid winter months, my friends and I poured over the multitude of plant catalogs, read new gardening books, went to plant society and garden club meetings, and perused garden center emails.



Julia Hofley

When the weather breaks, our neighbors think we're nuts because we are standing out in the yard looking down at the dirt. There's nothing there that they notice, but we can see a tiny green head emerging or buds starting to take shape under hellebore leaves. We're the ones who planted all those bulbs last fall and we know the show is about to begin.

We are grateful to garden centers who remained open all winter to give us respite from dreary days so we could buy houseplants and supplies, and attend late winter events that tided us over until spring. We know garden centers are busily ramping up for the spring season, and getting ready to show their wares. We watch *Michigan Gardener's* extensive calendar of events to plan our road trip schedules based on events we don't want to miss.

We know that our local garden centers went to many tradeshow and visited trial

gardens last year, before carefully picking from hundreds of new plant choices they will present to us this spring.

As we walk into their businesses on Saturday mornings with our travel mugs of coffee, we are recognized and greeted. Maybe NPR is on the radio, and there's a cat lying on the cash counter. We shake off the week and it feels like a day off. My gardening girlfriends and I look at each other and nod in contentment as we head into the greenhouses or out into the nursery like we are on a Lewis and Clark expedition.

Each garden center has a different mix of plants and gardening products based on the unique interests of the individual owners, managers, and growers. Really, that's the beauty of it: the unique mix. We love how one greenhouse has the biggest geraniums you've ever seen, another creates custom-designed hanging baskets that don't look like everyone else's. The owners that grow annuals from seed are bravely offering out-of-the-ordinary annuals that you've never even heard of, or the nursery that has 40 different types of hydrangeas.

Then there is the greenhouse whose owner has a penchant for violas (last year I counted 27 different varieties on her benches). How about the garden center that offers so many different types of tomato plants that they have a black book list and offer it to you as if you are choosing a fine wine in a restaurant. The "zone denial" place that offers you a great selection of tropical patio plants. Or the favorite garden center you take your mother to each year to pick out a special plant—they grow it just the way she likes it. When your out-of-town relatives come to visit, there's

always an eclectic greenhouse you visit with them because they can't find these great plants at home. Don't forget the out-of-control perennial houses that get new stuff in every week and you have to go back often or you'll miss something.

These garden centers have knowledgeable staff in their respective departments. If you're trying to identify a plant, battle a weed, or switch to organic products, they provide advice that helps you get the job done. They might find a special plant that you're looking for, or maybe even send you to another garden center that has it. They offer timely how-to classes that help you become a better gardener or inspire you to step out of your box and try something new. The personalities in these garden centers can be as quirky as the plant and product mix. We like that, because it sets them apart from anyone else.

These are our independent garden centers here in Michigan. It is because of them that we have this magazine. It can be easy to take them for granted and assume they will always be there. If we do not shop at their businesses, we are at risk of losing them. The result isn't pretty: big home improvement stores that all carry the same limited plant selection by the millions. To maintain the incredible plant and product selection and valuable service we currently enjoy, I encourage you to take your own gardening road trips and to support your locally-owned garden centers.

It's a thoughtful choice for Michigan gardeners.

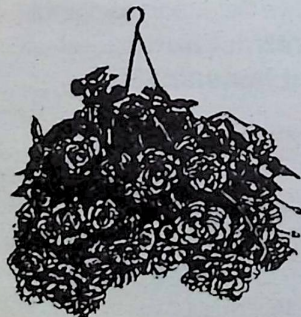
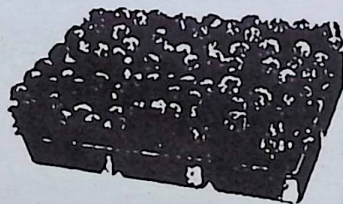
Julia Hofley is a plant collector, freelance garden writer, lecturer, and independent sales rep (E-mail: [julia@juliabiglife.com](mailto:julia@juliabiglife.com)).

## Auburn Oaks

### GARDEN CENTER

High quality plants & service for your garden success since 1964.

Bedding Plants  
\$10<sup>99</sup> Flats of 48



10" Flowering Baskets  
12" Flowering Porch Pots  
Flower Pouches  
\$12<sup>99</sup> each or \$31<sup>99</sup> for 3

3820 West Auburn Road (2 blocks East of Adams Road) • Rochester Hills

Mon-Fri 8am-7pm Sat 8am-6pm Sun 10am-5pm 248-852-2310



#### Advertiser Index

Abbott's Landscape Nursery	10	Garden Inspirations Book	9	Plantskydd	36
Abebe Greenhouse & Garden Center	23	Garden Mill	39	Plymouth Nursery	8
Ace Barnes Hardware	36	Garden Rhythms	14	The Pond Place	17
Agualina Gardens International	13	A Garden Space	6	Premium Plants/Hortech	5
Alexander's Farm Mkt & Greenhouses	11	Gardener Needed	10	The Produce Station	12
American Roots	9	Gardenviews	15	Rice's Garden Ornaments	10
Arboricultural Services	38	Gardner Walsh Nursery	16	Saxton's Garden Center	11
Arrowhead Alpines	21	Gordon's Landscaping	33	Schuman Landscape Lighting	8
Auburn Oaks Nursery	20	Grasshopper Gardens	25	Schwartz's Greenhouse	21
Barson's Greenhouse	19	Guardian Tree Experts	39	Specialty Growers	25
Blossoms	38	Haley Stone Supply	17	State Crushing	6
Bogie Lake Greenhouses	25	Heavenly Scent Herb Farm	15	Steinkopf Nursery	6
Bordine's	Page 3	Hessell's Greenhouses	18	Stone Cottage Gardens	41
Centender's Tree & Lawn Specialists	51	Hidden Lake Gardens	33	Suburban Landscape Supply	7
Cranbrook House & Gardens	38	Howell Farmer's Market	19	Summit	11
Detroit Garden Works	35	Iron Barn Iron Work	15	Sunny Fields Botanical Park	39
Dinser's Greenhouse	21	Jacob's Garden	9	Sunshine Farm & Garden	4
Dr. Earth	17	Joe Randazzo's Nursery	23	Telly's Greenhouse	19
Dream Gardens	10	Krupp's Novelty Shop	9	Terra Botanica	43
Eagle Landscaping & Supply	12	Lake Orion Flower Fair	5	Tropical Treasures	43
Earth 2 Earth	25	Landscape Design & Associates	23	Uncle Luke's Feed Store	33
Earthly Arts	43	Le Fleur Décor	14	Van Atta's Greenhouse	22
Eckert's Perennials	29	Loeffler's Stone Center	9	Wave Petunias/Ball Horticultural	7
EcoChic Landscape Design	15	Meier Flowerland	43	The Weed Lady	37
English Gardens	Inside front cover	Merrittscape	18	WeedGuardPlus	5
Espoma	51	Metropolitan Detroit	37	The Weekender	6
Everlastings in the Wildwood	33	Flower Growers Assoc.	27	Westcott Gardens	14
Fogler's Greenhouses	29	Michigan Nursery & Landscape Assoc.	37	Wiegand's Nursery	21
Four Seasons Garden Center	7	Oakland Community College	33	Yahoo Golden Nuggets	14
Fraleigh's Landscape Nursery	14	Oldani Landscape Nurseries	6	Yule Love It Lavender Farm	43
The Garden Company	24	Organic 1	35		
		Orion Stone Depot	43		
		Perennial Enhancements	41		

# Ray WIEGAND'S NURSERY

Growing Quality for Generations



With over 55 years of growing experience and a 500-acre growing facility, Ray Wiegand's provides homeowners and garden enthusiasts with a vast selection of quality-grown plant material. Ray Wiegand's also offers the industry's best products and a team of nursery professionals dedicated to bringing its customers the highest quality services available, making Ray Wiegand's Nursery one of Michigan's premier garden centers.

**47625 Romeo Plank Rd.**  
**Macomb Twp, MI • 586-286-3655**  
 Hours: Mon-Sat: 8am-9pm & Sunday: 8am-6pm  
[www.wiegandsnursery.com](http://www.wiegandsnursery.com)

	23 Mile Rd.		
Van Dyke	22 Mile Rd.	Romeo Plank Rd.	I-94
	21 Mile Rd. ★		
	M-59 (Hall Rd.)		

# Dinser's

Your gardens are worth it.

Growing for over 85 years • Family owned & operated

Large  
Selection of  
Vegetables for  
Containers!

We are proud of our consistent high quality and we have 6 growers available to answer your questions. We specialize in geraniums, annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, combination pots and much more!

5 min from I-2 Oaks Mall	I-96	12 Oaks Mall
Wiscom Rd.	Dinser's	Grand River
Dinser Dr.	Beck Rd.	Taft Rd.
		Novi Rd.
		10 Mile

Spectacular combinations of colorful hanging baskets  
 Area's finest selection of container annuals in the latest styles

24501 Dinser Dr. • 248-349-1320 • Open 7 days

Visit [www.dinsers.net](http://www.dinsers.net) for coupons! • Find us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/dinsers)



# Specialty Growers

CELEBRATING 27 YEARS!

## Quality Plants for Dedicated Gardeners

Perennials, annuals & herbs...our outdoor-grown plants are acclimated to Michigan's weather for better performance in your garden

## SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE DAYS!

Saturday & Sunday, May 22 & 23

May 22: Pamela Carter and Renata Perlove: "Deer Damage Control"  
 How to keep deer from devouring your garden

May 23: Cheryl English: "Plan(t) for Success" - Get the most out of your garden with tips on planning and preparation, plant selection, installation and after-care

Guest vendors: *Farnbrook Designs*, Sat & Sun - hypertufa planters, lanterns & garden ornaments

*Black Cat Pottery*, Sun - hand-crafted pottery and whimsical garden creations

Make sure to allow plenty of time to browse the nursery. You'll find hundreds of varieties of Michigan-hardy perennials and herbs, as well as interesting annuals and veggie plants.

Open House Hours: 9am-5pm • Presentations at 1pm both days  
 Presentations are FREE of charge



4330 Golf Club Rd. ~ Howell  
 517-546-7742

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm  
 Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday 10am - 4pm

Also visit us at the Brighton Farmer's Market

May 1 - July 31, Saturdays, 8am - 1pm

On the Millpond, at First and Cedar Streets. Look for the white van with the yellow daylily!

Our complete catalog is now online! [www.specialtygrowers.net](http://www.specialtygrowers.net)



# ARROWHEAD ALPINES

With Michigan's largest selection of...

Perennials, Woodland Wildflowers, Unusual Ferns, Rare Alpines, Dwarf Conifers, and Unusual Trees and Shrubs. We grow over 10,000 different varieties—many found nowhere else. Come out and spend a day and see our fantastic collection.

Check out our NEW website at [arrowheadalpines.com](http://arrowheadalpines.com) for specials, a full shopping cart with pictures, and a cool new photo gallery of the nursery and the animals that live here.

[www.arrowheadalpines.com](http://www.arrowheadalpines.com) Phone: 517-223-3581  
 Hours: Wed-Sat 11-7 Sun 11-5 Closed Mon & Tue

Take I-96 to the Fowlerville exit, go south 100 yards to Van Buren Rd, turn west on Van Buren and go 1 mile to Gregory Rd. Turn left (south) on Gregory and travel 1.75 miles to #1310 (long driveway).

Now open  
for the  
season!

**\$5.00 off any purchase  
of \$25 or more**

Arrowhead Alpines - Limit one per customer expires 6-1-10

# perennial perspectives

Something old, something new: Comparing a new plant with the tried-and-true

## Fern-leaf bleeding heart

My first experience with *Dicentra* 'Luxuriant', one of several hybrids referred to as fern-leaf, fringed, or everblooming bleeding heart, came during the late 1970's. I planted one in the corner of a perennial garden, where it received a half day of afternoon sun. There it thrived for a decade, blooming almost continually from April until October. The soil could best be described as an average sandy loam, with no special amendments and no special care other than watering during dry spells.

The story above dispels a common misconception about this group of bleeding hearts. Gardeners are told that all bleeding hearts need shade and rich, moist soil. However, many have failed with the fern-leaf hybrids under those conditions—the main reason being poor drainage. No doubt these plants would thrive in either sun or shade, providing the soil was perfectly drained. Additionally, automatic sprinkler systems adversely affect the garden longevity of these hybrids. Although I don't recommend them for dry sites in scorching sun, it's worth a try to give them a bit more sun than is customarily recommended; my 'Luxuriant' in the sunny corner grew compactly and bloomed incessantly. The flower color was also richer in the sunny site. In short, it was a spectacular plant.

'Luxuriant' is a hybrid of two native species—the eastern fern-leaf bleeding heart (*Di-*



Karen Bovio



'Luxuriant' fern-leaf bleeding heart (*Dicentra* 'Luxuriant')

*centra eximia*) and the western fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), and was one of the first perennials to receive a U.S. patent. Its finely dissected, gray-green foliage does not go dormant in mid-summer, unlike that of the old-fashioned bleeding heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*). Superior foliage, ease of culture, and a succession of pink, heart-shaped flowers from spring to fall made 'Luxuriant' one of the best per-

forming perennials of its time. To this day, it remains a garden favorite and landscape staple.

That being said, is it possible to improve on this time-honored classic? Modern hybridization is attempting to do just that. Breeders have incorporated other species into the hybrid mix, most notably the Japanese species *Dicentra peregrina*. During the early to mid 2000's, a group referred to as the "Hearts Series" was introduced to much acclaim. 'King of Hearts' was the first to come, followed by 'Ivory Hearts', which received its patent in 2005. 'Candy Hearts' and 'Burning Hearts' followed. Flower colors are what you'd expect from the names: 'King of Hearts' being a cherry red, 'Ivory Hearts' white, 'Candy Hearts' a candy pink, and 'Burning Hearts' is the closest we have seen to true red.

These hybrids improve upon older varieties like 'Luxuriant' by virtue of their gorgeous blue-spruce colored foliage (particularly intense on 'Ivory Hearts'), larger and more colorful flowers, and more compact habit. They make an especially appealing presentation in pots and containers. Being rather new in the marketplace (especially 'Burning Hearts', which came out in 2009) they are still untested in terms of garden longevity. Notice I did not say "hardiness" because rarely is low winter temperature the limiting factor in growing these hybrids. Lack of vigor due to poor culture, insufficient drainage, and winter wetness are the most common causes of de-



'King of Hearts' fern-leaf bleeding heart (*Dicentra* 'King of Hearts')



'King of Hearts' has cherry red flowers.

mise. Add the fact that many gardeners plant them in deep shade and you have a prescription for premature death.

Nearly all of the fern-leaf bleeding heart hybrids have superior garden appeal when compared to the straight species. Although lovely in their own right, the native forms have a much greater foliage-to-flower ratio than the hybrids and a more muted and variable flower color. Since they are not sterile, they set seed readily, reducing or even eliminating the potential for rebloom. On the plus side, our native eastern fern-leaf bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) is quite vigorous and can be relied on to increase by its semi-spreading rhizome and through self-sowing. This tendency to naturalize makes it ideal for use in a more natural garden setting, and an essential player in a partially shaded all-native garden.

Karen Bovio is the owner of Specialty Growers in Howell, MI.

## 2010: Our 30th year!

Van Atta's has one of the largest selections of garden accents, garden toys, annuals, trees, shrubs and perennials in Southeastern Michigan. **We grow thousands of perennial species and cultivars.** There's a good chance we have that one plant you've been searching for or the garden ornament that will set your yard apart.

Come on out and stroll our grounds. You'll be amazed at what you'll find, as well as the friendly service and expert advice you will receive.

**Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop**  
Family owned and operated since 1980

9008 Old M-78 Haslett, MI 517-339-1142  
www.vanattas.com • Open year round • Please call for hours



LET US MAKE YOUR OUTDOORS BEAUTIFUL!

# Abele

GREENHOUSE & GARDEN CENTER

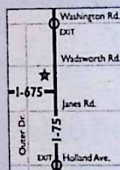
## Selection! Selection! Selection!

2000+ varieties of Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Trees & Shrubs!

*Excellent quality at low, northern prices!*

STATUARY • GAZING GLOBES AND STANDS  
FOUNTAINS • OUTDOOR FURNITURE  
SOIL, MULCH, FERTILIZER • MUCH MORE!

Come relax and enjoy spring by our waterfall with a free bag of popcorn!



3500 Wadsworth Rd • Saginaw  
**989-752-5625**

At the corner of I-75 & I-675  
[www.abelegreenhouse.com](http://www.abelegreenhouse.com)

Open 7 days a week



## EXPERIENCE YOUR ENVIRONMENT

DESIGN, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE

LANDSCAPE LIGHTING, IRRIGATION, PAVERS



LANDSCAPE  
DESIGN &  
ASSOCIATES LLC

KARLEEN SHAFER, OWNER, DESIGNER

[LDANDA.COM](http://LDANDA.COM)

810-360-0365

# A Treasure Trove of Plants

For the bargain hunter looking for a bounty of unusual annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees, Joe Randazzo's Nursery has plant treasures waiting to be claimed. **Our unmatched low prices will amaze you!**

## New assortments arriving weekly!



**Annual Flats & Hanging Baskets** (New Guinea impatiens, fuchsias & more): Only \$8.99

**Tropical patio plants:** Mandevilla, bougainvillea, citrus, fig, jasmine, gardenia

**Arborvitaes:** We have loads of them—short, tall, green, gold **Perennials:** A full assortment!

**Evergreens:** Great selection, from 1-gallon containers to 10-foot balled & burlapped specimens! White pines, blue spruce, gold-leaved cypress, Alberta spruce spirals, & much more!

**Evergreen Specials:** Alberta Spruce: \$14.99 (2 gallon). Monrovia Emerald Green and Holmstrup Arbs: \$18.99 (5-gal). 5-6 foot Emerald Green Arbs: 3 for \$100 (while supplies last).

**Japanese maples:** 10 to 15 varieties • **Specials:** \$11.99 (1 gallon), red-leaved Bloodgood, Emperor & Crimson Queen (while supplies last)

**Ornamental trees/shrubs:** Pear, weeping mulberry, many more!



# Joe Randazzo's

Serving metro Detroit since 1953 • [www.joerandazzos.com](http://www.joerandazzos.com)

Nursery locations:

Macomb Twp • 54151 Romeo Plank • 586-781-8700

Westland • 6701 Newburgh • 734-454-1712

**D**ill (*Anethum graveolens*) is one of the most popular kitchen herbs. We immediately think of dill pickles, but it is good for much more than those popular goodies. It is easy to grow, inexpensive to buy, and its flavor is good in lots of dishes.

