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# BLOOMING NEWS

*New Blooms Greenhouse*

11 Hickory Drive, Duncannon, PA 17020

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Fall 2006

## Hello to our Gardening Friends...

It's time for fall and we are welcoming this nice change of seasons! This has been one hot summer and we just can't keep Charlie Baxter out of the pond. If you haven't seen him "swim" yet, stop by for a laugh. As our spring and summer season is now behind us, we hope that you found all your favorite plants here at New Blooms. We are now planning for our spring flower varieties, so if there are any plants you love but didn't see it here this year, please let us know and we'll do everything we can to make sure we grow it for you next year.

Now is also the time to take notice of what plants did well in your garden (or your neighbor's garden) and keep a note of it. As with any garden, depending on soil, water and light available, some plants will outperform others and those are the ones to grow more of next year.

As a reminder, we will be closed from November until the first of April, reopening in time for "spring fever." If you have any suggestions on how we might better serve you (change of hours, unusual plants, different hanging basket sizes, etc.), please just let us know!

## What's Growing On??

The mums and asters are planted and we believe this is going to be our most beautiful crop ever. We were lucky enough this year to have a great group of young ladies help plant the mums. To raise money for a 2007 trip to Switzerland, the Duncannon chapter of Girls Scouts planted over 4,000 mums and asters for us. It was accomplished in an unbelievable 8-1/2 hours. Their teamwork and camaraderie was so fantastic, we couldn't believe it!! Our "bloomin' hats" off to these girls as they prepare for their European trip of a lifetime. Kudos to all the mothers, troop leaders and Girl Scouts who helped with this planting.

And yes, we'll have those winter blooming *Icicle Pansies* again this year! We expect them to arrive from Canada the week of September 11. Watch for our road sign to tell you when they are here. They have some great new colors this year – Fire n'Ice, Autumn Sun, Icicle Aurora and a new Harvest Mix and Halloween Mix, to name a few. Icicle Pansy lovers tell us that their pansies stayed beautiful up until the last week of July when it got so hot that little was surviving the heat. Give them a try in your garden this fall!

## **HERB ENTHUSIASTS LISTEN UP!**

Enjoy fresh herbs all winter! The arrival of autumn doesn't have to mean the end of growing fresh herbs -- they'll thrive indoors also. Herbs that adapt best to living inside are parsley, rosemary, mint and thyme. Place them in a spot where they'll receive at least six hours of sunlight, and fertilize them once a month. Cut and enjoy all winter!

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## READY FOR FALL CHORES?

If you didn't get your landscape in shape this spring, don't fret. Fall is actually the best time to plant perennials, shrubs and trees as the cooler weather and additional moisture helps them acclimate to their new spot faster and they'll take off great in the spring. **If you are running low on time, give New Blooms a call and we can take care of all your fall plantings and do a yard clean up at the same time (see our coupon insert).** These fall chores should be done to make next year's garden even a bigger success.

- Cut back perennials that are done blooming or are diseased. Dig and split perennials that have outgrown their area and transplant to other locations.
- Plant any new perennials, roses, shrubs or trees. Since there is less heat stress, they establish better in the cooler weather and be twice as big next year.
- Protect your roses for the winter – prune dead canes and mulch heavily.
- Weed flowerbeds and sprinkle on a pre-emergent (like Preen) to keep any weed seeds left in the soil from germinating in the spring.
- Pull out any annuals and replant cool weather plants (like mums, pansies, asters and ornamental kale).
- Dig and store tender bulbs like canna lilies, tuberous begonias, elephant ears, caladiums and dahlias.
- Plant spring blooming bulbs like tulips and daffodils.
- Dry and save seeds from your favorite plants like heirloom tomatoes, pumpkins, cleome, foxgloves, hollyhock, nasturtium, sweet pea and zinnia.
- Rakes leaves (so they don't smother your grass) and use these leaves and your other garden debris to start a compost pile (this is like "gardener's gold")!
- Get a jump on spring by edging flowerbeds now and add tanbark to keep plants from heaving out of the ground during winter freezing.
- Rototill your garden and add fresh compost. And if you really want great soil for your plants, compost and rototill again in the spring!
- Harvest your herbs for either drying or freezing.
- Bring houseplants indoors (check for those pesky hitchhikers first)! Repot as necessary.

Call for a free estimate on any of these chores. We are now scheduling fall clean up and plantings during October and early November.

## WEBSITE

Excuses, excuses, what are you waiting for?? I know. Our website is still "under construction" and hopefully will be up and running soon. Time got away from us this spring growing season and we haven't as yet had the time to get it "live". When it is ready, you will be able to go to [www.newbloomsgreenhouse.com](http://www.newbloomsgreenhouse.com) for special sales, past newsletters, current inventory, frequently asked questions, garden club info, garden website links, combination planter ideas, gardening tasks by month and much more!

## 2006 GARDEN CONTEST WINNERS

Wow, did we ever have some beautiful pictures in this year's garden contest. The Duncannon Gentle Ladies Garden Club had a hard time selecting from the 18 entries we received, but they narrowed it down to the following winners. Several contestants entered in each category, so choosing was difficult. Please stop by to take a look at their pictures on display at the greenhouse and get some great ideas for your own garden.

