
BLOOMING NEWS

New Blooms Greenhouse

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Spring 2005

Ola', Bonjour, Hello to Warm Weather!

We are happy to be opening for the season on Saturday, March 12 and we think you'll be pleased with the variety of early flowering plants that we'll have available just in time for Easter. Pansies, violas, snapdragons, sweet smelling stock and a wide variety of blooming spring bulbs. If you love giving flowers at Easter, we will have some beautiful flowering baskets, all done up with colored Easter grasses, bunnies and bows.

Our spring "open house" will be on Saturday, April 16 from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Free refreshments will be served as you stroll through all the new plant varieties that we are offering this year! Members of the Duncannon Gentle Ladies Garden Club will also hold a drawing for a free orchid, so mark this date on your calendar!

For 2005, our spring and summer hours (March through June) are from Monday through Saturday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Sunday's. For late summer and fall (July through October), we will close a little earlier (at 6:00 pm) but will remain open for 7-days a week. And finally, due to unbelievably high heating costs, we will close for the season from November through February.

What's Growing On??

At press time, our hanging baskets and summer blooming annuals are being potted so they will be ready in time to put out in early May. This season, we have a beautiful selection of over 60 different varieties of Proven Winner annuals, as well as over 100 different varieties of bedding plants now grown in 48 cell flats instead of 36 – adding extra value to our customers with no change in price! Our geranium lovers will be pleased to know that we are again growing the premier geranium root cuttings by "Fisher" and will have 28 different varieties. These Fisher geraniums come in beautiful colors that you cannot find in a seed-grown geranium, such as Tutti Frutti, Mexicana, Eclipse Violet and Grafitti Fire.

Some of the other specialty annuals we have growing this year are new colors of double impatiens - hot pink, red/white bicolor, rose and dark red. We also have some beautiful new coleus varieties (Kong Mosaic, Freckles, Sedona, Tilt a Whirl and Palace Black) and some really cool calibrachoa's such as Cat's Eye Blue and Colorburst Carmine and Melon. And for those of you who are tired of using the same old marigolds each year, try something new -- drought tolerant "Profusion" zinnias in Cherry, White, Fire and Apricot colors. These are the ones that we grew on our bank last year that everyone loved!

We are continuing to add new perennials each season and now have over 250 different varieties. You'll want to try our new hardy red ornamental grasses, which will lend beautiful color to your fall landscape and come back each year. We will also carry some new varieties of Coreopsis such as Tequila Sunrise and Flying Saucers, a new Butterfly Weed called "Hello Yellow," a new sedum called Csar's Gold, and many other new releases.

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Springing Forward....

If you are itching to get started on your garden, there are many cold-tolerant annuals that you can plant in window boxes and planters and enjoy on your covered porch or patio. What comes to mind are pansies, violas, stock, snapdragons, calendula, diascia, candytuft, sweet alyssum, lobelia, larkspur and primrose, as well as spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and crocus.

Now is the time to start raking up winter debris and adding compost to your flowerbeds. As you see new growth on your perennials and ornamental grasses, trim off all of the old, dead foliage and compost. If you want to divide your perennials, do so early in the spring. Hostas, daylilies, phlox, daisies and many other perennials can be dug and easily divided now. But work quickly. If we get bright, sunny days the foliage will pop out, and transplant shock will be worse if the foliage is fully emerged. Spring flowering shrubs (forsythias, flowering almonds, spireas, azaleas, rhododendrons, viburnums and lilacs) should not be trimmed until after they've bloomed. Late summer and fall blooming shrubs can be trimmed early in the spring. And if you take the time to hand pull those few pesky winter weeds now (before they go to seed) you'll save yourself from pulling *millions* later ☺

Early Bird Gardeners

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to start your seeds indoors. Starting seeds is relatively easy and will not only give you a head start on your garden, but is personally rewarding as well. The key to successful seed starting is understanding the general requirements of water, warmth and light, each playing a critical role in the germination and healthy growth of your seedlings.

