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# BLOOMING NEWS

*New Blooms Greenhouse*

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Fall 2005

## Autumn Thoughts...

Hard to believe that fall is just around the corner! Most of us got a late start to spring planting because it was too cold, and then along came the 90° days and who felt like working in that heat!! For those of you who visited us in the greenhouse on those days, it felt like it was 110°!! But before we know it, fall will be here and hopefully we'll all feel like spending time outside in our gardens before the snow flies.

We have a full schedule of activities lined up for the fall season and we hope you can join us (see our Calendar of Events). Besides Christmas, fall is the next favorite season for decorating. New Blooms will have straw bales, corn shocks, gourds, and pumpkins and of course, scarecrow making, to fulfill all your fall decorating needs.

Our fall hours are Monday - Saturday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sunday's from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We close for the season on Monday, October 31 and reopen in early March 2006 – stay tuned for our spring newsletter for the exact date and our spring calendar of events.

## What's Growing On??

As this newsletter goes to press, we have planted over 4,400 pots of mums (49 different High Flyer, Belgian and Ajania varieties) and 9 different varieties of asters in our brand new mum field. Our homegrown mums bloom in stages, with the early varieties showing color at the end of August and the mid-to-late season varieties blooming throughout September and October. These mums come in a variety of shapes and colors – from button mums to daisy mums in shades of bronze, lavender, coral, pink, orange, yellow, red and white.

I know we mentioned this in our newsletter from last fall, but many continue to ask if mums are “hardy.” Garden mums need fertile, well-drained soil with adequate moisture and a minimum of a half-day of sun. We have several suggestions to get your mums through the winter. *Plant early* so roots get established before the ground freezes. *Do not cut back after blooming* – cut back only after you see new growth in the spring. As the ground freezes, *mulch around your mums* with either evergreen branches, hay, straw or leaves to help keep the ground frozen in the event of a mid-winter thaw. If you buy mums for fall color on your porch or patio and plant them too late in the fall, they just never have time to root -- so in that case, treat them as an annual.

## Extending Your Garden Through Fall

If you think fall means the end of your gardening year, think again! By mixing late season perennials with your garden mums, pansies, cabbage and kale, you can have a beautiful garden until the snow falls. We have over 250 varieties of perennials to choose from!

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## **Icicle Pansy Fever....**

Customer delight over our Icicle Pansies prompted us to be sure and carry these great garden performers again this year. The Icicle Pansies in our own yard continued to bloom up until about July 8, when really hot weather kicked in and they decided to stretch. But during the winter and early summer though, they couldn't be beat for their awesome color and non-stop blooming power. Our shipment of Icicle Pansies comes in the first week of September, and while supplies last, we will have brand new colors available in both 3-1/2" size pots and 6-packs. Colors like Rosy Red Ruffle, Icicle Denim, Fire n'Ice, Winter Blues, Purple Splash and Icicle Ruffle Mix will surely add some "way cool" colors to your fall garden.

## **DROUGHT TOLERANT PERENNIALS**

When rain is scarce, we have some tough choices to make when it comes to deciding which of our favorite plants to water. Some of your least favorites, you just might have to leave to their own devices. Spring planted trees or shrubs must have water, so you will need to make them a priority.

There are some things you can do though, to help your plants during hot, humid weather. First, cut back any drooping perennials, especially when they are past their bloom. Plants lose moisture through their leaves, so eliminating a lot of leafy surface will cut down on moisture loss. For trees and shrubs, spray the leaves with an anti-transparent or anti-desiccant. It helps the leaves retain what moisture they have. It forms a thin film over the leaf and slows transpiration or water loss from the foliage. It will also help if you water early in the day when it is cooler. There is far less loss of moisture due to evaporation and water trapped in the foliage will have time to dry, minimizing the chances of fungal infections, especially during humid weather.