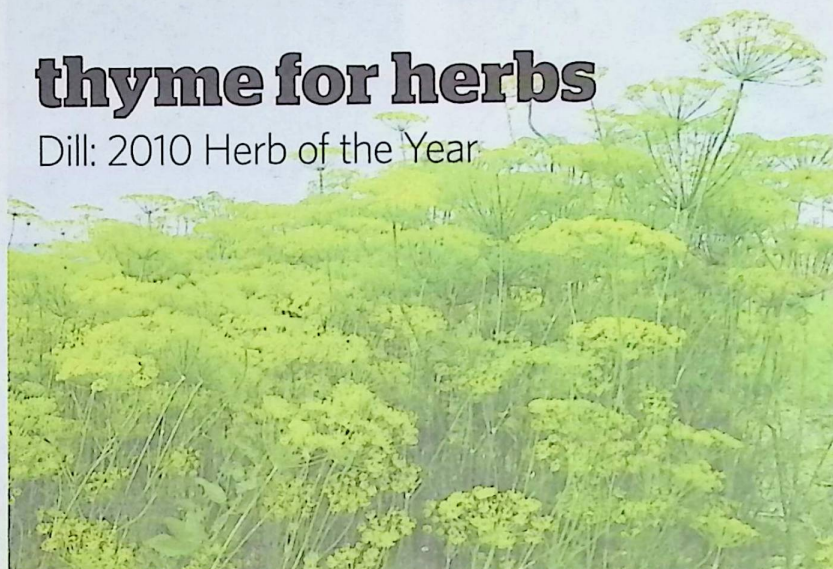
Its name is derived from the old Norse word *dilla*, which means "to lull." Dill has a rich history in medicine too, and is even used in several popular fragrances. It was important against witchcraft, as in Drayton's verse, "Therewith her Vervain and her Dill, That hindereth Witches of their Will," and it was made into swags that were put over doorways to prevent evil spirits from entering the house. It was combined with rosemary into bouquets that were hung above baby's cribs to encourage pleasant dreams without nightmares.

Recall that old nursery lullaby, "Lavender's blue, dilly, dilly, Lavender's green; when I am King, dilly, dilly; You shall be Queen." This reminds us that dill was used to calm fussy babies suffering from colic. It was put into warm water that was referred to as "dill water" used to soothe hiccups, digestive upsets, gas, and hiata hernia. Maybe that is why pregnant women sometimes crave dill pickles!

Dill is an easy-to-grow, short-lived annual for a sunny, well-drained location. Most pick-

## thyme for herbs

Dill: 2010 Herb of the Year



ling dill will grow 2 to 3 feet tall, so plant it in the back of the herb garden or in the middle of a planter. It will bolt (flower prematurely) if it is grown in poor soil or is too overcrowded.

"Dill weed" is the name given to the leaves of dill. If you prefer the leaves, you should replant the seeds every three or four weeks during the summer to make sure you have

a regular supply. If it is grown near fennel, cross-pollination often results, with seedlings that are inferior to both parents. When the seeds ripen and are ready for harvest, do not put the harvest off until next week—pick them promptly or they will scatter in the wind and come up all over the place next year.

You can easily dry stalks and heads of dill before the seeds fall. Cut the stems on a sunny day and fasten them into a bunch with rubber bands. Hang the bunches in a dark, dry place as sunlight will fade and rob them of flavor. Remember to label each bunch with a nametag. These bunches can be used in a dried herbal wreath or swag with other dried bunches of herbs, to be enjoyed year-round in the kitchen or as a perfect gift for the gardener or cook.

Planting dill in your garden will encourage black swallowtail butterflies to come into your yard and lay their eggs. The colorful striped caterpillars that hatch feed on dill and fennel, so do not spray any insecticides in the area or pick off the caterpillars! Plant lots of extra dill so you will have enough for your own use, and to share. The many summer and fall butterflies that appear in your garden are well worth the extra dill you plant.

There are several varieties of dill available in plant nurseries and seed catalogs. 'Bouquet' has a compact growing habit, with lots of leaves and seed heads, and good flavor. 'Fernleaf' is compact with lots of leaves, is slow to bolt, and is good in containers. 'Hercules' has large quantities of leaves. 'Mammoth' grows tall, has fewer leaves with lots of seed heads, and is favored for pickles. Indian dill or *satapashpi* (*Anethum sowa*) differs in flavor, and is used to flavor soups and rice, and is an ingredient in curry powder.

Dill weed is frequently combined with rosemary or lemon in soap, to take away the scent of onions and garlic on the cook's hands.

Dill weed can be blended with yogurt or cottage cheese to make a simple dip. It can

Jean and Roxanne Riggs



be added to bread dough to make a wonderful loaf that goes well with wine and cheese. It can be added to mayonnaise or salad dressings. Sprinkled on potato salad, it adds a tasty touch of flavor. It is great on new potatoes, tomatoes, salmon, spinach, green beans, cucumbers, squash, and lamb chops. Here is a favorite recipe of ours:

### Dill Pickle Soup

- 8 cups chicken stock or broth
- 2 cubes chicken bouillon
- 1 large carrot, grated
- 2 cups peeled, cubed potatoes
- 1 cup thinly sliced celery
- 5 small, grated dill pickles (from a jar)
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 T. flour
- 1 egg
- 5 T. sour cream
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Finely chopped fresh or dried parsley
- Finely chopped fresh or dried dill weed

In a large saucepan or soup pot with cover, combine chicken stock, bouillon, carrot, potatoes, and celery. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and cook covered over low heat until potatoes start to get soft. Do not overcook!

Add pickles and continue cooking about 15 minutes. In a small bowl, beat milk and flour until smooth and stir in a small amount of hot soup. Then add this mixture to soup pot. Bring this all to a boil until slightly thickened. Remove from heat.

In a small bowl, beat egg and sour cream until smooth and stir in a small amount of hot soup. Add this mixture to soup until smooth. Keep soup warm but do not boil, as this will curdle the soup. Add salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with parsley and dill weed.

We love to grow dill in our herb garden—it is one of our favorites! Not only does it smell and taste great, but it attracts lots of butterflies also. No wonder this herb has the honor of being named the "Herb of the Year 2010!"

Jean and Roxanne Riggs operated Sunshine Farm and Garden in Oakland County, MI and now enjoy retirement Up North.

### Website Extra

Go to [www.MichiganGardener.com](http://www.MichiganGardener.com) and click on "Website Extras" for:

- Dill Pickle Beans recipe and photo
- Dill Butter recipe

## Live each day as a Garden Party!

Want to escape from the everyday doldrums?

Come home and celebrate your garden's colorful exuberance.

Call us and we will make it happen!



From welcoming front entrances to relaxing backyard spaces, we create beautiful custom gardens and outdoor living areas that reflect the unique lifestyle and personality of each of our clients.

Call us and we will do the same for you.

248-388-8581

  
JULIA DINGLE  
THE GARDEN  
COMPANY



SOIL • SAND • MULCH • STONE • GRAVEL

# State Crushing

## LANDSCAPE SUPPLY

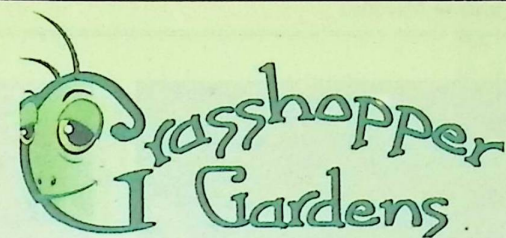
Full line of organic products • **Same day delivery service**  
We specialize in natural wood mulches

Hello gardeners! Our "wood fines" and "red pine bark" products are a gardener's dream. Very finely shredded, you can mix them in with your existing soil to create an excellent amended soil for planting. You'll also love our premium compost and cedar bark mulch.

### Yard Waste Recycling

Big yard clean-up? Got lots of garden debris? Bring it in!  
We accept many types of yard waste.

2260 Auburn Rd. • Auburn Hills • 248-332-6210  
www.statecrushing.com • Hours: Monday-Friday 7-5 Saturday 7-1



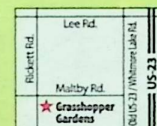
Your Neighborhood Landscape Supply & Garden Boutique



Make Your Garden Distinctive,  
and Keep It Affordable

We have everything you need:

- Over 500 pieces of unique pottery
- Statuary and Fountainscapes
- Art for the Garden
- Exclusive Outdoor Furniture



9020 Maltby Rd.  
Brighton  
810-220-4406

Online Coupon available on our website:  
www.GrasshopperGardensMI.com



Award Winning Design  
Staff & Installation  
www.3DLandscapeGroup.com

earth2earth 248.335.7015  
embroidery  
screen printing  
promotional products



FreshHotShirts.com

Specializing in Earth-Friendly, Water Based Screen Printing Since 1987



Let Us Help You Grow Your Business

111 N. PERRY, PONTIAC, MI 48342

# BOGIE LAKE

## GREENHOUSES, INC.

Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs,  
Combination planters, Hanging Baskets,  
Roses, and Much More!

*Don't Forget Mom on Mother's Day!*

Jump into Summer with  
The Uniqueness You Find At  
Bogie Lake Greenhouse



Flowering Tropical  
Trees & Shrubs

248-887-5101

1525 Bogie Lake Rd. ~ White Lake

May Hours: Mon-Fri 8-8 Sat 9-6 Sun 10-5

1-1/2 Miles S. of M-59 • Across from Lakeland H.S.



## plant focus



Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener

Caladium is useful as an upright focal point for a shady container.



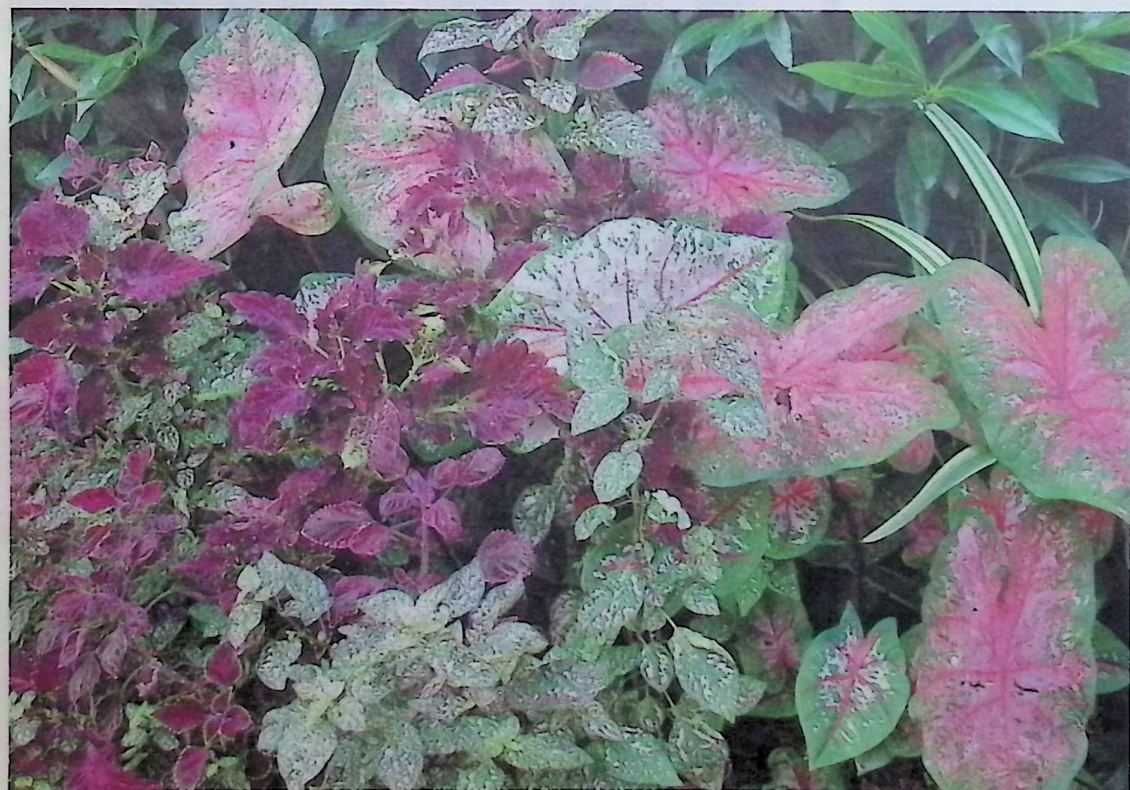
Tony Weits/ Van Bloem Gardens

'Freida Hemple'



Tony Weits/ Van Bloem Gardens

'Aaron'



Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener

A colorful trio for the shade: caladium, coleus, and polka dot plant (*Hypoestes*).

# Caladium

Caladiums are beautiful foliage plants that develop red, pink, white, gold, and green patterns on heart-shaped or arrowhead-shaped leaves. The leaves develop at the ends of gently curved 15- to 30-inch stems that emerge from the caladium tuber. Leaves vary in size from just 6 inches to well over a foot long when mature. Traditional caladium varieties have more heart-shaped leaves and are usually referred to as fancy-leaved caladiums. Many of the newer varieties have longer, lance- or arrowhead-shaped leaves. These are usually referred to as strap-leaved varieties and will generally tolerate more sun.

In Michigan, we often grow caladiums in containers where we can usually give them the extra warm soil temperatures that they need to thrive.

When container gardening in the shade, we only have a handful of items that can serve as an upright focal point or centerpiece. *Nicotiana*, upright fuchsias, and,



George Papadelis

of course, caladiums are some of the best choices. Pink caladiums are stunning when combined with blues, silvers, and whites. And white caladiums can look good with a wide range of shade plants, both annual and perennial. Try them with shade-tolerant component plants such as tuberous begonias, lobelia, browalia, torenia, nierembergia, asparagus fern, ivy, miniature impatiens, golden creeping jenny, or coleus. Caladiums are great in beds too, if care is taken to plant when the soil is adequately warm. Perennials like hostas and ferns make great companions.

Caladiums grow from tubers that sprout and grow very easily if they are initially grown warm and moist. This is most easily done indoors. A soil temperature of 70 to 80 degrees for the first two weeks will initiate growth that will produce full, uniform plants. Once they begin to develop leaves, they should be kept warm until they can be transplanted outdoors. Only

continued on page 28



44TH ANNUAL

# FLOWER DAY

EASTERN  
MARKET  
DETROIT



The Metropolitan Detroit Flower Growers are excited to have you share in the 44th Annual Flower Day at the Historic Eastern Market. Every shopper will be amazed by the color, variety and beauty that will ooze out of the sheds at the largest open market in Michigan.

## Detroit's Historic Eastern Market – Sunday, May 16, 2010 7am-5pm

Michigan's Largest Flower Show – All your horticultural needs in 15 acres of dazzling displays

### Tips to help you enjoy Flower Day:

1. There is plenty of free parking available throughout Eastern Market.
2. Know ahead of time how much area that you have to plant and whether you need sun or shade plants to achieve your goal.
3. Ask the Flower Growers questions! They grew the flowers for you and they know what you need to do to take care of them and keep them blooming.
4. Enjoy the wide variety of restaurants, stores and food.  
Your belly will thank you for caring!

5. Bring a wagon to help transport your products, and decorate your wagon to enter into the WACKY WAGON CONTEST to win garden prizes.
6. Don't rush... Take your time and smell the roses, marigolds, jasmine, herbs, and more. Enjoy the music and the people.
7. Our best advice is to take it all in, don't miss the moment, and come enjoy the breathtaking flower spectacle!

Flower Day is one of the most exciting, captivating and memorable shopping experiences you will ever have. Bring your family and wagon, and make it a great family event!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 313-833-9300 OR VISIT [WWW.DETROITEASTERNMARKET.COM](http://WWW.DETROITEASTERNMARKET.COM)

### Directions to Eastern Market

#### FROM THE NORTH:

Take I-75 S to the Mack Avenue exit. Go east (turn left) onto Mack Avenue. Take Mack Avenue to Russell Street and turn right.

#### FROM THE EAST:

Take I-94 W to I-75 S to the Mack Avenue exit. Go east (turn left) onto Mack Avenue. Take Mack Avenue to Russell Street and turn right.

#### FROM THE SOUTH:

During the Gateway Construction Project: Take I-75 N to I-96 E exit at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (turn left) onto MLK Blvd. Stay on MLK Blvd, after crossing Woodward Ave, MLK Blvd. turns into Mack Ave. Take Mack Ave to Russell Street and turn right.

#### FROM THE WEST:

Take I-94 E to I-75 S to the Mack Avenue exit. Go east (turn left) onto Mack Avenue. Take Mack Avenue to Russell Street and turn right.

#### PARKING

There is plenty of free and low-cost parking in the Eastern Market. In addition to the surface lots and on-street parking, the City of Detroit Parking Department operates a 300-car parking deck on Riopelle Street between Division and Alfred.



**COME EARLY FOR THE BEST SELECTION!**

Annuals • Perennials • Tropicals • Trees • Shrubs • Vegetables • Exotics • Combo Containers • Hanging Baskets



Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener

'Miss Muffet'

continued from page 26

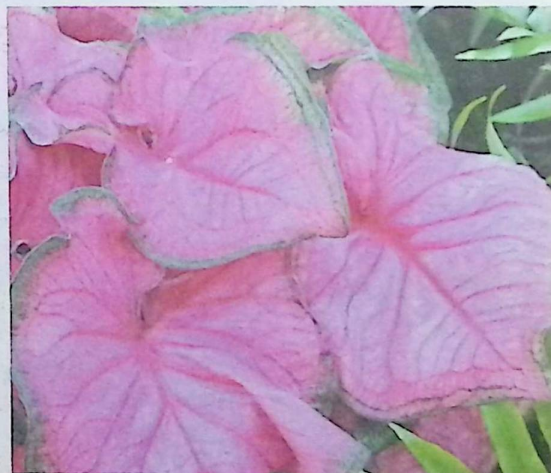
plant caladiums outdoors when you can be confident that soil temperatures will not dip far below 60 degrees. This is usually June in Michigan. Caladiums that are planted too early can be exposed to cold spring temperatures that may rot the tuber or induce a premature dormancy. Grow them in well-drained soil, plant the tubers 2 inches below the soil surface, and be sure to keep them evenly moist.