Growing containers can range from specially designed germination trays to a plastic cup or egg carton. Whatever you choose must have drainage holes to allow excess water to escape. The ideal growing medium is a sterile, soil-less mix (perlite, vermiculite and/or peat). Ordinary garden soil is too heavy and could contain soil-borne diseases.

For most fine seeds, gently press them into the soil and lightly cover with a fine coating of potting soil. For larger seeds press them further into the soil (about as deep as the seeds are big) and cover with soil. Water gently and place a clear plastic covering on top (plastic wrap is fine).

Water is the spark that ignites the germination process. Once sown, water your seedlings gently. They should not be allowed to dry out nor given too much water. Over-watering makes soil temperatures colder and reduces oxygen in your soil. Almost all seeds need warm soil to germinate. Seeds flourish in consistently warm temperatures, thus pick a spot in your home where the temperatures are warm. Heated seed mats are the perfect solution and provide warmth at constant levels. Once your seedlings germinate, they will need a sunny, southern exposure or use fluorescent lights above your growing area. Set the light tubes only a few inches above your seedlings and keep raising the lights as your plants grow. If your seedlings "stretch," you need more light.

When your seedlings develop at least two sets of leaves, they are ready to be transplanted into a larger container so they can continue to grow. Once outside soil temperatures reach about 50° and chance of frost has passed, your new seedlings are ready to plant out. Now wasn't that fun? If you still feel intimidated by the whole process, join us on March 20 for our seed starting class and we'll help you get growing.

Just a note -- if you gather and save your own seeds, you may have wondered how long they are viable. If kept consistently cool and dry, seeds can be saved from one to seven years. If in doubt, wrap some of the seeds in a wet paper towel for a few days and if at least half sprout, they are still good!

Container Garden Secrets

To brighten up your deck, porch or patio, add some colorful containers. The beauty is that they can be moved around to any location where you want color and they are easy to care for. (continued on pg. 3)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SOWING YOUR SEEDS WORKSHOP

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 20 – 2:00 – 3:00 PM

YOU WILL RECEIVE A HANDS-ON LESSON ON HOW TO SOW YOUR OWN SEEDS. BRING YOUR OWN GATHERED SEEDS OR PURCHASE FROM FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEED VARIETIES THAT WE CARRY. THE DEMONSTRATION WILL INCLUDE THE VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS FOR SEED GERMINATION AS WELL AS CARE FOR YOUR SEEDLINGS UNTIL IT IS TIME TO “PLANT OUT” IN MAY.

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

SPRING OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS ☺ FREE ORCHID DRAWING! (SEE PAGE 1)

CONTAINER GARDENING

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS, CHOOSE EITHER

APRIL 17 OR APRIL 24, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

BRING UP TO 4 CONTAINERS (OR PURCHASE FROM OUR SELECTION OF PLANTERS) AND WE’LL HELP YOU DESIGN YOUR OWN DECK OR PATIO CONTAINERS. THIS CLASS WILL BE A “HANDS-ON” CLASS WHERE WE DISCUSS YOUR SPECIFIC SUN/SHADE AND COLOR REQUIREMENTS AND HELP YOU SELECT THE APPROPRIATE PLANTS FOR YOUR CONTAINERS. (NOTE: IF YOU PREFER, WE CAN PLANT THEM FOR YOU AT \$4/CONTAINER – SEE PG. 4)

The cost of the class is whatever plant material you use, plus \$2 per container to cover the soil and fertilizers used.

GROWING BEAUTIFUL ROSES

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 12 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM

LEARN FIRST-HAND ABOUT DIFFERENT ROSE CULTIVARS, GROWING CONDITIONS AND CARE AT OUR “GROWING BEAUTIFUL ROSES” WORKSHOP. ARMED WITH YOUR NEW-FOUND KNOWLEDGE, YOU CAN GROW BEAUTIFUL ROSES FOR CUTTING, FRAGRANCE, COLOR AND ENJOYMENT IN YOUR LANDSCAPE. WE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER YOUR PERSONAL QUESTIONS AFTER OUR PRESENTATION AND WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US.

