
BLOOMING NEWS

New Blooms Greenhouse

11 Hickory Dr., Duncannon, PA 17020

Tele/Fax: 717-834-5333

Insert
wheelbarrow
full of flowers

Spring 2004

Grand Opening of Greenhouse

We are so excited to be able to tell our customers about our new greenhouse and expanded product line! With now almost 10,000 square feet of growing space, we will have over 400 different varieties of annuals, herbs and vegetables, over 150 different kinds of perennials and ornamental grasses, and over 75 different kinds of flowering shrubs and trees. We will also have a huge selection of 12" and 14" hanging baskets overflowing with new combinations of Proven Winner annuals this year. These larger sized baskets are designed to accommodate our busy customers who don't have time to water daily!

Insert picture of
hanging basket of
flowers

Plan now to help us celebrate the "grand opening" of our new greenhouse on Saturday, April 3 – 9:00 am – 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served!

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Blooming Expansion

Go figure. We picked the coldest winter in 50 years to build a new greenhouse. Through wind, snow and gruelingly freezing temperatures that no sane person would want to endure, we got it done. With the unflappable help of Lee, family and friends, we have built a brand new 60' x 150' greenhouse for **New Blooms!** This new greenhouse will give us much needed warm, dry retail sales space as well as a heck of a lot of additional growing space and ample parking.

We will open for the 2004 season on Saturday, April 3 and will be open 7 days a week. Starting this year, we will be opening *year-round*, including the winter months so you will have a local source for your fresh holiday greens and indoor plants.

Plant a Yard Full of Winners

Perennial Plant Association Selections:

Since 1990, members of the PPA have chosen one plant per year that they consider outstanding in beauty, form, drought tolerance, and ease of care, among other standards. **New Blooms** is a member of the Perennial Plant Association and carries all of these winning plants:

- 1990 Phlox stolonifera
- 1991 Heuchera micrantha "Purple Palace"
- 1992 Coreopsis verticillata "Moonbeam"
- 1993 Veronica "Sunny Border Blue"
- 1994 Astilbe "Sprite"
- 1995 Perovskia atriplicifolia "Russian Sage"
- 1996 Penstemon digitalis "Husker Red"
- 1997 Salvia "May Night" ("Mainacht")
- 1998 Echinacea purpurea "Magnus"
- 1999 Rudbeckia fulgida "Goldsturm"
- 2000 Scabiosa columbaria "Butterfly Blue"
- 2001 Calamagrostis xacutiflora "Karl Foerster"
- 2002 Phlox "David"
- 2003 Leucanthemum "Becky"
- 2004 Athyrium Niponicum "Pictum" (Japanese Painted Fern)

Garden Calendar

Top Garden Projects for March

Get your spring and summer gardening off to a good start by accomplishing these few projects:

- Most lawns will need a spring feeding. Test your soil and thatch or lime as needed. Reseed as the last step, after the lawn has been fertilized.
- Prepare your vegetable garden soil for planting. Add well-rotted manure, peat moss or compost. Cool crops like asparagus, horseradish, peas, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, brussel sprouts and other hardy vegetables can be planted toward the end of the month.
- It is time to start tomatoes, lettuce, petunias, marigolds and other seeds. Starting your seeds indoors in March will give you a thirty to sixty day jump on the gardening season.
- Prune your roses. Severe pruning results in nice long stemmed flowers and more attractive rose bushes.
- Weeding is probably one of your least favorite jobs. But weeding before your weeds have a chance to flower and go to seed will save you lots of time all summer. Some weeds can produce up to ten thousand or more seeds per plant and you can fight that weed seed for up to seven years or more!
- Early spring is one of the most convenient times to plant trees, shrubs and perennials. **New Blooms** will have their finest and most complete selection of plants at this time so you get the pick of the crop!

Are You “Blue” Over Your Pink Hydrangeas?

Hydrangeas are one of the most beloved shrubs for summer garden color. Drying the flower heads for everlasting flower arrangements also extends their beauty.

Although relatively easy to grow, hydrangeas will change color depending upon the soil pH. The degree of color variation depends on the presence or absence of aluminum ions in the flowers. The soil pH affects the availability of this aluminum to be absorbed by your hydrangea. When the soil is acidic, aluminum is more available to the roots. When the soil is alkaline, the roots can not absorb the aluminum. You can have your soil tested by our local Penn State Extension Office in Dauphin, then have fun with the color.

Insert picture of hydrangea

To change the color from pink to blue, increase the soil acidity in one of the following ways:

- Spread ½ cups of wettable sulfur per 10 sq. feet and water it in.
- Dissolve one tablespoon of aluminum sulfate in a gallon of water and drench the soil around the plant at least once a month in March, April, May and again in October and November.

To change the color from blue to pink, lower the acidity of your soil in one of the following ways:

- Apply lime at the rate of one pound to every 10 sq. feet of surface area once or twice a year until the desired bloom color is achieved. This can take several week or even months.
- Dissolve one tablespoon of hydrated lime in a gallon of water and drench soil around the plant once a month in March, April and May.

Hydrangeas Won’t Bloom?

This is another frequently asked question by our gardening friends. Contributing factors when your hydrangea does not flower include:

- Untimely or over-pruning. Most bloom on “old wood” meaning last year’s growth. Prune stems back to the first or second set of buds after blooming.
- Although hardy enough to survive Zone 5, hydrangea buds are prone to damage by a late spring frost or an excessively cold winter. Try mulching the base of your hydrangea with about 12 inches of mulch and surrounding it with chicken wire filled with mulch. You may remove the mulch after the threat of frost.
- Hydrangeas like partial shade. They can only tolerate full sun in areas with cooler summers. They also are very “thirsty” plants so give them plenty of water.
- Too much fertilizer will promote excessive leaves at the expense of flowers. Mulch with well-rotted compost or manure for the best results.