Although caladiums are native to Central and South America, the vast majority of the world's caladiums come from a handful of growers in a small town in central Florida. They are usually offered in spring as unplanted tubers along with dahlias, callas, and gladiolas. Tubers are available at your favorite garden center where you can also find potted caladiums that are actively growing and waiting for warm garden weather.

Caladiums can be enjoyed all summer into fall, but cold weather will eventually damage the leaves sometime in late September or October. When this occurs, cut off the stems and leaves, clean the tubers, and allow them to dry for a few days. Place them in paper bags packed with peat moss or sawdust, and store somewhere cool and dry. The refrigerator is ideal but a basement will suffice. Caladiums are one of the more difficult tubers to overwinter so be prepared to acquire fresh ones if you are not successful.

There are dozens of caladium varieties available. Some of the most popular whites include 'Aaron,' 'White Christmas,' 'White Queen,' and the mostly white (red-speckled) 'Gingerland' and 'Miss Muffet.' Some popular reds include 'Red Flash,' 'Fire Chief,' and 'Blaze.' Demand for pink caladiums is highest and there are several gorgeous varieties available. 'Carolyn Whorton,' 'Fannie Munson,' 'Florida Sweetheart,' and 'Pink Beauty' are beautiful pink varieties.

More recently, spectacular varieties from Thailand have been introduced. 'Thai Beauty' is the most popular, with its



Tony Weits / Van Bloem Gardens

'Florida Sweetheart'

pink, white, and green leaf patterns looking almost cartoon-like. It is also one of the more expensive varieties. 'Yellow Blossom' has mostly gold leaves with rose veins and white markings. It is even harder to find. There are several other Thai caladiums but availability is still limited. Tubers are typically smaller and require some extra care.

Most of the varieties listed above are generally more sun-tolerant. That said, the caladiums most suitable for full sun are 'Aaron,' 'Carolyn Whorton,' 'Florida Elise,' 'Florida Sweetheart,' 'Red Flash,' 'Miss Muffet,' 'Gingerland,' and 'Red Frill.' Plants grown in more sun will benefit from extra water as long as excellent drainage is maintained.

George Papadelis is the owner of Telly's Greenhouse in Troy, MI.



Tony Weits / Van Bloem Gardens

'Florida Elise'

## Caladium

**Botanical name:** *Caladium* (kah-LAY-dee-um)

**Plant type:** Annual (a tender perennial tuber)

**Plant size:** 15-30 inches tall and wide

**Habit:** Upright, clumping

**Leaf color:** Pink, red, white, gold, and green patterns

**Leaf size:** 6 to 12 inches long; heart- or arrowhead-shaped

**Light:** Shade; some varieties are suitable for sun

**Soil:** Moist, but well-drained

**Uses:** Shady areas; upright focal plant for containers in the shade

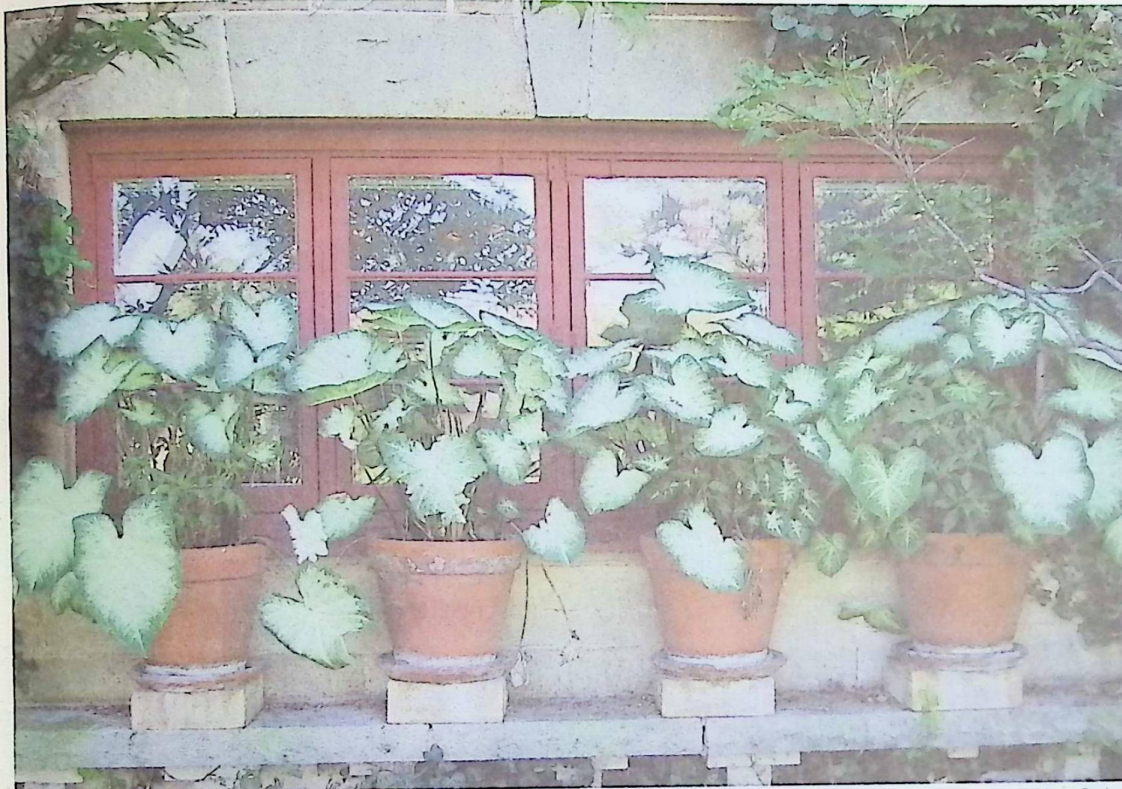
**Companion plants:** Annuals: Tuberous begonias, lobelia, browallia, torenia, nierembergia, asparagus fern, miniature impatiens, coleus. Perennials: Hostas and ferns.

**Remarks:** Only plant outdoors when soil temperatures will not dip far below 60 degrees (June in Michigan).



Tony Weits / Van Bloem Gardens

'Carolyn Whorton'



These white caladiums brighten up a shady window ledge.

Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener



Tony Weits / Van Bloem Gardens

'Fannie Munson'



Tony Weits / Van Bloem Gardens

'White Christmas'

## Fogler's has Expanded!

Our new greenhouses gives you **MORE SPACE** and **MORE SELECTION** at the same **LOW PRICES!**



Annuals • Homegrown Perennials • Herbs  
Succulents • Planter Combinations  
Exotic Tropicals • Home Décor  
Specialty Candles and More!

**HUGE SELECTION**  
of pottery from around  
the world, including  
**EXCLUSIVE** Guy Wolff pieces

**JOIN OUR E-MAIL CLUB**  
Receive news and special  
offers in your inbox.  
[foglersgreenhouse.com](http://foglersgreenhouse.com)

**3979 N. Rochester Rd. • Rochester • 248-652-3614**  
4 mi N. of downtown Rochester, just N. of Gunn Rd. (28 Mile)  
**Spring hours:** Mon-Sat 9am-8pm Sun 9am-7pm



## Eckert's is going Green!

Eckert's Greenhouse is putting the "Green" back in greenhouse!  
Fiber Pots=Less Waste=Happy Planet!

# Eckert's

34075 Ryan Rd. Sterling Heights 586-979-2409  
Mon - Sat 8:30-8:00 Sun 8:30-6:00  
[www.eckertsgreenhouse.com](http://www.eckertsgreenhouse.com)

- ❖ Annuals
- ❖ Geraniums
- ❖ Hanging Baskets
- ❖ Flower Pouches
- ❖ Perennials
- ❖ Collector's Hostas
- ❖ David Austin English Roses, Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, and Shrub Roses
- ❖ Clematis, Vines
- ❖ Alpine Plants
- ❖ Woodland Wildflowers
- ❖ Groundcovers
- ❖ Water Plants

*From the rare and unusual to the preferred and popular*

Maple/15 Mile

Eckert's  
The Big Brown Barn  
Ryan

14 Mile Rd.

# New Annuals FOR 2010

George Papadelis



## Gomphrena 'Fireworks'

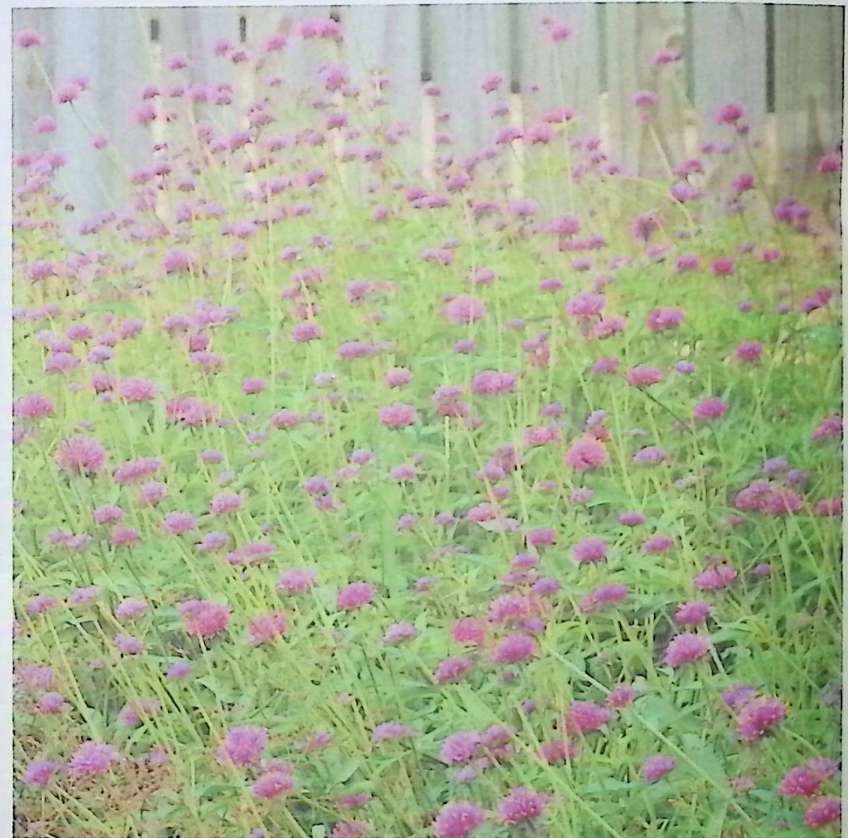
Gomphrena, or globe amaranth, is one of my favorite underused annuals. Nearly round, vibrant flowers are produced on wiry stems from summer thru fall. They thrive in sunny, hot locations and the everlasting flowers can be cut, dried, and used in arrangements that last for years. Readily available varieties are compact, growing about a foot tall. In contrast, 'Fireworks' grows to 36 inches tall. Its rosy flowers are dotted with glowing yellow stamens that give the overall effect of a miniature fireworks display. The tall, thin stems help the flowers move gracefully with the slightest breeze. I received some sample seeds last spring and was pleased to see how many gardeners appreciated its beauty and usefulness.

Tall gomphrena are rarely offered in garden centers for three reasons: 1) growers find it difficult to ship tall, wiry plants, 2) plants will not flower (and therefore not sell) easily until hot summer temperatures arrive, and 3) demand for this plant is unusually low. Like other tall gomphrena, 'Fireworks' can be used as a background plant or focal point



Ball Horticultural

with other annuals. But I believe it's even more valuable in the perennial garden. Like other seed-grown plants, it is relatively inexpensive. And although it looks like a perennial, it flowers like an annual: it blooms from summer through fall when your perennial bed might need an extra dose of color.



Ball Horticultural

## Sweet potato vine 'Illusion Emerald Lace' 'Illusion Midnight Lace' 'Bright Ideas Rusty Red'

Sweet potato vines have been extremely popular since their introduction just a few years ago. There are several colors from which to choose and two or three leaf shapes. But now, breeders have developed a series with a more compact growth habit and finely cut, lacy leaves. The 'Illusion' series comes in a lime green color called 'Illusion Emerald Lace,' and a nearly black variety called 'Illusion Midnight Lace.' Their compact growth habit makes them less of a threat when combined with slower-growing plants. The unique lacy texture adds a new dimension to the palette of sweet potato vines available today.

A different breeder has developed another series with a new color—'Bright Ideas Rusty Red' has unique butterscotch-colored leaves with maroon leaf undersides and veining. This one has the more traditional lobed leaves and grows quite compact at just 6 inches tall and about 12 inches wide. All sweet potato vines thrive in full sun but will tolerate almost full shade as well.

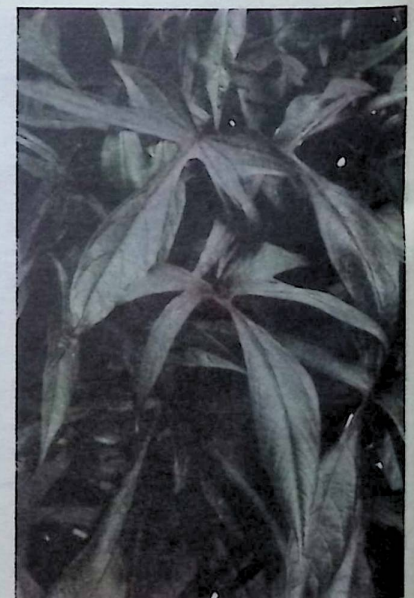


'Illusion Emerald Lace' / Proven Winners



Oro Farms

'Bright Ideas Rusty Red'



Proven Winners

'Illusion Midnight Lace'



Sunpatiens 'Variegated Spreading White'



Sakata Seed

Sunpatiens 'Compact Coral'

### Impatiens Sunpatiens series Impatiens Fanfare series

The Sunpatiens series was originally released to the trial garden circuit for evaluation in 2007. I first observed it that July in a Chicago area display garden. It was thriving effortlessly in full sun where its large vibrant flowers and perfect foliage made a lasting impression. For 2010, it will be available to independent garden centers and growers everywhere. This type of New Guinea impatiens will thrive in full sun and heat when planted in good soil with adequate moisture. There are



Ball Horticultural

Fanfare 'Bright Coral'

15 varieties in the Sunpatiens series. Seven are considered compact, though they will still get quite large. Six are classified as vigorous, and two are variegated and spreading. The vigorous varieties can grow as tall as 3 feet when watered and fed liberally and the compact varieties will reach a height of 2 to 2-1/2 feet tall.

There is a similar, but less diverse series

called 'Fanfare.' It offers 6 colors with similar growth habits. I have grown them for two years and used them in full sun with perfect results. Both series produce flowers around 2 inches wide. The one drawback to these is that they are not grown from seed. This means they are usually not available in more economically-priced flats as are the seed-grown impatiens.



Ball Horticultural

### Euphorbia 'Breathless Blush'

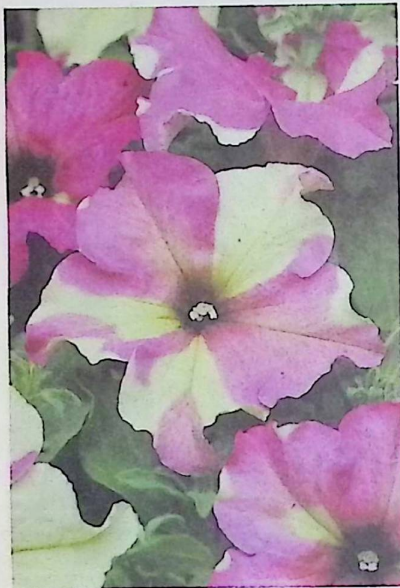
This type of euphorbia has quickly become one of the most popular annuals available. Varieties like 'Diamond Frost' and 'Silver Fog' produce non-stop clouds of low-maintenance, dainty white flowers that look good with just about any other plant. For 2010, we have a new bronze-leaved version called 'Breathless Blush,' whose narrow, white petals are suffused with a streak of rose. From a distance, the streak is almost invisible, but up close, it can be used to tie in other plants with rose-colored foliage or flowers. The bronze-centered leaves are also indiscernible from a distance but still provide a variation worth trying in beds or containers. Like the other euphorbia, this one thrives in full or partial sun.



Ball Horticultural

continued on next page

continued from previous page



Ball Horticultural

### Petunia 'Sophistica Lime Bicolor'

The 'Sophistica' series has large flowers on more upright plants whose spent blooms may require deadheading. These plants produce interesting but quite inconsistent rose and lime bicolored flowers. Some flowers are mostly lime while others are primarily rose. Some should have the characteristic lime and rose star pattern that makes this petunia stunning. The developers have identified cultural conditions that will affect the consistency of the star pattern. They include fertility, temperature, and the plant growth regulators that are often used by petunia growers. When everything is just right, this plant is a knockout.

*George Papadelis is the owner of Telly's Greenhouse in Troy, MI.*



Ball Horticultural

### Petunia 'Debonair Dusty Rose'

The 'Debonair' series offers two very new flowers to the petunia palette. 'Debonair Dusty Rose' has large flowers whose rosy outer ring fades gently to a creamy yellow. 'Debonair Lime' has large, pale, lime-green flowers—the first petunia to produce yellow flowers with consistent color throughout the flower. Both of these are produced from seed, which makes it more likely that you will find them in more economical flats as opposed to pots. These are not low and spreading like 'Wave' or "Wave-like" petunias. Instead, like your grandmother's petunias, they grow more upright and produce flowers that may require deadheading. The unique flower colors still makes them worthy additions to beds and containers. They grow best in full or partial sun.



Proven Winners

### Lobularia 'Snow Princess'

This new variety may turn out to be the best new annual for 2010. *Lobularia* is the botanical name for good, old-fashioned alyssum. But this one is different. This alyssum is not grown from seed like the alyssum of yesterday. 'Snow Princess' is grown vegetatively, that is, from cuttings. Like many other plants grown from cuttings, this plant is supposedly sterile and therefore puts no energy into seed production, just flower production. It is a very strong grower and flowers profusely through the heat of the summer. In the 2009 plant trials, this was one of the best performers. It is strong enough to flourish in hanging baskets and can also be used in combination planters as a cascading component. For those of you that like white bacopa, 'Snow Princess' provides a similar color and growth habit with superior summer performance. So far, I am very impressed by this plant.