When you do water, do it slowly and deeply so the roots below the surface can absorb the moisture rather than have it run off the surface. And mulch! Mulching preserves the moisture in the soil and provides a protective barrier that reduces evaporation from sun and wind.

Selecting plants that are most likely to survive on little or no water is a good choice when shopping for new plants. Looking around our perennial growing area, we see plants that look good no matter what the weather. *Delosperma cooperi* (ice plant) is a good choice. The succulent foliage makes a dense mat that produces small, daisy-like flowers all summer long. *Echinacea*, the native "coneflower," is well known for being easy to grow. The large purple-petaled flowers add a burst of color to your garden. *Heucheras* (coral bells) are drought tolerant and can be equally as happy in a part-sun or part-shade area of your garden. *Lavender* is everyone's favorite for hot, dry areas. The dark violet flower spikes and silver-gray foliage makes them both fragrant and beautiful. Lavender's hold up well in the heat of summer and always look their best. *Nepeta* (catmint) has deep lavender flowers and just loves the hot dry temperature of summer. Their delightful fragrance just makes you want to run your hands all over them! *Perovskias* (russian sage) is just amazing! Their semi-shrub nature makes them perfect for your back of the border perennial bed and the silvery foliage and violet flowers go great with sedums. *Sedums* absorb heat and sun all summer and burst into bloom in August and September. Sedums come in many shapes and forms, from ground covers to middle of the border plants. Pink flower heads change to a rosy russet color by late autumn. *Yuccas* are also drought-tolerant and provide a bold accent as a focal point or as a group in your garden. These plants all bloom for a long time in your garden, from early summer well into fall. All of these plants tolerate dry soil and are beautiful in any garden setting.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SEED GATHERING WORKSHOP**

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 10 – 1:00 – 2:00 PM**  
YOU WILL WALK THROUGH THE GARDENS AT NEW BLOOMS AND RECEIVE A HANDS-ON LESSON ON HOW TO GATHER SEEDS FROM A VARIETY OF ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS. THE CLASS WILL ALSO INCLUDE TIPS ON HOW TO STORE YOUR SEEDS AND GERMINATION SUGGESTIONS.

*Cost is \$5/per person for materials. Call ahead to reserve your space!!*

### **FALL GARDEN PARTY**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM**  
FOR THE SERIOUS GARDENER (AND THOSE THAT LIKE TO PARTAKE OF THE BOUNTY FROM YOUR GARDEN) WE ARE HOLDING A “GARDEN PARTY” THAT YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS! THERE WILL BE ASSORTED WINES, CHEESES AND SOME FABULOUS FOOD MADE WITH FRESH VEGETABLES AND HERBS FROM THE GARDEN. THERE WILL BE SOME GREAT PLANT SALES THAT DAY AND EVERY CUSTOMER WILL RECEIVE A COUPON FOR 20-50% OFF ANY PERENNIAL, TREE OR SHRUB PURCHASES.

*No need to call ahead, but don’t miss the fun and the savings!*

### **SCARECROW MAKING**

**EVERY SATURDAY IN OCTOBER – 1:00 – 5:00 PM**  
LET YOUR KIDS HAVE A GREAT TIME MAKING THEIR OWN SCARECROW (WELL, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM US). WE SUPPLY THE HEAD, CLOTHES, STRAW, PAINTS, ETC.).

*Cost is \$10/per person for materials. Call ahead for group events!!*

### **PUMPKIN PAINTING**

**EVERY SATURDAY IN OCTOBER – 1:00 – 5:00 PM**  
BIG AND LITTLE KIDS CAN ENJOY SELECTING AND PAINTING A PUMPKIN. WE’LL HAVE A LARGE VARIETY OF PUMPKINS SIZES AND SHAPES TO CHOOSE FROM.

*Pumpkin cost plus \$3 for materials. Call ahead for group events!!*

### **RABBITS & YOUR FLOWERS**

Unfortunately...if they are hungry enough, rabbits will eat about anything – even marigolds, long-believed to be the only plant they won’t eat! Customers have tried blood meal, moth balls, pepper flakes, shredded soap, human hair, and even used cat litter around their plants to save them from being eaten. What is a gardener to do??