New Blooms carries several varieties of hydrangeas, including big leaf, paniculata, oakleaf, climbing and tree form hydrangeas.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTION TO CULINARY HERBS

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 25 – 2:00 – 3:00 PM

TOM AND MADELINE WAJDA OF THE WILLOW POND FARM, JUST OUTSIDE OF GETTYSBURG, WILL BE PRESENTING AN INTRODUCTION TO THE USE OF CULINARY HERBS. WILLOW POND FARM SPECIALIZES IN CERTIFIED ORGANIC HERBS AND HERBAL PRODUCTS FOR THE BATH, BODY, HOME AND PETS. MADELINE, WHO STUDIED CUISINE IN FRANCE, OFFERS CLASSES IN HERBAL COOKING AND HERB PRESERVATION. TOGETHER, TOM AND MADELINE WILL BE DISCUSSING HOW YOU CAN GROW AND USE HERBS FOR COOKING AND WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US. *THE CLASS IS FREE, BUT PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!!*

CONTAINER GARDENING

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1 – 2:00 – 3:00 PM

KIM WITMER, OWNER OF **NEW BLOOMS**, AND DENNIS CURTIS, OUR EXPERT “DESIGNER,” WILL BE PRESENTING VARIOUS WAYS THAT YOU CAN CREATE VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE AND UNIQUE PLANTERS, BASKETS AND CONTAINERS FOR YOUR DECK, PATIO OR PORCH. BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER OR CHOOSE FROM MANY NEW CONTAINERS AVAILABLE AT NEW BLOOMS. THIS WILL BE A “HANDS ON” WORKSHOP WHERE YOU CAN GATHER IDEAS AND MAKE YOUR OWN CREATION. *THIS CLASS IS FREE -- YOU JUST PAY FOR PLANTS AND CONTAINERS THAT YOU USE. CALL AHEAD TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!!*

SPRING “SPECIALS” FOR OUR “SPECIAL” CUSTOMERS

(SEE INSERT IN THIS NEWSLETTER)

APRIL COUPONS

- ONE FREE 6-PACK OF PANSIES
- \$1 OFF ONE 4” HERB

MAY COUPON

- \$1 OFF ANY HANGING BASKET

JUNE COUPONS

- \$1 OFF ANY FLAT OF ANNUALS
- \$2 OFF ANY PLANTER

Watch for New USDA Hardiness Zone Map

Due Out This Fall – This updated zone map will include data from winter 1986 through winter 2002. The current 1990 version is based on the average lowest temperatures recorded each year from 1974 to 1986. It should be interesting to see how the zones have changed recently. We’ll keep you posted on how this affects the plants you’ll be able to grow here in Central PA!

Queen of Flowering Vines

Clematis vines have long been America’s favorite vine because of its dependability, versatility and beauty. Depending on the variety (there are over 250 species), they will bloom from spring until frost, and some will actually rebloom. The most frequently asked question that I get is when to prune your clematis. Here are some helpful hints on growing beautiful clematis vines:

- Plant your clematis in full sun, however the roots should be shaded and “cool.” You can achieve this by planting a ground cover or other plant at the base of your clematis.
- At planting time, use rich organic matter in the planting hole. Plant your clematis slightly below the surface level (about 2 inches deeper) and water well. Planting deep encourages the formation of more new shoots in the event the fragile stem is broke. Water deeply once a week and fertilize once a month until flowering time. It takes about two years for your plant to get fully established, so don’t be alarmed if you don’t have tremendous growth the first year.
- To encourage fuller plants, prune all varieties back to about 12 inches the first year. Thereafter, pruning depends on the variety. Clematis falls into three groups and pruning depends on which variety you have.

Group 1 -- Small-flowered species and their cultivars, *flowering in early spring* on last season’s growth. This variety requires minimal pruning. Just remove dead or damaged stems, and reduce others to their allotted space immediately after flowering.

Group 2 -- Large-flowered cultivars, *flowering May-June* on short laterals developing from the previous year’s growth and those that flower again in summer on the current season’s growth. Just remove dead and damaged stems in early spring before growth begins and trim all remaining stems to a pair of strong buds.

Group 3 -- Large-flowered cultivars, small-flowered species and their cultivars, and herbaceous species, *flowering late summer* on the current season’s growth. You can cut back all growth to a pair of strong buds about 12-15 inches above the soil level, before growth begins in early spring.

New Blooms will carry several new and interesting clematis vines this year. Check them out!

Insert picture of flowering clematis vine here and up right side?

Plan Early For Your Patio Planters and Hanging Baskets

If you haven't already done so, please plan to bring your hanging baskets and planters to New Blooms in March or April to be filled with your favorite summer flowers. This will enable you to pick from the newest selection of plants...and best of all, we will plant them for you free of charge and have them ready for pickup by Saturday, May 1.

**Don't forget your gardening friends
on their birthday!**
**New Blooms Gift Certificates
Available!**

LOCAL GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Gentle Ladies Garden Club of Duncannon has an exciting lineup of meetings this spring. If you haven't already joined, please contact club president, Nanci Lycett at 834-5782 for further information. All proceeds from the club benefit the beautification of downtown Duncannon, certainly a worthwhile project.

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Duncannon, PA 17020

Tele/Fax: 717-834-5333

E-mail: 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 5 miles to Hickory Dr. on right. Follow signs.

Spring Hours:

Monday thru Saturday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Sundays from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

Please note: We will be open 7-days per week during the spring and summer. We will close on Tuesday's and Wednesday's during the fall and winter.

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