Proven Winners

### Petunia 'Pretty Much Picasso'

For lack of better words, 'Pretty Much Picasso' is a freak of nature. For plant lovers, you will probably never forget the first time you see this one. 'Pretty Much Picasso' is a petunia that produces rosy purple flowers consistently edged in green. This is a self-cleaning, strong growing, spreading plant that would be beautiful in hanging baskets or container gardens grown alone or in combinations. A single plant can grow 18 to 24 inches wide and about 12 to 15 inches tall. I think everyone needs at least one of these in the garden as the flowers are both beautiful and unusually interesting. And for those of you who have landscapes featured on a garden walk this year, 'Pretty Much Picasso' is a must.



# Uncle Luke's

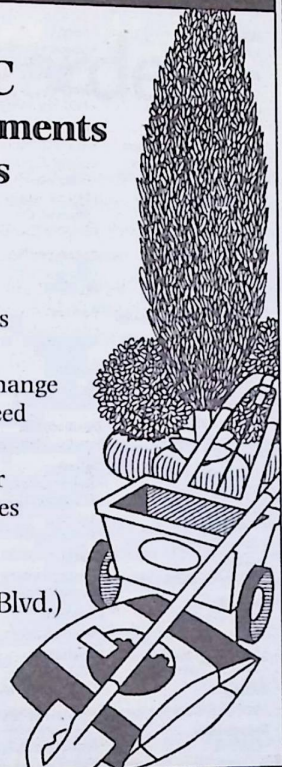
featuring

## Fertrell

- **Vegetables & flowers:**  
Fresh plants arrive frequently throughout spring—Come visit often!
- Natural pest & disease control products
- WIDE variety of bagged soils & mulches
- Top quality tools & garden accessories

## ORGANIC Soil Amendments & Fertilizers

- Cocoa mulch (great price!)
- Bedding plants Perennials • Herbs
- Seed potatoes **NEW!** Seeds of Change Renee's garden seed Bulk garden seed
- Complete outdoor bird feed & supplies



### Uncle Luke's Feed Store

6691 Livernois, Troy • (1/4 Mile S. of South Blvd.)

248-879-9147 • www.unclelukes.com

Mon-Fri 9-6:30 • Sat 8-6 • Sun 9-5

Visit our 2nd location in Flushing:  
Flushing Lawn & Garden • 810-659-6241

## Landscape Horticulture Technician Academy

Prepare for careers in the expanding landscape horticulture industry.

Students enrolled in the program will develop educational and occupational pathways for their future. The program is competency based (learn as you work) and career oriented.

Students will work with OCC faculty along with private employers to meet their goals and fulfill the Landscape Horticulture educational requirements. Course work can be applied towards an Associate Degree upon completion of general college requirements.

**High demand jobs include:** Golf Course Maintenance Specialist  
Plant Health Care Specialist • Nursery/Greenhouse/Garden Center Manager  
Grounds Specialist • Grounds Supervisor • Turf Technician • Estate Gardener

**Get hands-on training while taking classes in:**  
Greenhouse Management Landscape Planning • Ornamental Horticulture  
Landscape Construction Nursery Practices • Plant Health Care • Turfgrass Management

**Learn how to:** Care for Nursery Trees and Shrubs • Prune Trees & Shrubs Operate/  
Maintain Commercial Grounds Equipment • Build Landscape Structures  
Grow Greenhouse Crops Design Landscape Plans • Commercial Turf Mgmt.



OAKLAND  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

For more information call  
**Laurie at 248-232-4535**  
www.oaklandcc.edu/landscape



Located in 100 acres of mature forest & rolling farmland where wildflowers are in full bloom throughout May. Enjoy the woodland drive, numerous display gardens, ponds and waterfalls as you shop in tranquility.

- Huge Selection of Hybrid Annuals
- Tremendous Variety of Herbs, Perennials & Hanging Baskets
- Unusual Ornamental Trees and Flowering Shrubs
- Unique Line of Garden Statuary & Fountains
- Arbors, Stepping Stones, Garden Benches, Trellises
- Huge Selection of Garden Pottery

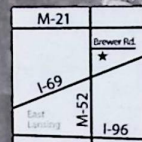
## We Specialize in Container Gardening

Hundreds of Pots in all Colors, Shapes & Sizes!

Hand-thrown Clay, Cast Stone, Iron, Glazed Terra Cotta, Wrought Iron & Twig

Unusual Colors and Finishes

We custom plant: Our container or yours



2577 Brewer Rd., Owasso • 989-723-7175

Open 7 Days 10am-6pm / 4.5 mi. N of I-69, take M-52 N, then E on Brewer Rd.

## Gordon's Landscaping Inc.

Call us now! We Love What We Do!

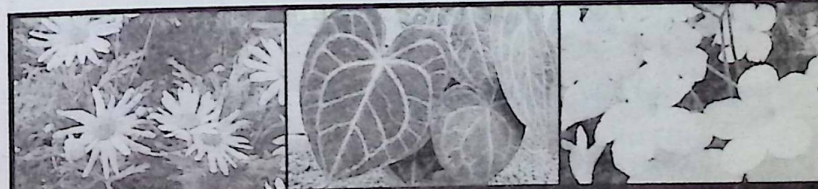
Complete Landscape Design & Installation Services  
Residential-Commercial • Free Estimates

- Brick paver patios & walkways
- Paver power wash/reseal
- Pond & waterfall design & installation
- Water gardening
- Landscape lighting
- Annuals & perennials
- Weeding
- Plant bed design
- Lawn maintenance

**734-451-1508**

1-year warranty on landscaping (plants & trees)  
4-year warranty on new brick paver installation

22 YEARS OF SERVICE • LICENSED & INSURED



## Hidden Lake Gardens

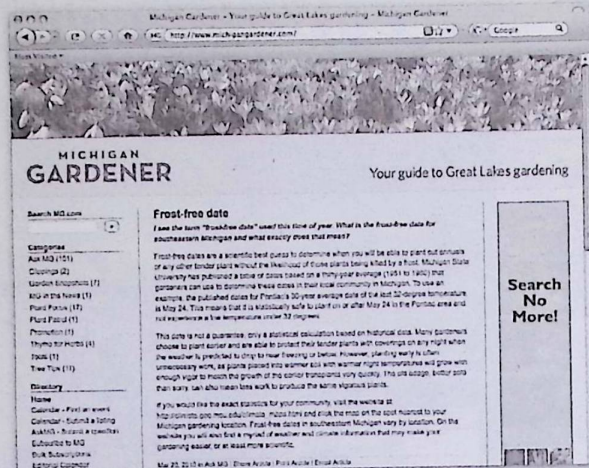
BOTANICAL GARDEN & ARBORETUM

755 Acres of Gardens and Natural Areas  
Flower Gardens • Plant Conservatory • Hosta Hillside  
Dwarf Conifers • Picnic Area • Lake • Hiking Trails

Located on M-50—8 miles west of Tecumseh • 517-431-2060

www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu • Open daily • Admission: \$3.00/person

**PLANT SALE: Saturday, May 8, 10am-2pm**



dot com

Michigan Gardener is the region's best gardening resource. For 14 years, we have published quality information, written by local experts, that gardeners can depend on. Our website, [www.MichiganGardener.com](http://www.MichiganGardener.com), is the perfect complement to the printed edition of the magazine. The site features a searchable archive of past articles with additional articles being added regularly. We have more in store, so bookmark the site and check back often. Of course, the print edition of Michigan Gardener is still your exclusive source for the latest articles and the most current local gardening information.



Find a garden in your mailbox.

Subscribe for convenient home delivery of Michigan Gardener

8 issues (1 year) - \$16    16 issues (2 years) - \$29    24 issues (3 years) - \$39  
BEST VALUE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE DID YOU PICK UP MG?

MICHIGAN GARDENER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY APRIL THRU NOVEMBER

Canadian subscriptions:  
8 issues for \$19.00 US. (\$38.00 CAN.)  
16 issues for \$34.00 US. (\$62.00 CAN.)

PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK (PAYABLE TO MICHIGAN GARDENER) AND MAIL TO:  
Michigan Gardener  
16291 W. 14 Mile Rd., Suite 5  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327

MICHIGAN Look for GARDENER at these fine locations:

- Allen Park**
  - ACO Hardware
- Almont**
  - American Tree
- Ann Arbor**
  - 16 Hands Gallery
  - Abbott's Landscp Nurs
  - Ace Barnes Hardware
  - Borders
  - Downtown Home & Gard
  - English Gardens
  - HillTop Greenhse & Farms
  - Larry's Mower Shop
  - Lodi Farms
  - Matthaei Botanical Gard
  - Nicola's Books
  - The Produce Station
  - Turner Greenhses
  - Whole Foods
  - Wild Bird Ctr
- Auburn Hills**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Borders
  - Drake's Nurs
  - Oakland Community College
  - Public Library
  - State Crushing
- Bay City**
  - Begick Nurs & Gard Ctr
- Belleville**
  - Banotal Greenhse
  - Gardeners Choice
  - Printer Flowerland
  - Zywicki Greenhse
- Berkley**
  - Garden Central
- Beverly Hills**
  - Border's
- Birmingham**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Blossoms
  - Borders
  - Cupcake Station
  - MT Hunter
  - Neighborhood Hardware
  - Public Library
  - Tiffany Florist
  - Watch Hill Antiques
  - Woodward Gard
- Bloomfield Hills**
  - ACE Hardware
  - Backyard Birds
- Brighton**
  - Bordine Nurs
  - Cowbell Lawn & Gard
  - English Gardens
  - Grasshopper Gardens
  - Meier Flowerland
- Brownstown Twp**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Elegant Environments Pond Shop
  - James Bros Lanscp
  - Ruhlig Farms & Gard
- Canton**
  - Canton Floral Gardens
  - Clink Landscp & Nurs
  - Crimball Nurs
  - Keller & Stein Greenhse
  - Reliable Landscaping
- Chelsea**
  - Garden Mill
- Clarkston**
  - ACE Hardware
  - ACO Hardware
  - Bordine Nurs
  - Country Oaks Landscp
- Clawson**
  - ACO Hardware
- Clinton Twp**
  - ACO Hardware
  - English Gardens
  - Evergreen Home & Gard
  - MSU Extension-Macomb Cty
  - Tropical Treasures
- Commerce Twp**
  - Backyard Birds
  - Zoner's Greenhse
- Davison**
  - Wojo's Garden Splendors
- Dearborn**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Fairlane Gard
- Dearborn Hts**
  - English Gardens
- Detroit**
  - Detroit Gard Ctr
  - MSU Extension-Wayne Cty
  - Public Library
- Dexter**
  - Dexter Gardens
  - Fraleigh's Nurs
- Eastpointe**
  - English Gardens
- Farmington**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Sunflower Bakehaus
- Farmington Hills**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Farmer John's Greenhse
  - HydroHarrys
  - Steinkopf Nurs
  - Weingartz
- Fenton**
  - Gerych's
  - Heavenly Scent Herb Farm
- Ferdale**
  - Casual Modes Home & Gard
  - Public Library
- Fosteria**
  - Iron Barn Iron Work
- Fowlerville**
  - Arrowhead Alpines
- Gladwin**
  - Stone Cottage Gardens
- Grand Blanc**
  - Bordine Nurs
  - The Weed Lady
- Grand Rapids**
  - Meijer Gardens
- Grosse Ile**
  - Westcroft Gardens
- Grosse Pointe**
  - ACE Hardware
  - Allemon's Landscp Ctr
  - Meldrum Gard Ctr
- Grosse Pointe Woods**
  - Wild Birds Unltd
- Hadley**
  - Le Fleur Décor
- Haslett**
  - Van Atta's Greenhse
- Highland**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Colasanti's Produce & Plants
- Holly**
  - Rice's Garden Ornaments
- Howell**
  - Howell Farmer's Mkt
  - Specialty Growers
- Imlay City**
  - Earthly Arts
- Lake Orion**
  - Lake Orion Lawn Ornaments
  - Orion Stone
  - Wojo's Greenhse
- Lapeer**
  - Perkin's Flowers
- Livonia**
  - ACO Hardware (5 Mi/ Middlebelt)
  - ACO Hardware (6 Mi/ Newburgh)
  - Bushel Mart
  - Superior Growers Supply
  - Zerbo's Health Foods
- Macomb**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Altermatt's Greenhse
  - Boyka's Greenhse
  - Deneweth's Greenhses
  - Elya's Village Gard
  - Landscapesource.com
- Madison Hts**
  - Green Carpet Sod
- Midland**
  - Dow Gardens
- Millford**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Melone Bros
  - Millford Gardens
- Millford/Highland**
  - The Pond Place
- Mt Clemens**
  - Public Library
- New Baltimore**
  - Meldrum Bros Nurs Ctr
- New Boston**
  - Gorham & Sons Nurs
  - Grass Roots Nurs
- North Branch**
  - Campbell's Greenhses
  - Oldani Landscp Nurs
- Northville**
  - Gardenviews
- Novi**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Borders
  - Dinsler's
  - Glenda's Gard Ctr
  - Stone City
  - Tollgate Education Ctr
- Oak Park**
  - Four Seasons Gard Ctr
- Ortonville**
  - Country Oaks Landscp Supp II
  - Wojo's Greenhse
- Ottawa Lake**
  - Jacob's Garden
- Owosso**
  - Everlastings in the Wildwood
- Pinkney**
  - Ed Bock Feeds
- Plymouth**
  - Backyard Birds
  - Lucas Nurs
  - Plymouth Nurs
  - Plymouth Rock & Supp
- Rock Shoppe**
  - Saxton's Gard Ctr
  - Sideways
  - Sparr's Greenhse
- Pontiac**
  - Goldner Walsh Nurs
  - MSU Extension-Oakland Cty
- Ray**
  - Van's Valley Greenhse
- Redford**
  - Seven Mi Gard Ctr
- Rochester**
  - Casual Concepts
  - Fogler's Greenhse
  - Haley Stone Supply
  - Sherwood Forest Landscping
- Rochester Hills**
  - ACE Hardware
  - ACO Hardware
  - Auburn Oaks Gard Ctr
  - Bordine Nurs
  - Shades of Green
  - Wild Birds Unltd
- Rockwood**
  - Marsh Greenhouses
- Romulus**
  - Kurtzhal's Farms
  - Schoedel's Nurs
  - Schwartz's Greenhse
- Roseville**
  - Dale's Landscp Supply
  - Public Library
  - World Gardenland
- Royal Oak**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Billings Lawn Equipment
  - English Gardens
  - Frenzt & Sons Hardware
  - Heritage Co. 2
  - La Roche
  - Manus Power Mowers
  - Wild Birds Unltd
- Saginaw**
  - Abele Greenhse & Gard Ctr
- Saline**
  - Nature's Gard Ctr
  - Saline Flowerland
- Shelby Twp**
  - Diegel Greenhses
  - Eden Gard Ctr
  - Hessel's Greenhses
  - Maeder Plant Farm
  - Potteryland
- South Lyon**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Hollow Oak Farm Nurs
  - Raney's Greenhse
- Southfield**
  - 3 DDD's Stand
  - ACO Hardware
  - Eagle Landscp & Supply
  - Flower Barn Nursery
  - Main's Pebble Place
- Southgate**
  - Ray Hunter Florist
- St Clair Shores**
  - ACE Hardware
  - ACO Hardware (Harper/13 Mi)
  - Hall's Nurs
  - Meldrum Bros Nurs & Supp
  - Soulliere Gard Ctr
- Sterling Hts**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Decor Statuette
  - Eckert's Greenhse
- Stockbridge**
  - Gee Farms
- Sylvan Lake**
  - AguaFina Gard
  - Detroit Garden Works
- Taylor**
  - Beautiful Ponds & Gard
  - DBL Garden Ctr
  - Massab Acres Greenhse
  - Panetta's Landscp Supp
- Tipton**
  - Hidden Lake Gardens
- Trenton**
  - Carefree Lawn Ctr
  - Keck Hardware
- Troy**
  - ACO Hardware
  - The Home & Gard Shop
  - Tom's Landscp & Nurs
  - Uncle Luke's Feed Store
- Utica**
  - Dale's Landscp Supp
  - Stone City
  - Weingartz
- Warren**
  - Beste's Lawn & Patio Supp
  - Harry's Gard Ctr
  - Young's Garden Mart
- Washington**
  - Landscapes Direct
  - Rocks 'n' Roots
- Waterford**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Indoor Garden Superstore
  - Jacobsen's Flowers
  - Light Green Water
  - Oakland City Farmer's Mkt
  - Public Library
  - Weingartz
- Waterford**
  - Hoffman Nurs
  - Merrittscape
- Wayne**
  - Artman's Nurs
- West Bloomfield**
  - English Gardens
  - Public Library
  - Whole Foods
- Westland**
  - ACO Hardware
  - Artman's Westland Nurs
  - Barsons Greenhses
  - Bushel Stop
  - Joe Randazzo's
  - Panetta's Landscp Supp
  - Public Library
- White Lake**
  - Bogie Lake Greenhse
  - Mulligan's Gard Ctr
  - Sunshine Plants
- Whitmore Lake**
  - Alexander's Greenhses
- Wixom**
  - Brainer's Greenhse
- Ypsilanti**
  - Coleman's Farm Market
  - Lucas Nurs
  - Margolis Nurs
  - Materials Unlimited
  - Schmidt's Antiques

MICHIGAN GARDENER is FREE. Let's keep it that way.

Shop with our advertisers and please tell them you saw their ad in Michigan Gardener.

# Growing nutrient-packed produce in your garden

By Milo Lou Shammass

Nothing provides more nutrient-packed produce than homegrown fruits and vegetables. This is especially true for those organic gardeners that use nutritive-rich treatments in the form of organic fertilizers, soils, and composts.

No one cares more about your health than you do. So it is logical that you should treat the soil as a nutrient supply station for the plants grown in it. When grown at home in hearty soil, those plants will be able to absorb the maximum amount of applied nutrients and send them to us in the form of phytonutrients, antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals.