The class is free, but please call ahead to reserve your space!!

CUT FLOWER ARRANGING

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 7, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

JOIN US FOR SOME TIPS ON FLOWER ARRANGING TECHNIQUES. WITH SCISSORS IN HAND, WALK THROUGH OUR NEW “CUTTING” GARDEN AND SELECT A BOUQUET OF BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS TO ARRANGE YOUR OWN TAKE-HOME CENTERPIECE. ARMED WITH SOME KNOWLEDGE OF PROPER CUTTING, ARRANGING AND CARE, YOU CAN BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN.

The cost is \$10 per person and includes all cut flowers and supplies.

Please call ahead to reserve your space!!

(continued from pg. 2)

Before starting, take a walk around your house and determine if there are any spots that you want to block or hide, or if there is a location that needs more color (like a shady corner where nothing else will grow). You just need to match the plants (i.e., sun or shade) with the location you’ll be putting them. Your pot could be just about anything that can hold potting mix -- an old boot, a wooden tub, an old wheelbarrow or plastic, fiberglass, clay or any other container, as long as it has good drainage (or drill a hole in the bottom yourself if it doesn’t).

Using a potting mix that drains well (not garden soil), just add a combination of your favorite plants. Look for plants that have the same light and water requirements (i.e., ferns, coleus, impatiens for the shade and petunias, geraniums, ornamental grasses for the sun). For a good combo planter, you will need a tall center plant, some trailing plants and then filler plants.

To maintain the good looks of your container, check daily for water needs and fertilize weekly. To save time, you could add a slow release fertilizer at planting time. You will need to deadhead and trim back any assertive plants so that your container remains lush and full.

Now you’re armed with all you need to get a container garden off to a good start. But if you would still like some help in creating your container garden, join us on April 17 or April 24 for our container gardening class.

ENTER OUR “BLOOMING” GARDEN PHOTO CONTEST

Most gardeners love to show off their beautiful flower beds and share their beauty with others. To enter our “garden contest,” submit your contact information and up to five color photos, each with a caption explaining what plants have been photographed, where the photographs were taken, and any special feature you’d like us to know about this particular garden. Deadline for submission is July 31.

The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from New Blooms! Judging the contest will be members of the Duncannon Gentle Ladies Garden Club who will look for: *the most striking use of color and texture combinations in either an annual and/or perennial garden.*

The winner will be announced on Sunday, August 7. You need not be present to win. We will call you!

Plan Early For Your Patio Planters and Hanging Baskets

Save time and effort...bring your empty planters to New Blooms by April 15 and for a nominal cost of \$4/per container* plus whatever plant materials are used, you will get the best selection of our newest plant varieties as well as have a headstart on enjoying your beautiful summer containers. *Call ahead* and we'll have them ready for your pickup between Sunday, May 1 and Sunday, May 8.

**Note: if you want to plant your own containers for \$2/each plus materials, sign up for one of our Container Gardening Classes on either April 17 or 24.*

Don't forget Easter, Mother's Day or your favorite gardener's birthday!

New Blooms Gift Certificates Available!

LOCAL GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Gentle Ladies Garden Club of Duncannon is seeking organizations or individuals to help sponsor the "Clock Garden" project in downtown Duncannon. They are planning a beautiful walking garden for all to enjoy and your support would be greatly appreciated. Please contact club president, Nanci Lycett at 834-5782 for further information.

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Duncannon, PA 17020

Tele: 834-5333 Fax: 834-5205

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 approx. 6 miles to Hickory Dr. on right. Follow signs.

Spring & Summer Hours:

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

Sunday's from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Please note: We will be open 7-days per week from March through June. We will close earlier (6:00 pm) from July through October and will be closed for the season from November through February.

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