### ***BOLD USE OF PLANTS IN CONTAINERS***

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Lana Bruce, Duncannon

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Deb Miller, Newport

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Karen Kelly, Dauphin

### ***MOST FRIENDLY GARDEN FOR HUMMINGBIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES***

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Sylvia Close, Shermansdale

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Earl Arnold, Duncannon

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Betsy Strayer, Duncannon

### ***UNIQUE COMBINATIONS OF BOTH PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS IN A FLOWER BED OR BORDER***

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Elizabeth Sufrin, Newport

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Debbie and Jim Paroda, New Bloomfield

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Linda Green, Duncannon

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SCARECROW MAKING & PUMPKIN PAINTING -- ONE DAY ONLY!**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 – 1:00 – 5:00 PM**

MAKING A STRAW "PERSON" CAN BE LOTS OF FUN! 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.). THEY CAN ALSO SELECT A PUMPKIN TO PAINT A SILLY OR SCARY FACE!

Cost is \$10/per person for scarecrow materials and paints. Pumpkins costs vary by size.

### **FALL GARDEN PARTY & MUM FEST**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 – 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

WE ARE HOLDING A "GARDEN PARTY" THAT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS! COME FOR SOME FREE CHICKEN CORN SOUP, HOT DOGS AND APPLE CIDER AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOME GREAT SALES THAT DAY.

THERE WILL BE LOTS OF UNADVERTISED DISCOUNTS AND A COUPON DRAWING OF UP TO 50% OFF YOUR PLANT PURCHASES. DON'T MISS IT!

IN ADDITION, TONY GRIMES WILL BE HERE TO DEMONSTRATE **CHAIN SAW TREE CARVINGS**. IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN TONY'S WORK BEFORE, YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT HOW HE CAN CREATE A PIECE OF ART FROM A TREE STUMP IN LESS THAN AN HOUR. TONY IS A FOUR-TIME PRO-CHAMPION CHAIN SAW CARVER AND WILL GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS AT BOTH 1:00 AND 3:00 PM.

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

### **Come to New Blooms for all your outdoor fall decorating needs!**

- \* Mums \* Asters \* Ornamental Kale
- \* Fall Planters
- \* Icicle Pansies \* Straw bales
- \* Corn Shocks \* Pumpkins
- \* Indian corn \* Scarecrow making
- \* Pumpkin Painting
- \* Ghoully Creatures & Fun Decorations
- \* Autumn Wreaths & Swags

## ***Bringing Houseplants Indoors***

Whether you set your house plants out in the spring for a summer vacation, or you went crazy with container gardening until pots competed with the cat for every sunny nook of patio space, the cool night temperatures mean it's time to think about bringing tender plants back indoors. Chances are you have even less sunny nooks inside, so you will have to decide what's worth keeping and how to care for them.

Many houseplants thrive during the long, bright summer days, especially when properly moved outdoors. But these plants may have some trouble adjusting to indoor conditions when colder weather strikes. Many of our common indoor plants are native to tropical or subtropical climates and cannot tolerate cold temperatures.

Houseplants should be brought back inside before the outdoor temperatures drop to 55 F. If days are warm but night temperatures are cold, you might consider bringing the plants indoors for the night and putting them back out in the morning.

Keep only healthy plants. If something has been struggling all summer under the best of conditions, it is not going to improve indoors. Be realistic about space and available light. You can always start cuttings. Cuttings take up much less space.

If you have an annual plant that you think would look good as a houseplant, bring it in and use it as one. Many people have the light to successfully winter geraniums and begonias in full bloom. Just experiment and give it a try!

Many plants will drop leaves in response to the lower light conditions inside most homes. Gradually exposing the plants to lower light intensity before permanently moving indoors should help lessen the shock. However, some leaf drop is unavoidable.

Plants will likely slow down their growth considerably, so less water and fertilizer will be needed. The best moisture meter is your finger. For most plants, you should allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings. Reduce your fertilizer applications or discontinue if plants seem to be in a resting period.

Be sure to inspect your plants closely for signs or symptoms of insect attack. Insects such as spider mites and aphids are very prolific outdoors and may increase their population rapidly once they are brought indoors. And, these pests may spread to other plants very quickly.

Often a sharp spray from the garden hose will remove insect pests from houseplant foliage. Insecticidal soaps also work well, particularly on soft-bodied insects such as aphids. Several treatments may be necessary to be sure that the pests are gone. Start checking your plants now, so that control measures will have time to work before you bring the plants indoors.

**For the Gardener on your Holiday List  
A NEW BLOOMS Gift Certificate!!**

Even when it's cold outside, your gardening friends are pouring through plant and seed catalogs, dreaming of the changes and additions they'd like to make to their spring garden. If you are struggling with a gift idea during the holidays, how about a New Blooms Greenhouse gift certificate? Giving a gift certificate to your gardening friends is like setting a kid loose in a candy store! We are closed from November through March, but just give us a call and we'll either mail you a gift certificate or arrange for you to stop by.

*If you haven't received our on-line sales specials, that means we don't have your e-mail address! If you want to hear of sales that are only available to our mail list customers, please be sure to e-mail us at [newblooms@earthlink.net](mailto:newblooms@earthlink.net) and provide us with your e-mail address.*

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**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 Drive 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 Drive on right. Follow signs.

**Fall Hours:**

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

*Sunday's from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm*

Note: We close earlier (6:00 pm ) from July through October and will be closed for the season from November through March, opening early April.

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Insert CLIP ART –  
scarecrow or pumpkins??