The nutrients we absorb will transfer their health properties to us and yield visible results like improved digestion, immunity, energy, and anti-aging, as well as all-around better health. Not to mention, because the produce contains a higher sugar content, they simply taste better.

Our backyard garden should be viewed as our "pharmacy" and our medicine cabinet. If we are able to grow as much healthy produce as we possibly can, we can provide great sustenance for our body to absorb. Many things will happen as we grow our own food—we will be more attentive to our health naturally, simply because we are carefully attending to these treatments that we chose.

In terms of finances, it also makes great sense. If we eliminate the middleman that handles our produce, we can save a lot of money. A sizeable portion of what is spent at

the grocery store goes to produce, especially fresh and organic produce. What better way to achieve nutrient-rich food while avoiding handling costs than to grow it yourself.

Furthermore, you won't have to worry about what pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers, or other treatments went into your produce. You'll know exactly what went into it, when it was harvested, and how it was transported to your dinner table.

Understandably, most folks don't have time to grow their entire diet in their garden, so just select the more expensive things to cultivate, like snow peas, bell peppers, berries, exotic fruits, and herbs. I like doing this because I can grow what I want, and when I go down the produce aisle at the market, I can purchase the less expensive produce I did not grow. The bottom line: you save a substantial amount of money on produce costs while gaining fresher and more nutrient-rich foods.

The more food we grow in our backyards, the less food has to be shipped across the country. This reduction in shipping reduces the impact on the environment. No transportation is required to carry fresh produce inside from our vegetable gardens (except for a few extra calories). Also, when choosing to use fewer chemicals, fewer toxins will enter the atmosphere and leech through to our water supply. Not only that, but the remains in our organically-grown food can be composted and used to grow more food. Here's to your health!

*Milo Lou Shammass is the founder of the Dr. Earth Company.*



*You can expect the extraordinary*

**DETROIT GARDEN WORKS**

1794 Pontiac Dr • Sylvan Lake  
detroitgardenworks.com  
248-335-8089



## GET YOUR LAWN OFF DRUGS

**STOP** Using Chemicals

The Wilkop name is a familiar one to local gardeners. My parents started C.G. Wilkop Landscape Center over 50 years ago and we hold an excellent reputation to this day for our superior service.

I have spent the last 3 years perfecting my premium lawn care service and it is with pride that I offer it to you. It has been difficult going against the grain of traditional chemical-based fertilizers, but a healthy lawn can be achieved without impacting our children, pets, lakes, groundwater or our own health.

Organic 1 welcomes the opportunity to give you a FREE ESTIMATE for our 5-step program. **Call us and ask about our 15% pre-pay discount!**

Sincerely, Craig A. Wilkop

**Pet Friendly**



**Safe for People**



**Lake & Stream**



**Earth Friendly**



**Call us to begin our healthier lawn care program!**

**Organic 1**

248-391-0907

www.getyourlawnoffdrugs.net

## garden TV

### Radio

**The Gardening Show**  
Sat 4-5pm. WJR-AM 760, hosted by Dean Krauskopf.

### Television

(Check local listings to verify show times)

**Cultivating Life**  
WGN America (Sun 11:30am). Easy-to-do projects and inspiring ideas for the yard and garden.

**Dig In**  
HGTV (Fri, Sun 7:30am). Landscape designer and his team show how you can create your dreamscape.

**Garden Smart**  
PBS Detroit (WTVS, www.wtvs.org). PBS Flint (WCMU, www.wcmu.org). PBS East Lansing (WKAR, www.wkar.org).

**Gardening by the Yard**  
HGTV (Fri 6:30am). Paul James gives down-to-earth advice about gardening basics in an entertaining way.

**Get Out, Way Out!**  
HGTV (Sun 7am). Outdoor spaces being made over into incredible living areas.

### Landscape Smart

HGTV (Sun 8am). Experts provide cost-cutting landscape ideas.

### Landscapers' Challenge

HGTV (Fri 7am). Three professional landscapers face off to find out whose plan best meets a homeowner's outdoor design challenge.

### The Outdoor Room

HGTV (Fri 4pm, Sat 1pm). Jamie Durie and his crew tackle problem yards and turn them into assets.

### P. Allen Smith's Garden Home

PBS Detroit (WTVS, www.wtvs.org). PBS East Lansing (WKAR, www.wkar.org).

### Victory Garden

PBS Detroit (WTVS, www.wtvs.org). PBS Flint (WCMU, www.wcmu.org). PBS East Lansing (WKAR, www.wkar.org).

### Yard Crashers

HGTV (Sun 9am). Landscaper surprises homeowners by completely transforming their landscape.

# ACE Barnes Hardware

NOT YOUR TYPICAL HARDWARE STORE



### GARDENER

A full assortment of top quality tools and supplies to help keep your garden looking great.  
Atlas Gloves • Fiskars • Worx  
Lehr Garden Tools • Weber

### COOK

Our selection of kitchenware and accoutrements will amaze you.  
Wusthof • Le Creuset • Bodum  
Swiss Diamond • Cuisinart  
Lodge Cast Iron • Rowenta

### HOMEOWNER

You will find fabulous items for garden, patio, picnic, outdoor rooms & entertaining.  
New River • Fermob • Sunbrella  
Chicago Wicker • Galtech Umbrellas

## JOIN US FOR FUN & INFORMATIVE EVENTS (Stadium Ave location):

May 8, 11am-3pm: Weber will show how to tune your grill for barbequeing (also at Washtenaw Ave store)  
May 15, 11am-1pm: Dan Gaynor from the Scotts company will discuss plant soils and fertilizer.  
May 22, 11am-1pm: The Bayer Company will discuss the proper time for grub control.

2105 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor  
734-665-7555  
Mon-Sat: 8-8:30 Sun 10-6

3352 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor  
734-971-4555  
www.acebarneshardware.com

# calendar

May / June

★ Denotes Michigan Gardener advertiser

### Ongoing

#### Belle Isle Conservatory

Daily, including holidays, 10am-5pm, Detroit. The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, 313-821-5428.

#### ★ Cranbrook Greenhouse

Mondays, 9:30-11:30am, Bloomfield Hills. Specializing in orchids, blooming houseplants, & more. 248-645-3147. www.Cranbrook.edu/housegardens.

#### ★ Dow Gardens

Daily, 9am to 1 hour before sunset, Midland. \$5. Whiting Forest Tours on Wednesdays, 11-11:45am: guided walk, native & non-native plants. 800-362-4874, www.DowGardens.org.

#### Ford House Gardens

Tue-Sat, 10am-4pm; Sun, 12-4pm, Grosse Pointe Shores. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House. Stroll the gardens & grounds. \$3. 313-884-4222.

#### Fredrik Meijer Gardens

Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm, Grand Rapids. 125-acre botanic garden, Michigan's largest tropical conservatory, 30-acre sculpture park. 888-957-1580.

#### Henry Ford Estate

Dearborn. Tour family home of Henry Ford & Jens Jensen landscaped grounds & waterscapes. 313-593-5590.

#### ★ Hidden Lake Gardens

Open daily 8am-sunset, Tipton (8 mi. west of Tecumseh). 755 acres of woodlands & gardens including hosta, dwarf conifer collections, annuals, perennial displays, hiking trails, lake, conservatory & arboretum. \$3. 517-431-2060. www.HiddenLakeGardens.msu.edu.

#### ★ Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum

Grounds: daily, 8am-sunset; Conservatory: 10am-4:30pm (Wed 10am-8pm), closed Mon, Ann Arbor. Conservatory (\$5, age 5-18: \$2): over 1,200 tropical, warm-temperate, arid plants from around world. Grounds (FREE): 350 acres of trails, formal gardens, wetlands. 734-647-7600. www.mbgna.umich.edu.

#### Meadow Brook Hall & Gardens

Gardens open daily, dawn to dusk (FREE), Rochester. At Oakland Univ. 4th largest historic mansion in U.S. Hall tours available. 248-364-6200.

#### Tollgate Education Center

Mon-Sat, 9am-dusk, closed Sundays, Novi. Enjoy the gardens (28115 Meadowbrook). FREE. 248-347-3860.

## Events, Lectures, & Classes

### May 2010

#### Hardy Plant Society

Mon, May 3, 7pm, Birmingham. At Congregational Church of Birmingham. Speaker. 248-589-2286, mzbj@sbcglobal.net.

#### Plant Sale

Mon, May 3 to Fri, Jun 4, 8:30-10am & 12:30-2pm, Detroit. By Golightly CTC Agriscience at Belle Isle Greenhouses. 313-824-3316, earlybloom@aol.com.

#### ★ Unilock Brick Paver Seminar

Tue, May 4, 5:30pm, Walled Lake. At Suburban Landscape Supply (960 Ladd Rd). www.suburbanlandscapesupply.com. 248-960-4000.

#### ★ Hardy Ferns

Tue, May 4, 7pm, Troy. At Telly's Greenhouse. \$5. Register: 248-689-8735. www.Tellys.com.

#### Daffodils & Duds Style Show

Wed, May 5, 11:30am, Grand Blanc. By Springfield Garden Club at Genesys Conference & Banquet Center. \$25. 248-891-0900.

#### Urban Farm Tour

Wed, May 5, 6-7pm, Ypsilanti. At Growing Hope Center (922 W Michigan Ave). www.growinghope.net. 734-786-8401.

#### Community Garden

Wed, May 5, 6-8:30pm, Waterford. By MSU Extension at Oakland County Executive Office Conference Center (2100 Pontiac Lake Rd). \$15. 248-858-0887, smithlin@oakgov.com.

#### ★ Pond & Waterfall Design

Thu May 6, 6-8pm & Sat, May 22, 10am-noon, Milford. At Pond Place (3505 W. Highland Rd). FREE. Register: 248-889-8400. www.pondplace.com.

#### Healing with Therapeutic Horticulture

Thu, May 6, 6-9pm, Warren. At Macomb Community College. \$37. Register: 586-498-4000.

#### May Flowers Photography Show

Thu, May 6, 6-9pm, Birmingham. At Laurie Tennent Studio. laurie@laurientennentstudio.com.

#### ★ Plant a Gift that Mom will Love!

Fri, May 7, 4:30-5:30pm, Ann Arbor. At the Produce Station. Ages 5-7, \$5. 734-663-7848. www.producestation.com.

#### Flower & Garden Expo

Fri, May 7, 12-6pm & Sat, May 8, 9am-6pm, Detroit. By Golightly Agriscience Advisory Board at Williams Recreation Center. Seminars & sale. 313-224-1160, WilksL@detroitmi.gov.

#### ★ Spring Plant Sale

Sat, May 8, 9am-4pm; Sun, May 9, 10am-4pm, Ann Arbor. At Matthaei Botanical Gardens (1800 N Dixboro). 734-647-7600. www.mbgna.umich.edu.

#### Heritage Newspaper Plant Exchange

Sat, May 8, 9-11am, Southgate. By Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County at One Heritage Dr. chartav@wowway.com.

#### Annual Herb Plant Sale

Sat, May 8, 9am-2pm, Grosse Pointe Woods. By GP Unit of Herb Society of America at GP Woods Municipal Bldg (20025 Mack). Over 40 varieties of herbs, presentations, tastings. annoc@comcast.net.

#### Belle Isle Conservatory Workshop

Sat, May 8, 9:30am-3pm, Detroit. By MI Orchid Society at Anna Scripps Conservatory. Come/go per your schedule. Register week before: 313-822-2867. www.miorchids.com.

#### ★ Spring Woodland Faerie House

Sat, May 8, 10am-noon, Fenton. At Heavenly Scent Herb Farm. \$44.75. Register: 810-629-9208. www.heavenlyscentsherbfarm.com.

#### ★ Plant Sale

Sat, May 8, 10am-2pm, Tipton. At Hidden Lake Gardens. 517-431-2060.

## Promote your events! Send us your information!

Mail: 16291 W. 14 Mile Rd., Suite 5, Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327

Fax: 248-594-5564

E-Mail: calendar@michigangardener.com

### Upcoming Issues & Deadlines: Issue

Deadline

June 2010

May 15, 2010

July 2010

June 15, 2010

100% Organic

## Protect your GARDEN

from rabbits and small critters.

**NEW!**  
**Plantskydd® Granular**  
1 lb • 3 lb • 7 lb • 20 lb

Repels rabbits and small critters. Sprinkle Plantskydd throughout your garden. It couldn't be easier!

#1 Most Effective  
#1 Longest Lasting  
#1 Most Tested

**Plantskydd® Deer Repellent** repels deer, elk, and rabbits. Available as Ready-to-Use Spray (1 qt) or Jug (1.32 gal) and Soluble Powder Concentrate (1 lb., 2.2 lb. and 22 lb. Bulk).

For our DEALER LOCATOR, FAQs, testimonials and \*independent research results, visit our website: [www.plantskydd.com](http://www.plantskydd.com)

**CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-252-6051**  
[www.plantskydd.com](http://www.plantskydd.com)

#1 Choice of Professional Growers, Landscapers & Foresters

**Promote your events!** Send us your information!

Mail: 16291 W. 14 Mile Rd., Suite 5, Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327

Fax: 248-594-5564      E-Mail: [calendar@michigangardener.com](mailto:calendar@michigangardener.com)

Upcoming Issues & Deadlines: Issue	Deadline
June 2010	May 15, 2010
July 2010	June 15, 2010





**Plant Exchange**

Sat, Jun 5, 9am, Clarkston. By Clarkston Farm & Garden Club at Village Parking Lot (Washington & Main St). 248-620-2984.

**\* Rhubarb Leaf Fountain**

Sat, Jun 5, 10am-noon, Fenton. At Heavenly Scent Herb Farm. \$98.75. Register: 810-629-9208. www.heavenlyscenherbfarm.com.

**Native Plant Festival**

Sat, Jun 5, 10am-3pm, Rochester. At Paint Creek Cider Mill. 248-651-9260, www.paintcreektrail.org.

**Garden Walk**

Sat, Jun 5, 10am-4pm, Dexter. By Dexter Garden Club at 6 Dexter gardens. \$10. 734-996-4441, www.hvcn.org.

**Brick & Wall Class**

Sat, Jun 5, 12 & 26, 10am, Washington. At Rocks 'n' Roots (6252 Van Dyke). Register: 586-752-4900.

**\* Frogs & Salamanders Family Hands-on Experience**

Sat, Jun 5, 6-9pm, Tipton. At Hidden Lake Gardens. \$12 adults/\$10 children. Register: 517-431-2060.

**\* Beautiful Butterflies**

Sun, Jun 6, 3-4pm, Ann Arbor. At the Produce Station. Ages 5-7, \$5. 734-663-7848. www.producestation.com.

**Hosta Hybridizers**

Sun, Jun 6, Ann Arbor. By Metro Detroit Hosta Society at Matthaei Botanical Garden. Bev\_Wolf@comcast.net.

**Herbs Class**

Tue, Jun 8, 7pm, Troy. At Telly's (3301 John R). \$5. Register: 248-689-8735. www.tellys.com.

**\* Brick Paving & Retaining Wall Seminar**

Wed, Jun 9, 6pm, Orion. At Orion Stone Depot. 248-391-2490. www.orionstone.com.

**Small Fruit Production**

Thu, Jun 10, 6:30-8:30pm, Novi. At MSU Tollgate Education Center. \$20. 248-858-0887. smithlin@oakgov.com.

**\* Pond Algae & Weed Control**

Sat, Jun 12, 10-11am, Milford. At Pond Place (3505 W. Highland Rd). FREE. Register: 248-889-8400. www.pondplace.com.

**Hypertufa (Trough Garden Container) Workshop**

Sat, Jun 12, 10am-noon, Grosse Pointe Woods. By Detroit Garden Center. \$30. Register: 313-259-6363, detroitgardencent@yahoo.com.

**Home & Garden Tour**

Sat, Jun 12, 10am-4pm, Pleasant Ridge. By Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission at Pleasant Ridge City Hall. \$20. www.pleasantridgehistory.com.

**Daylily Plant Sale**

Sat, Jun 12, 10am-1pm, Bloomfield Hills. By Southeastern Michigan Daylily Club at Congregational Church of Birm. (1000 Cranbrook Rd). www.daylilyclub.net.

**\* Growing Shiitake Mushrooms**

Sat, Jun 12, 11:30am-1:30pm, Tipton. At Hidden Lake Gardens. \$50. Register: 517-431-2060.

**Garden Walk**

Sat, Jun 12, Ann Arbor. By Ann Arbor Farm & Garden at 6 Ann Arbor Gardens. \$15. www.annarborfarmandgarden.org.

**\* Koi Health & Wet Lab**

Sun, Jun 13 10am-noon, Milford. At Pond Place (3505 W. Highland Rd). \$10 Register: 248-889-8400. www.pondplace.com.

**\* Mediterranean Garden Party**

Sun, Jun 13, 11am-4pm, Fenton. At Heavenly Scent Herb Farm. Free demo (1pm). www.heavenlyscenherbfarm.com.

**\* Peppers for Pops**

Sun, Jun 13, 11am-4pm, Ann Arbor. At the Produce Station. Ages 5-7, \$5. 734-663-7848. www.producestation.com.

**Field Trip to Meadow Brook Gardens**

Mon, Jun 14, Rochester. By Royal Oak Garden Club at Meadow Brook Gardens. 313-861-6579.

**\* Fabulous Fish of Michigan Pre-School Program**

Tue, Jun 15, 10-11:30am, Tipton. At Hidden Lake Gardens. \$8. 517-431-2060.

**\* Tour of Meadow Brook Hall Gardens**

Tue, Jun 15, 10am-noon, Rochester Hills. By Association of Professional Gardeners at Meadow Brook Hall. 248-828-2978. thegardener@comcast.net.

**\* The Moon Garden**

Thu, Jun 17, 6-8pm, Tipton. At Hidden Lake Gardens \$18. Register: 517-431-2060.

**\* Junior Master Gardener Class**

Thu, Jun 17-July 22, Tipton. At Hidden Lake Gardens 5 classes, \$25. Register: 517-431-2060.

**Bloom in June Garden Seminar**

Fri, Jun 18, 10am-3pm, Allen Park. By A. P. Beautification Commission at A. P. Recreation Center (15800 White St). Free speakers. Class: Make a Miniature Garden, fee & register: 313-383-6933.