For starters, try to find plants that they will pass up in favor of another. They tend to eat the youngest, most tender plants, so you could start with larger sized plants. In general, they don’t like to eat fuzzy leaves nor plants that have an odor. Here are a few “bunny resistant” varieties for you to try – and when all else fails, you might have to resort to a chicken wire fence!

<b><u>Perennials:</u></b>	Lavender	Hosta	Sedum
Thyme	Agastache	Penstemon	Verbena
Oregano	Artimisia	Peonies	Yarrow
Catmint	Columbine	Red Hot	Yucca
		Poker	
Rosemary	Foxglove	Russian Sage	
Santolina	Gaillardia	Salvia	

**Annuals:** (of course, give the Marigolds another try!)

Dianthus	Alyssum	Dusty Miller	Cleome
Lobelia	Dahlia	Ageratum	4-O’Clocks

## **Growing a Kitchen Garden**

If you love to cook and enjoy gardening, why not plant a “kitchen garden” so that you have fresh vegetables and herbs that you can put to immediate use! Having a kitchen garden doesn’t mean you need to have a “back 40” vegetable garden. You can have a small garden, tailored to your taste. What kind of cuisine do you like to cook? If it’s Italian, plant some tomatoes, oregano and basil. If it’s Asian, plant various herbs, eggplant and onions. If it’s Mexican, plant some cilantro, tomatoes, onions, garlic and peppers. If you are trying to get your family to eat healthier, try planting a garden that will be fun for the kids to watch it grow. How about some pole beans or sugar snap peas on a pretty trellis, and some lettuce, tomatoes and carrots.

If you’ve never grown a kitchen garden before, getting started is easy. Find a sunny location, preferably outside your back door or near a kitchen window so can you see what is ripe and ready for picking. Make a raised bed and improve the soil with composted manure, peat moss and good topsoil. Plan for the tallest things in the middle and shorter growing varieties around the outside. Although it’s late in the season to get your summer vegetables in, it’s never too late to plant a fall herb garden with perennial herbs such as rosemary, thyme and oregano and mint. There’s nothing like fresh herbs for teas, chicken, fish and pasta...yummy!

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## **NewBlooms1@aol.com**

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### **A Blossoming Idea....**

Would you believe that we are still plodding along on developing our website? Our thoughts have been that we'd like to be able to answer your on-line gardening questions, advertise our sales and special events, and post gardening tips for our gardening friends. To help push us along...anyone that e-mails us at [NewBlooms1@aol.com](mailto:NewBlooms1@aol.com) with an idea on what they'd like to see on our website, we'll e-mail you back a coupon for 20% off any one item! That's right, **20% off any one item** for your suggestion(s). Even if you don't have a particular suggestion, just e-mail us your web address so we can capture it for future e-mails to our gardening friends (and we'll still send you a coupon)!

**Don't forget the gardener on your list!**  
**New Blooms Gift Certificates Available!**

## **New Blooms Greenhouse**

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Duncannon, PA 17020

Tele: 834-5333 Fax: 834-5205

E-mail: [NewBlooms1@aol.com](mailto:NewBlooms1@aol.com)

### ***Directions:***

From Harrisburg -- Take Rt. 11/15 to the Duncannon exit. Turn west on Rt. 274. Follow Rt. 274 west for 1.3 miles to Hickory Dr. on left. Follow signs.

From New Bloomfield -- Take Rt. 34 west to Rt. 274 east. Follow Rt. 274 east for approx. 6 miles to Hickory Dr. on right. Follow signs.

### ***Late Summer & Fall Hours:***

*Monday thru Saturday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm*

*Sunday's from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm*

Please note: We close earlier (6:00 pm) from July through October and will be closed for the season from November through February.

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