**Hydrangeas: New & Old**

Fri, Jun 18, 4-5pm, Highland. At Colasanti's Produce & Plants (468 S. Milford Rd). FREE. Register: 248-887-0012, www.colasantis.com.

**Pond & Water Garden Class**

Sat, Jun 19, 10am, Washington. At Rocks 'n' Roots (6252 Van Dyke). Register: 586-752-4900.

**Milford Garden Walk**

Sat, Jun 19, 10am-6pm, Milford. By Milford Garden Club at Milford Central Park. 6 gardens. www.themilfordgardenclub.org.

**\* Pond Construction Hands-On Workshop**

Sat, Jun 19, 1-3pm, Milford. At Pond Place (3505 W. Highland Rd). FREE. Register: 248-889-8400. www.pondplace.com.

**Michigan Garden Walk**

Sat, Jun 19, Marshall. By Metro Detroit Hosta Society. Guests welcome. 248-642-1619.



## GARDEN MILL

### THINK SPRING

Come see what's blooming in Chelsea

**\$10 OFF**

any \$50 purchase with this ad. Not valid with any other coupon or prior purchase. Expires 6-30-10

Unique Garden Features Hand Crafted by Artisans

- Chimes • Fountains • Planters
- Birdhouses, Baths & Feeders
- Wrought iron arbors, trellises & topiaries

**110 S. MAIN • DOWNTOWN CHELSEA**  
734-475-3539 • [www.thegardenmill.com](http://www.thegardenmill.com)



## GUARDIAN TREE EXPERTS

### Surround yourself with healthy, beautiful trees.

Our scientific approach will save you money and protect your trees and shrubs.

PRUNING • REMOVALS • CABLING • LIGHTNING PROTECTION  
FERTILIZATION • ROOT CARE & SOIL MANAGEMENT • INSECT & DISEASE MANAGEMENT • PLANTING • CONSULTATION

**734-786-1688**  
[www.GuardianTreeExperts.com](http://www.GuardianTreeExperts.com)

**Arborists Who Care.**




## Herb and Dried Flower Farm For Sale!





### Business & Farm FOR SALE

**\$799,000 FOR THE 10 ACRES AND ALL BUILDINGS**  
**\$599,000 FOR 5 ACRES AND ALL BUILDINGS**

*Our farm is offered for sale now as we are retiring up north to the lake!*

Historic Herb/Hobby/Horse Farm. 10+ splittable acres in scenic Commerce Twp. 3200 sq. ft. farm house with huge rooms & full basement. Historic barn with hand-hewn beams & stalls for horses or livestock.

Successful retail shop with heat, phone, & electricity—perfect for workshops and lectures!

Three double-poly greenhouses with gas heaters & retail benches for flats of plants. Chicken coop & outbuildings. Perfect for a family business in horticulture or the hobbyist! Glorious display and growing garden areas. Fenced backyard & many pastures. Nice parking area. Very close to Proud Lake State Park with miles of horse trails, skiing, hiking & canoeing, and the wonderful town of Milford.

Located on main road between Wixom and Milford, close to I-96 and M-59.  
For a virtual picture tour, and more information, please visit our website.

*Our realtor at Coldwell Banker is Jean Wells at 800-224-4145*

2460 Wixom Rd, Commerce Twp, MI 48382 • 5 miles north of I-96 (Wixom exit)  
[www.sunshinefarmandgarden.com](http://www.sunshinefarmandgarden.com)

## MICHIGAN GARDENER Bulk Subscriptions

- Great for clubs and those retail stores outside our regular circulation routes.
- Have *Michigan Gardener* **delivered** in bulk and give copies to your members and customers.
- These copies are sent **directly** to the address you specify.
- The cost is much **lower** than the individual subscription price.
- It's a great way to provide another **benefit** to your members and customers.

**The order form is available at [www.michigangardener.com](http://www.michigangardener.com)**  
**or please contact us for an order form:**

**E-mail:** [publisher@michigangardener.com](mailto:publisher@michigangardener.com)  
**Phone:** 248-594-5563 **Fax:** 248-594-5564  
**Mail:** Michigan Gardener, 16291 W. 14 Mile Rd.  
Suite 5, Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3327

# how-to

## Cut down ornamental grasses

Ornamental grasses can be cut down at any time from fall until mid-spring or later. Wait until spring to cut down grasses that stand up well, like maiden grass (*Miscanthus* species, **Photo 1**), and those with good color through the winter, like little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*, **Photo 2**). These grasses provide winter interest to the garden and landscape, plus seeds and shelter for birds during the winter. Cutting in the spring allows the foliage to dry out, and it's easier to cut and handle when dry.

Grasses that don't stand up over winter, such as fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*, **Photo 3**) should be cut in the fall when they are firm and not soft from winter's abuse. Evergreen grasses like blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*, **Photo 4**) should have their foliage "combed" out (pull out the brown foliage using a combing motion) rather than be cut down (**Photo 5**).

The easiest way I have found to cut down large grass plants, such as ravenna grass (*Saccharum ravennae*), is to tie the clumps together about 2 to 3 feet above ground level



Steve Nikkila

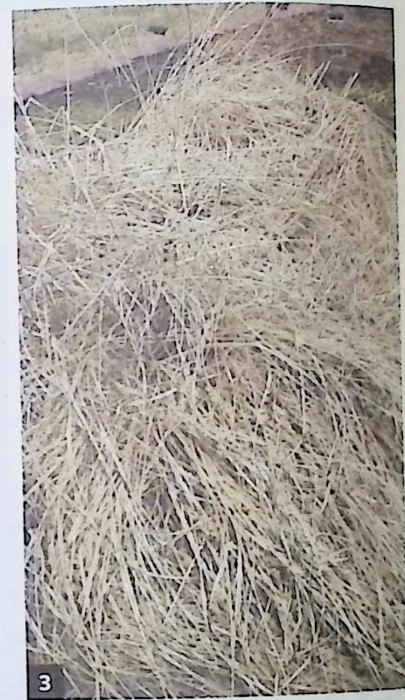
(**Photo 6**). Twine or rope work, but bungee cords (stretchable, with hooks) hold the grass together very well and release rather easily.

Cut the grass off at ground level (**Photo 7**). Cutting at ground level allows the new grass shoots to emerge more vigorously and evenly from the crown because they are not shaded by stubble. Use a tool that you're comfortable working with. Hand pruners, loppers, manual or powered hedge shears (**Photo 8**), scythe, sickle, and even a chain saw work. Select your tool based on safety and ease. Lift the bundled grass away (the person handling the grass should wear gloves and long sleeves

because some grass blades are sharp enough to cut skin) and send it away to be shredded and composted.

Clean up and inspect the area around the grass for problems in the crown or lurking weeds.

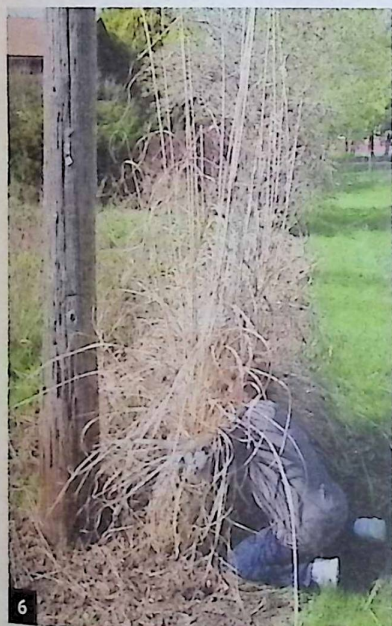
*Text and photos by Steven Nikkila, who is from Perennial Favorites in Waterford, MI (E-mail: hortphoto@gmail.com).*







5



6



7



8



"Come wander through tranquil gardens surrounding our old stone cottage"

## Stone Cottage Gardens

**Specializing in Hybrid Daylilies**

Huge selection of daylilies, hostas, ferns, perennials, grasses, vines, herbs, groundcovers & Felco pruning tools

~ Garden art & accessories ~

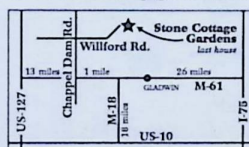
Organic & Natural Garden Products: cocoa bean & eucalyptus mulches, coir, compost, compost tea, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and Plantskydd Deer & Rabbit Repellent

**Going "Up North" for the weekend?**

Check the *Michigan Gardener* calendar or our website for special events

Open May 1 - Oct. 9 Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 9-4 or by chance or appointment

**3740 West Willford Rd.  
Gladwin, MI 989-426-2919  
www.stonecottagegardens.com**



Does the thought of maintaining your yard knock you off your feet?  
**Call us—we'll pick you up.**

## Perennial Enhancements

Garden Design Installation Maintenance

248-229-2461

www.pegardener.com

## Suburban LANDSCAPE SUPPLY

DISCOUNT LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Gardening Soils • Mulch • Boulders  
Sand • Top Soil & Peat • Flagstone  
Driveway Gravel • Brick Pavers • Stone

**Quality Landscape Products  
When You Want Them!**

### AMAZING Soil Amendment! SPHAGNUM PEAT

We have Michigan's best supply!  
We deliver in bulk • Rich, organic soil • 99.9% weed free  
Use it to improve your soil or mulch your beds



**Serving Metro Detroit**

**248-960-4000 • 960 Ladd Rd • Walled Lake**

Go to [www.suburbanlandscapesupply.com](http://www.suburbanlandscapesupply.com) to see our HUGE selection & valuable coupons and Register to WIN \$250 Cash! No purchase necessary.



## BRICK PAVERS & RETAINING WALLS



Let our friendly, knowledgeable staff help you design and plan your brick paver patio or walkway!

### Don't Miss Our FREE Do-It-Yourself Unilock Seminars

Tuesday, May 4, 5:30pm  
Saturday, May 15, 10:30am

10% OFF Product - Call For Details



# Meier Flowerland Greenhouse

Where quality is not expensive



We are the **KING** of Spring!

**Choice, Choice, Choice**

- Over 20,000 geraniums
- 15,000 hanging baskets
- 20,000 flats of annuals from A-Z
- 3 greenhouses of vegetables, herbs & perennials

**We grow our own plants for you**

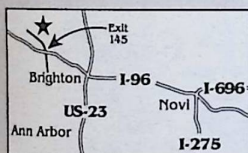
Soils, mulches, statuary & seed potatoes

**Award-winning  
floral shop**

Our designs are unique!  
Call us at 810-220-4848

Wednesday is Senior Day  
**15% discount**  
for those 65 & over

Join us on Facebook  
for special offers!



Wherever you come from, we're worth the drive!

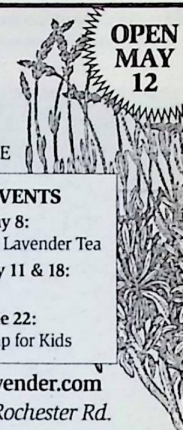
**8087 W. Grand River • Brighton**  
Since 1955 • Family owned & operated • Open all year  
**810-229-9430**



**Relax, Learn, Laugh**

Yule Love It Lavender Farm  
Potted Hardy Lavender • U-Pick  
Gift Shoppe • Refreshments

**ORGANIC LAVENDER FARM** Admission \$3 • Children 12 & under FREE



**OPEN MAY-AUGUST:** Wed, Fri, Sat: 10 am - 4 pm  
**FEATURING:** Guided Farm Tour & Lesson: 10 am  
English Tea or Luncheon Tea: 1-3 pm by reservation  
Oakland County Farmers Mkt: Saturdays May-Aug  
Birmingham Farmers Mkt: Sundays May-Aug

Yule Love It Lavender Farm • 248-628-7814 • [www.yuleloveitlavender.com](http://www.yuleloveitlavender.com)  
960 Yule Road • Leonard, MI 48367 - N of 32 Mile Rd, 1 mi. E of Rochester Rd.

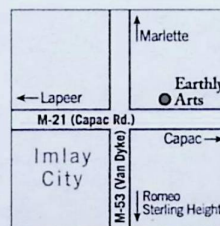
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Saturday, May 8:  
Mother's Day Lavender Tea  
Tuesday, May 11 & 18:  
Weed & Tea  
Tuesday, June 22:  
Reading Camp for Kids

## Earthly Arts GREENHOUSE

"Where Beautiful Gardens Begin..."

The cost of gardening: a bit of your time and energy. The rewards: priceless!

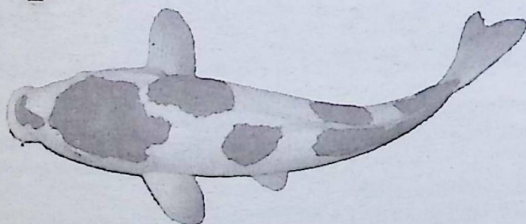


**Make us your next destination for  
quality plants at a reasonable price.**

*An abundance of choice! 3-1/2" pot size perennials at just \$1.99*

2 Locations: 7445 Imlay City Rd. Imlay City 1 mile E. of M-53 **810-724-1932**  
7269 Lakeshore Rd. Lakeport, MI (formerly Northland Gardens) **810-385-5500**

## Your Outdoor Pleasures Await at Tropical Treasures



### COMPLETE LINE OF POND SUPPLIES

Firestone EPDM Liners • Energy Efficient Pumps • Filters • Medicines  
UV's • Lighting • Food • Bonsai Trees & Supplies • Kites & Windssocks

**Wide variety of pond fish including:** Japanese Koi, Chinese Goldfish

**Pond Critters:** Turtles, Tadpoles, Snails & Clams

**Pond Plants:** Marginals, Lillies, Lotus & Oxygenators

34190 S. Gratiot (14-1/2 Mile) Clinton Township  
586-791-6595 May hours: Mon-Sat 9am-8pm • Sun 9am-5pm

## Orion Stone Depot

Your one stop to beautify your home!

**Stop in and attend one of our do-it-yourself brick  
paving and retaining wall seminars by Unilock®:**

Saturday, May 8, 11am

Saturday, May 22, 11am

Wednesday, June 9, 6pm

9 varieties of premium mulches  
decorative stone • flagstone • wallstone • topsoil • sand • gravel  
brick pavers & retaining walls • natural stone pavers • slabs & steps • boulders

4888 Joslyn Road - Orion, MI 48359  
(1/2 mi North of I-75.)

**(248) 391.2490**

[www.orionstone.com](http://www.orionstone.com)





# The Secret Garden

Judie Braun's hidden garden is a woodland escape like no other

Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener

Actually, it isn't truly a secret anymore, as word has gotten out about this special garden. Judie Braun and her husband Robert have been visited by two Northville garden walks (1996 and 2005) and one Plymouth (1997), along with lots of gardeners, schoolchildren, and even tourists from other countries. It remains a garden treasure located on unbuildable land behind the Brauns and two other condominiums.

In 1992, Robert had the brilliant idea to move to a condominium that would mean less maintenance for the couple. That involved leaving their Plymouth house and mature garden that was filled with wildflowers. She thought she could do it. Their house didn't sell right away, so she started moving some of her plants to Northville as well as to neighbors in Plymouth, and was generally sad about the whole situation. "When my husband got tired of hearing me cry, he said, 'All right...I'll clear an area for you,'" Judie recalls. She then had it written into the actual real estate contract

that when the Plymouth house sold, she could remove plants from the property.

Since they started the new garden, and continuing to this day, none of the property behind their condo has ever been in their name. After eight years of building more and more garden beds it was sold to a developer. He told them, "As long as you don't garden where I need to build, it is okay." The land has changed hands a couple times, and they continue to garden. Judie relates, "The property could be considered an unbuildable floodplain. It is a low area with a stream running through, but it isn't swampy and it has nice fertile soil."

The first clearing by Judie, Robert, and

In this magnificent and unique garden, Judie Braun gracefully uses favorite plants like red and nodding trillium, kousa dogwood, yellow lady slipper orchid, Japanese maple, hepatica, perennial geranium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, hydrangea, bloodroot, rhododendron, rogersia, gingko, and many more.

then neighbor Genny Wall was about a 60-foot by 120-foot area with three or four beds. All of this clearing, making paths and planting was done while Judie was still working full-time as an art teacher and tennis coach at Salem High School.

"I am a spatial person, a sculptor by trade, so the paths and beds just made sense to me," explains Judie about forming the pleasing shapes of the beds and paths. She continues, "I kind of pictured the paths—some left by deer, others from people walking between roads. Some paths have been there for fifty years or more."

Most of the beds are edged by rocks because, according to Judie, "Every time we dug a hole for a plant, we found at least one rock." There are approximately 20 separate beds now, divided by theme, special plants, ornaments, or larger decorative pieces. The gar-

den stretches about two acres behind three condos. One thing the garden areas have in common is birdhouses and ornaments.

Judie is a collector of containers and ornaments, and she also made some birdhouses. In addition, she often gets surprise anonymous gifts from people that stop by. Usually, they choose the spot and Judie keeps the presents where she finds them. She has gotten a pair of large blue herons, two funky metal fish, a family of frogs, stepping stones, and birdhouses, just to name a few. Sometimes people give her cash contributions, which she appreciates, to cover the cost of maintenance.

The garden is supposedly "finished" according to Judie, but then she quickly adds, "Maybe the perimeter; a garden is never really finished." She admits that she still buys new plants—she chuckles and says, "It's a disease."

Judie and Robert have new helpers. Char-

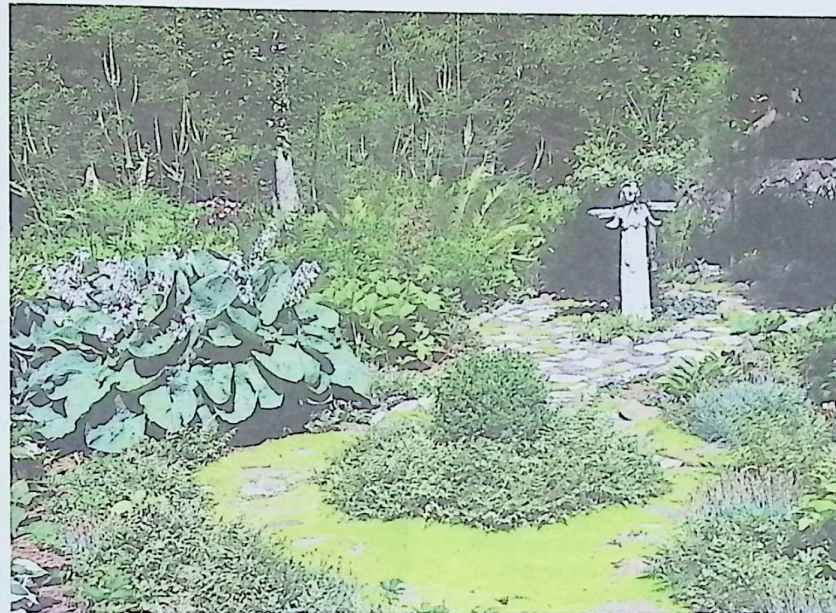
Sandie Parrott





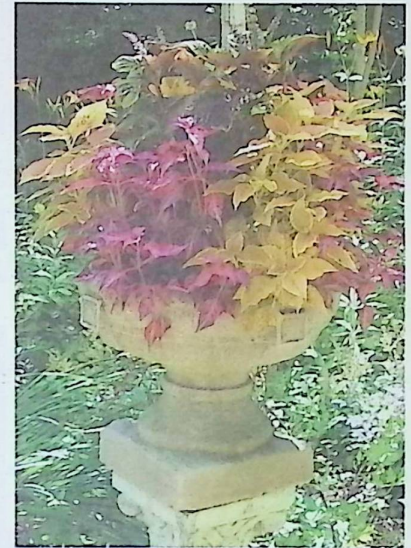
Sandie Parrott

This is a very rare photo: Judie Braun sitting still in her garden!



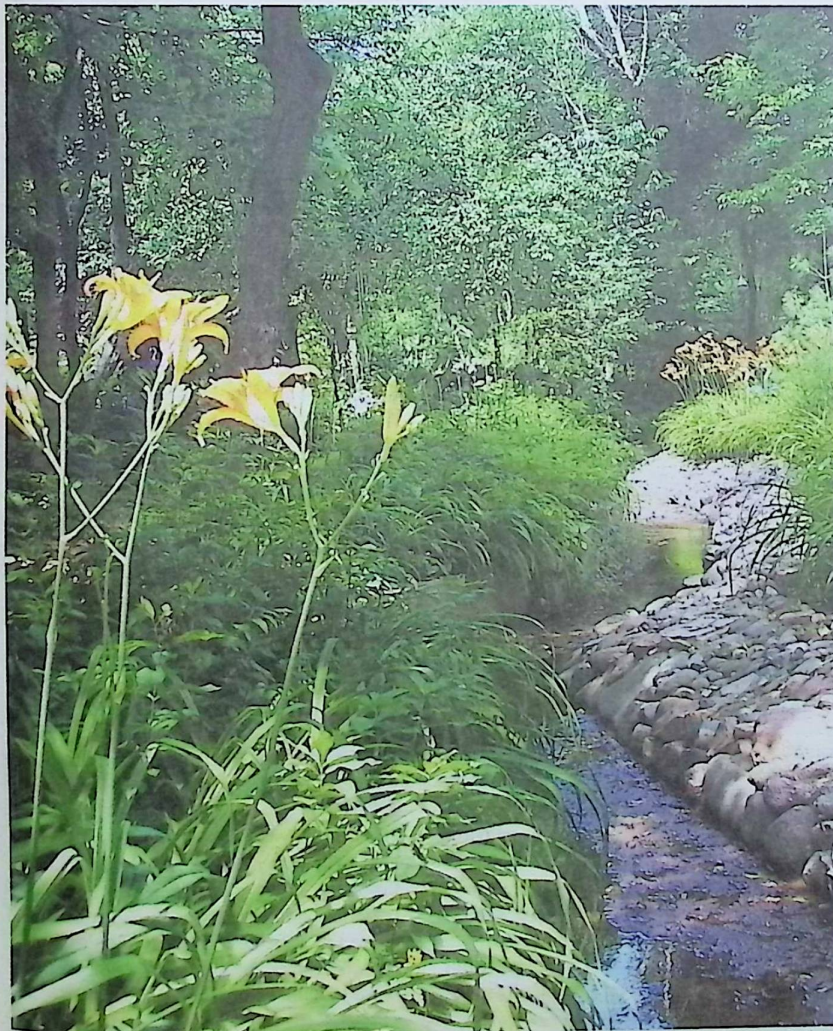
Sandie Parrott

This sunlit, woodland clearing is filled with stepping stones covered with Scotch moss and hosta (at left is large-leaved 'Big Daddy'), bugbane (*Cimicifuga*), ferns, and many others.



Sandie Parrott

Judie purchased this old urn from an antique store. To ensure it was visible from all parts of the garden, she placed it on a pedestal and filled it with bright coleus.



Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener

Judie's husband Robert lined the stream edge with rocks to keep the bank from eroding. Native daylilies line the edge and a pair of blue heron sculptures were delivered as a surprise gift.



Judie Braun

This brightly-colored, adorable parrot ornament adds a touch of whimsy.

maine Gibb and her husband Raymond live across the creek and started helping about 5 years ago. Charmaine helps with planting and planning, and is a big contributor of plants and birdhouses that her husband makes.

Emerald ash borers have done a job on the ash trees in the garden and, as a result, some statuary. She estimates they have lost around 90 trees. Not all were ash, but many were damaged when the ash trees fell. In some places this created sunny areas that had to be completely replanted. She maintains the trees are still falling.

To give you an idea of this garden's transformation, the only blooming plants on the land originally were wild roses and shrub honeysuckle. The garden was created after clearing and planting many wildflowers and



Sandie Parrott

"This is our garden wizard. He watches over the garden and brings good luck. It was my design and two different carvers worked on him. Emil Szkipala finished the sculpture," says Judie.

shade-loving shrubs, trees, and plants. Judie recalls, "As plants multiplied we had to divide and move them. Now the garden has naturalized because of the birds." Some areas have "gotten out of whack," as Judie puts it. The daylilies started taking over, so she dug up and gave away many of them. Asked about invasive plants, she replies, "Except for daylilies, most plants don't get invasive here because it is either too shady or the sunny areas are too dry."

You might wonder how they water, since there isn't a convenient source. Judie explains, "I try not to give any supplemental moisture except for maybe about three weeks in the hottest part of the summer. Then we

*continued on next page*



Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener

This Bird Girl statue is similar to the one in Savannah, Georgia, which was popularized by the book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.



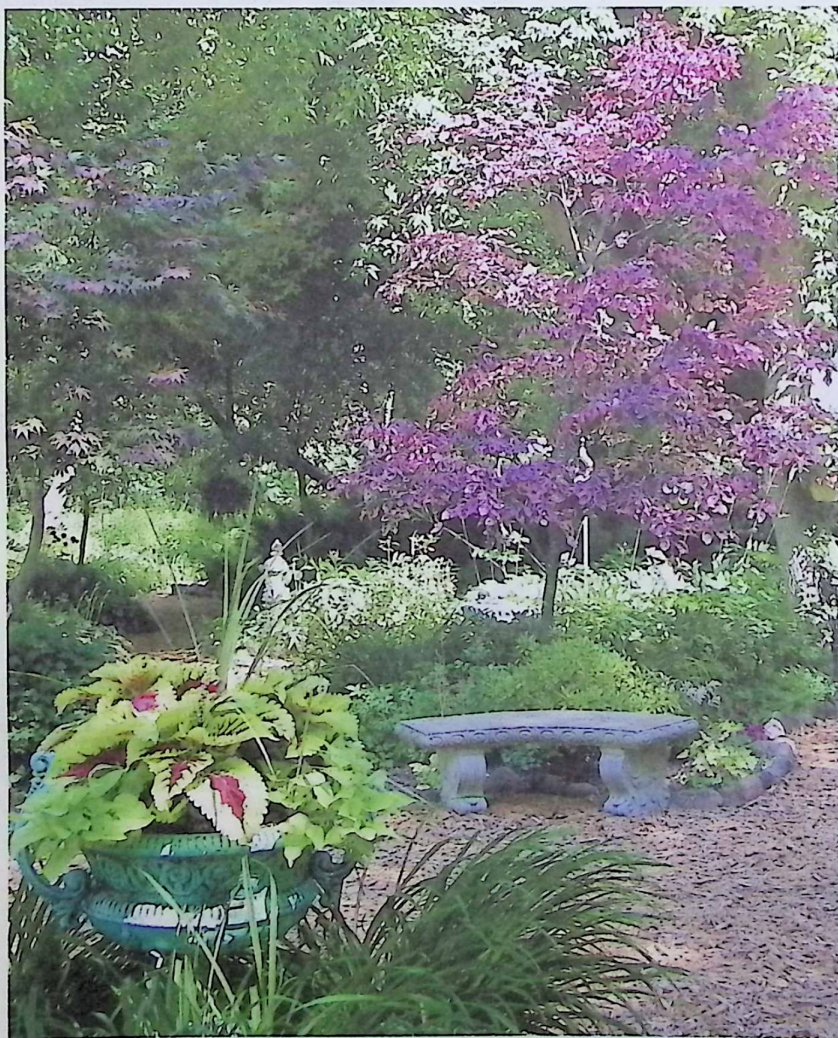
Sandie Parrott

The two little people on the bench represent my own two children and the dog we had when they were little," said Judie.



Eric Holley / Michigan Gardener

These creative tree root steps lead to the neighbor's garden. Judie requested that her husband Robert construct a path so she could walk to the nearby garden from her house.



Judie Braun

In addition to the gorgeous tri-color beech, note the beautiful urn in the lower left corner, which is from the grave of Judie's grandfather. According to Judie, "The cemetery was not caring for the plants in it the way my family anticipated, so they gave it to my cousin in Port Huron. It lived there from 1950 to 2000. My cousin moved in 2000 and asked me if I would like the urn. It has been living happily ever since and I am thrilled to have it in such a wonderful place."



Judie Braun

This yellow and pink tree peony flower is a show-stopper.

*continued from previous page*

drag out the hoses. I use hardy plants or rearrange them so they don't need to be pampered. The garden is about 10 degrees cooler because of the shade."

Speaking of pampering, she has several yellow lady slipper orchids that do just fine on their own. She would have many more but she used to give them away! "I got a little too generous, so I don't have as many now. Needless to say, I don't give them away anymore."

She doesn't normally fertilize or use pesticides, unless there is a specific need. She

laments that the earwigs and slugs are occasional nuisances. The rich soil helps the plants grow healthy and strong. In the older established and naturalized beds, she claims she doesn't need to weed very often.

When it comes to her design philosophy, Judie describes, "I use the elements and principles of design. My goal is to create color, movement, and texture in the garden. Into that design philosophy she incorporates choice perennials, shrubs, and trees. "Some of my favorites are red and nodding trillium, yellow lady slipper orchids, hepatica, Jack-in-the-pulpit, bloodroot, geraniums, hydrangeas, rhododendrons, cimicifuga, rogersia, kousa dogwood, ginkgo, Japanese maples and many more I can't think of right now!" She also loves wildflowers, and rescued many of them from destruction years ago when subdivisions or highways were being built.

The future of her garden is an unknown. "I don't know what the future holds. When we can't do it anymore, I hope someone will take over. The community knows about it, so hopefully some garden group will take it on," Judie says. Based on Judie's energy and enthusiasm, it will be quite a while before she is ready to hang up her trowel.

*Sandie Parrott is a garden writer and photographer who lives and gardens in Oakland County, MI.*

# 2010 Vegetable & Flower Winners

All-America Selections (AAS) tests and introduces significantly improved new flowers and vegetables grown from seed. AAS has tested these new varieties in trials across North America. The 2010 AAS Winners are new cultivars with proven superior performance. Look for these as bedding plants or seeds at your local garden center. For more info, visit [www.all-americaelections.org](http://www.all-americaelections.org).



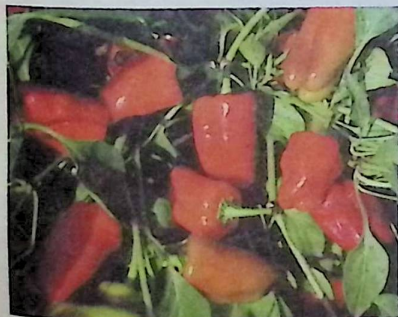
**Purple coneflower (*Echinacea*)  
'PowWow Wild Berry'**

**Size:** 20-24 in. tall and 12-16 in. wide  
**Flower color:** Deep rose  
**Flower size:** 3-4 inches  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** Basal branching habit yields more blooms per plant; rich flower color.



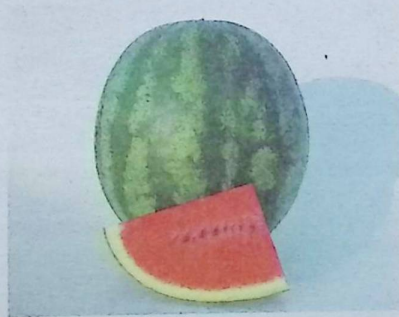
**Snapdragon 'Twinny Peach'**

**Size:** 12 inches tall and 8 inches wide  
**Flower color:** Pastel shades of peach, yellow and light orange  
**Flower size:** 1-1/4 inches  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** First double-flowered snapdragon with compact habit; unique color impact.



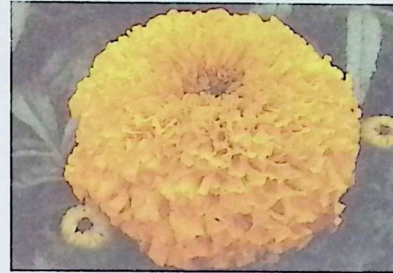
**Pepper 'Cajun Belle'**

**Size:** 24 inches tall and 24 inches wide  
**Fruit color:** Starts bright green, turns scarlet, and then deep red  
**Fruit size:** 2 inches wide and 3 inches long; 1 ounce  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** Incredible taste; excellent combination of heat and sweet; compact size and productivity.



**Watermelon 'Shiny Boy'**

**Plant type:** Spreading vine  
**Width:** 13 feet spread  
**Fruit color:** Dark green rind, thick wide stripes, and deep red flesh  
**Fruit size:** Globe-shaped fruit 20 pounds or larger  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** Earlier than comparable varieties; high yield; delicious taste.



**Marigold 'Moonsong  
Deep Orange'**

**Size:** 12-15 inches tall and 11-14 inches wide  
**Flower color:** Deep orange  
**Flower size:** 2-1/2 to 3-1/2 inches  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** Unique deep orange color; excellent garden vigor; long-lasting garden performance.



**Zinnia 'Double Zahara Cherry'**

**Size:** 13-1/2 inches tall and 12-1/2 inches wide  
**Flower color:** Deep pink  
**Flower size:** 2-1/2 inches  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** Fully double and larger flowers; disease resistant.



**Viola 'Endurio Sky Blue Martien'**

**Size:** 6 inches tall and 10-12 inches wide  
**Flower color:** Sky blue  
**Flower size:** 3/4 inches  
**Light:** Sun to partial shade  
**Remarks:** Spreading, mounding habit fills planters and garden beds quickly for maximum pot and landscape color.



**Zinnia 'Zahara StarLight Rose'**

**Size:** 12-14 inches tall and wide  
**Flower color:** Rose and white bicolor  
**Flower size:** 2-1/2 inches  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** First rose and white bicolor zinnia; disease resistant.



**Blanket flower (*Gaillardia*)  
'Mesa Yellow'**

**Size:** 16-18 inches tall and 20-22 inches wide  
**Flower color:** Yellow  
**Flower size:** 3 inches  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** Controlled plant habit; does not get tall, loose and floppy.



**Zinnia 'Double Zahara Fire'**

**Size:** 14 inches tall and 12-14 inches wide  
**Flower color:** Reddish orange  
**Flower size:** 2-1/2 inches  
**Light:** Sun  
**Remarks:** Fully double and larger flowers; disease resistant.



Left: Lacebark elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) is an excellent choice when fast growth is a priority. This tree at Dow Gardens in Midland, Michigan is just 20 years old and over 30 feet tall. Right: Lacebark elm not only provides shade, its bark adds interest in the landscape.



If the door is painted blue or copper gone to verdigris is featured in the architecture, a dwarf blue spruce (such as this *Picea pungens* 'Kosteri' which the author prunes annually to keep it from growing too large for its place in this landscape) is a good choice in a combination of plants for that entry landscape.

*Janet's Journal* continued from back cover

#### What are some fast-growing trees? We need shade!

Take care in what you ask for. There are good, fast trees (see the sidebar "Shade trees that grow quickly") but even the best tend to be very large when fully grown, have weaker wood, and host more insects than trees that grow more slowly. Shading a table with an umbrella or covering a sitting area with a pergola or pavilion can give you shade while you wait for a slower species.

If you do plant for speed, give the tree lots of room. Think twice about using such a plant to shade areas where shed twigs and insect fall-out would reduce the tree's worth. Where space is limited, planned obsolescence is a good strategy—plant one fast tree with a slower tree nearby, letting the speedy one serve for just ten or fifteen years while the other bulks up.

#### How can I make my doorway look (better, more inviting, classier, more colorful, etc.)?

Spaciousness is what's inviting, refreshing, most complementary of architecture around an entry, enduring... and most often missing in modern landscapes. So plan for equal amounts space and plants at an entry. Give every plant or group of like plants room

so that even at maturity it will not touch its neighbors. You can "color" the space between plants with mulch or a very low groundcover.

Choose only what will thrive on the site and strive for calm combinations. A pleasing trio is plenty (see the sidebar "Making great

combinations in the landscape"). To place a combination, look at your door as if you are a guest just pulling into the driveway or starting up the walk. Fill that person's whole view with just one group of plants. If the walkway is long with nooks that are only revealed as a person walks toward the door, or your yard is large enough that you can turn your head to see another view that does not include the door, plant a second combination.

Within the landscape, repeat or give a nod to something in the architecture of the entry. For instance, if the door is painted an accent color, echo that in foliage or pottery. If there is a distinctive shape in windowpane, gable or trim, carry that out into a bench, trellis or sculpted plant.

#### Shade trees that grow quickly

- Catalpa
- Ginkgo (fast in youth) - Fruitless/male varieties such as 'Autumn Gold'
- Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
- Lacebark elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
- Poplar (*Populus* hybrids) - Male, disease-resistant cultivars such as 'Eugenei' and 'Assiniboine'
- Red-silver maple hybrids (*Acer x freemanii*) such as 'Autumn Blaze'
- River birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Thornless honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*)

#### What can I plant that grows quick, for privacy?

Fences grow faster than hedges. Where traditional fencing is not allowed or doesn't fit the overall picture, use individual sections of fencing or near-solid trellis, strategically placing them between the viewer in your



At hedge collections, such as this one at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, we can see many different trees and shrubs clipped as hedges. There is also a lesson to be learned by noticing which species the planners deemed reliable enough to hedge behind the entire collection, through sun and shade: burning bush.

landscape and intrusive elements outside your yard.

Stick with classic hedge material for screening. Those in that category are dense, look good even if sheared, and are dependable across a variety of growing conditions so that they maintain a uniform appearance even when stretched across a property. Privet, boxwood, yew, spirea, burning bush, arrowwood viburnum, barberry, hornbeam, and arborvitae are classics.

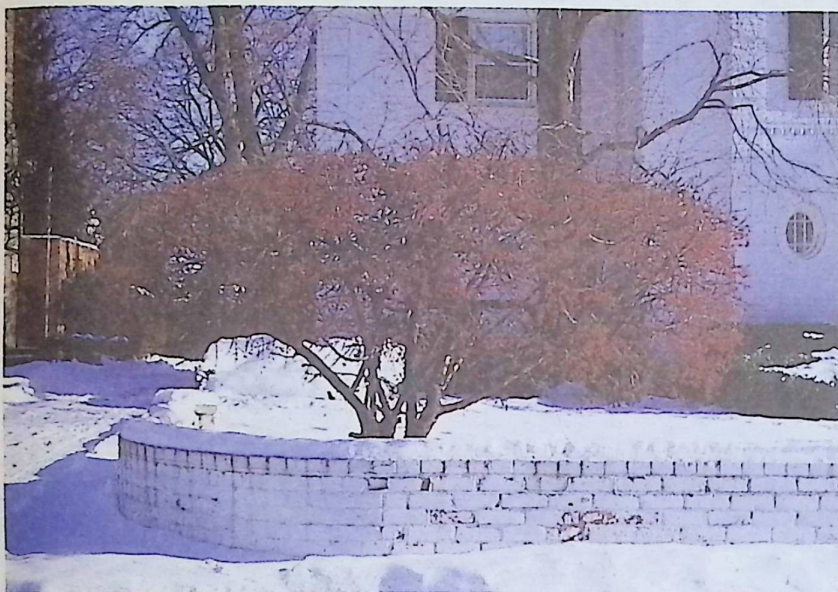
Do not crowd a hedge as you plant. Leave

room between plants so that roots and new branches can develop in those spaces, or you will probably experience mid-hedge plant losses, uneven growth, and pest problems throughout the life of the hedge.

#### What can I plant to soften the corner of the house?

Be clear in your definition of "soften" when you ask a designer this question. If you mean to interrupt lines that seem too straight or unnatural when seen as part of a landscape,

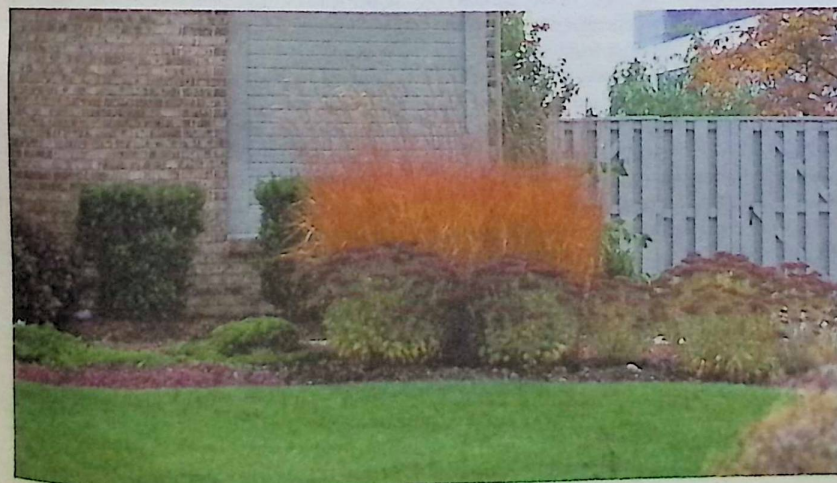




Sargent crabapple (*Malus sargentii*) is a small tree with a naturally wide, low crown (here, pruned to sharpen that natural form) and tiny, abundant fruit that hangs on through winter. It's a long-interest, low-care element that a smart designer finds by giving features such as shape and berry color more weight than bloom.



Above: It's not necessary to plant shrubs in that narrow space between house and walkway. What's planted *outside* such a walkway can adorn the house just as well. Below: To the viewer from the road looking toward the house, plants in that bed outside the walkway fill the space "in front of" the building. Flame grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Purpureus'), *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy,' and carpet juniper in front of Hicks yew.



choose a plant with a naturally rounded or irregular form and place it where just part of that plant will overlap a segment of the offending line. Don't crowd the building and don't repeat or cover the entire line.

So if it is the vertical line of the house wall you wish to soften, you might position a small, round-topped crabapple such as 'Sargent' so that one side of its mature canopy will cover part of the wall's edge. Place the tree so that a person in your primary viewing location will see the trunk as well away from the house—not lined up with that vertical wall edge. If the horizontal line where your house meets the ground is the part of the corner you want to moderate, plant a low, coarse groundcover such as bigleaf forget-me-not (*Brunnera macrophylla*) along one portion of that line but do not repeat the entire line with the groundcover.

Sometimes when a person says they wish to soften a corner, they mean to lead the eye less abruptly from an overly large house to the ground. That usually requires a horizontal space apparently as wide as the house wall is tall. This can be accomplished with a deep, wide bed extending from the house out into the yard, or with an island in the lawn. In either space, use plants of graduated size to create a skyline beginning at the height of the eaves and descending to the ground.

#### What should I plant in the space between the house and the front walk?

Usually, less is best in these spaces which were created by builders, not gardeners. Fill such a space with a mass of low groundcover or with long-interest perennials (see the sidebar "Long-interest, front-walk perennials"). Avoid filling it with shrubs, most of which will outgrow that space unless continually pruned—that means more work and less natural beauty.

If the area is large, punctuate the groundcover with something like a sculpture, a neat clump-forming perennial, a group of boulders, a sinuous and rocky dry stream bed, a lamp, or birdbath. Place the interruption(s) with care so they fit the feel of the overall landscape. A center placement or a line of equally-spaced, matching items works in a formal setting. One off-center item or three similar but unequal items placed to describe an unequal triangle will work better where informality and asymmetry are the rule.

Avoid confusing plantings in this area with "something for the front of that wall." Do this by keeping your main viewer's location in mind—if you are in the street, on the public walk, or looking in from the foot of the driveway, anything between you and the house will appear to be in front of the house. Plantings outside the front walk or in the lawn can fill that visual space more gracefully and without the increased work required to maintain plants in small spaces.

#### How can I hide the (utility box, air conditioning unit, trash cans, well head, etc.)?

Distract the viewer by providing some-



Combine plants that will thrive on the site and which have some complementary features so that your landscape will have interest even when there is no bloom. Coarse, evergreen pigsqueak (*Bergenia cordifolia*) punctuates a mass of sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), a low-care, 6-inch groundcover for part shade.

#### Making great combinations in the landscape

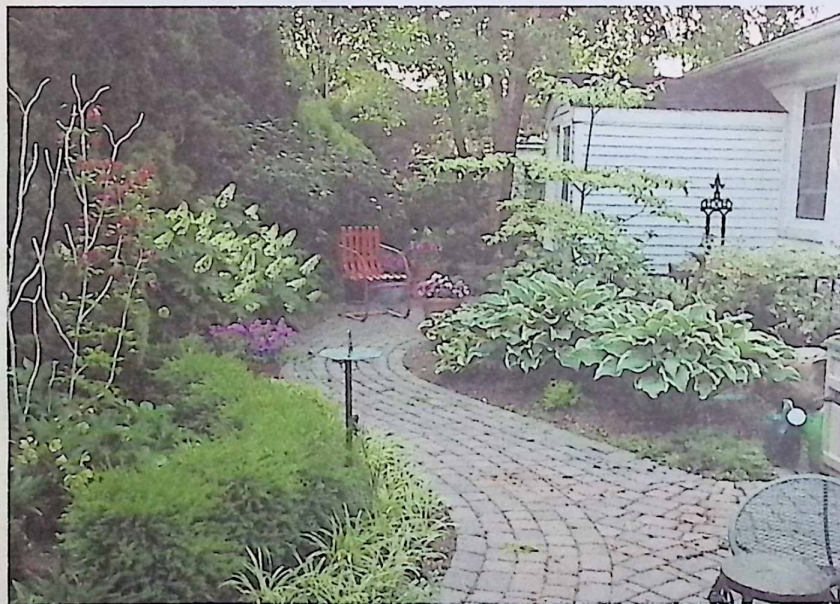
Combine for natural shape, foliage color and texture. For example, fine-textured carpet juniper 'Mother Lode,' fine-mounded barberry, and coarse-textured, vase-shaped smoke bush. For classic subtlety, downplay the contrast between elements—make it a 'Gold Nugget' barberry with 'Mother Lode' juniper and the green-leaf American smoke tree. For more drama, increase the contrast by using 'Crimson Pygmy' barberry or purpleleaf smoke tree. Evaluate the seasons of special interest provided by a combination and begin additional groups with an eye toward filling seasonal gaps. The juniper-barberry-smoke tree combination provides winter interest, particularly vivid spring foliage effects, and July bloom. So a second group might include a June-blooming tree lilac, ornamental grass that turns red in fall and an attractive, winter-hardy planter that can showcase a summer blooming annual.

thing nice to look at along a different line, then incorporate the unfortunate element within plants or features that frame the more desirable feature. For instance, where a utility box begs attention like a mosquito bite demands scratching, you might place a substantial birdbath or decorative scarecrow in the foreground to the left or right of the utility box, then plant a mass of low, dense shrubbery such as dwarf spirea or deutzia to embrace or surround your chosen whimsy. Let that frame swallow the utility box or cross between it and the viewer, obscuring it.

Alternatively, embrace and multiply the ugly feature. Where there is a wellhead that catches your eye, plan to cover it with a fiberglass boulder, but put that rock in a bed that has several clusters of equally or more



Hide a distracting feature such as a wellhead by placing something more attractive to one side (purple weeping beech, *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea Pendula'), then massing bird's nest spruce (*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis') and *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' as a frame for the tree that just happens to conceal the wellhead.



A good place for a garden is close at hand, so areas next to a patio are great garden spots. *Clematis viticella* on a trellis, boxwood, and variegated lily turf (*Liriope*), oakleaf hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*), and hostas.

### Long-interest, front-walk perennials

For high-profile places, mass perennials that look neat when not in bloom, have an attractive winter presence, and require minimal care. Examples:

- Bigroot perennial geranium (*G. macrorrhizum*)
- Blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)
- Coral bells (*Heuchera* and *Heucherella* varieties)
- Lenten rose (*Helleborus x orientalis*)
- Tall stonecrop (*Sedum* including 'Autumn Joy')

Right: *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' has a neat appearance before blooming in August. It continues to look neat and colorful through fall and even into winter. That qualifies it as a good front-line perennial.



Space helps a brand new landscape look good. Plants of a type are grouped a bit closer to each other than to neighboring groups. The space serves to outline and focus attention on the distinctive features of each group.

*Janet's Journal* continued from previous page

impressive native stone. Be careful to avoid drawing the bed to center on the wellhead.

As another example of hiding something in plain view: If a square of concrete marks a septic tank cover and irritates your aesthetic sensibilities, give that concrete a crowd to blend into. Add flagstone or concrete stepping stones in a pleasing pattern across the lawn.

### What can I plant along the edge of the deck/patio?

Gardens are least expensive and simplest to tend when they are close at hand, so if you want a flower garden, put it here. However, don't plant it right along the edge of a deck or patio if you cannot see that area from your lounge chair. Narrow borders hidden from everyday view along the foot of a raised deck or patio should be filled with groundcover or simply mulched to reduce weeding and edging chores, and a separate garden placed far enough from the edge to be easily seen and enjoyed.

Use tall features carefully around a sitting area since large, dense objects can block breezes and light, creating an oppressive or claustrophobic atmosphere. Position shrubs or a trellis to block unsightly views but do not mass them or use species so massive that they must be kept sheared.

### How much will this cost?

Gardeners who do the work themselves,

shop around for a mix of mostly small plants (they grow!), and put their money into focal point plants or features can expect to spend \$2 to \$8 per square foot. Those who must hire the work done and need the largest plants available for immediate fill will spend \$15 to \$20 per square foot. This includes minor hardscape such as paths and patio but not more significant structures such as swimming pools, treehouses, outdoor kitchens, etc.

### Where can I get the cheapest plants?

Cheap plants are not what you need! Look for the *right* plants in an affordable size at a garden center that produces healthy plants. Make a list of the plants you've decided to use—include the scientific name and variety—and take that to a local garden center.

Small, healthy plants grow more quickly than anyone expects. If you planned combinations for pleasing contrast and then tighten the spacing between plants of the same kind to leave a bit more space between groups than between plants of one kind, even small plants have immediate, pleasing impact.

Don't rush as you landscape. It's a long-term investment, so take one question and develop one lasting solution at a time.

*Janet Macunovich is a professional gardener and author of "Designing Your Gardens and Landscape" and "Caring for Perennials." Read more from Janet in her newsletter available by writing to [WhatsComingUp@gmail.com](mailto:WhatsComingUp@gmail.com).*

# TIRED of poor service from your lawn & tree care company?

- Fertilizer all over your drive and walks!
- Tree sprays drifting all over the place!
- Post a sign, leave a bill, and gone!
- Harassing phone calls!

## What you get with Contender's:

- ✓ Call before coming out
- ✓ Pre-check the property
- ✓ Remove toys and pet dishes from lawn and landscape
- ✓ Apply Organic or Lake-Safe fertilizer that is balanced seasonally
- ✓ Apply weed control only as needed or not at all
- ✓ Walks and drives are blown off every time to protect groundwater and keep fertilizer from being tracked indoors
- ✓ Inspect lawns for insect or disease activity and recommend preventative maintenance so pesticides are not required
- ✓ Soil test property for site-specific problems
- ✓ Specialists discuss recommendations personally with homeowner, answer questions and schedule any needed follow-up
- ✓ Landscape evaluations promoting species that are less prone to specific insect and disease problems
- ✓ Deep root feeding landscapes using organics for better blooms, leaf color and stronger roots without causing excessive flushes of growth
- ✓ Post-check the property to make sure gates are shut and the site is clean

**CONTENDER'S**  
TREE & LAWN SPECIALISTS

We also perform the following specialty services:

Flower bed weed control • Deer repellants • Mole control

**248-698-4470** [www.Contenders-mi.com](http://www.Contenders-mi.com)

SERVICING OAKLAND COUNTY



**Espoma**

SINCE 1929

# FEED SHRUBS NATURALLY

AZALEAS • CAMELLIA • RHODODENDRON • EVERGREENS

For over 60 years Holly-tone® has been the # 1 choice for feeding acid-loving plants. It contains the finest natural ingredients available and will provide your shrubs with oceans of blooms and deep, evergreen color.



[www.espoma.com](http://www.espoma.com)

## janet's journal

# Top 10 design questions and bottom line answers

A unique landscape is a common goal. We all ask the same questions and then go our own ways with the answers. Here are the questions I hear most often, with no-frill answers that you can personalize.

### What can I plant for most color and lowest maintenance?

Plant what will thrive in that spot. Avoid what will merely survive. Say no to what will only "tolerate" those conditions. Only when it thrives can a plant be all it can be, live up to its marketing hype, and take care of itself.

Make the most of experts by taking a list of your site specifics (see the sidebar "Matching plant and site") to your local garden center and asking for plant possibilities. Then sit down at the library or at your computer, search for images and descriptions of those plants, and decide which you will like best. And, where possible, make sure to purchase the plants from the experts who helped you.

Choose only a few, because less is more when it comes to visual impact and low maintenance. Focus on the shrubs and low groundcovers, since plantings heavy on those two elements are the simplest to maintain. Do not make your choices based on flower color but on foliage—flowers last only weeks but gold, gray, maroon, white-edged, or blue-green leaves are there all season, even all year. After foliage, go for naturally crisp plant shapes and non-floral color such as bark or berries.

*Janet's Journal* continued on page 48

Janet Macunovich



Classy, classic, and easy are three things to aim for in planning your landscape. The lowest-care parts of a landscape are beds filled with shrubs and groundcover. Here, *Spirea* 'Gold Flame,' dwarf summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia* 'Hummingbird'), and vinca.



Carpet juniper, zebra iris (*I. pallida* 'Argentea Variegata') and blanket flower (*Gaillardia*) are all well-suited to full sun and sandy soil. Space is also an important part of this combination, and is a feature sorely missing from many landscapes.

### Matching plant and site

To make a great match, fill in the blanks or circle the appropriate terms to describe your site. Choose or keep only those plants that fit every category.

**Sun:** A plant there will cast a crisp shadow for \_\_\_\_ hours each day. More than 6 hours = full sun. Less than 4 = shade.

**Soil:** The soil is \_\_\_\_\_ (terms from below that apply)

- Sticky (clay)
- Gritty (sand)
- Dark (rich)
- Pale (lean)
- Well-drained (18-inch deep hole filled with water empties within 24 hours)
- Moist, even days after a rain
- Dries out quickly
- Loose, airy

**Irrigation:** Is \_\_\_\_\_ (terms from below that apply)

- Readily available/automatic system
- By hand the first year, then rain-only

**Exposure:** \_\_\_\_ (yes/no) the plant may have a greater than average chance of having to deal with frost, strong wind, exhaust gases, pool splash, pet/child contact or destructive animal(s) including \_\_\_\_\_.

**Resources that list plants by site** or provide detailed site info:

- *Landscape Plants for Eastern North America*, Harrison Flint
- *Native Trees, Shrubs & Vines for Urban & Rural America*, Gary Hightshoe
- *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, Michael Dirr
- *Perennials and Their Garden Habitats*, Richard Hansen & Friedrich Stahl
- *Perennial Reference Guide*, Karleen Shafer & Nicole Lloyd