

Herbs and Scented Geraniums

We have the area's largest selection of herbs and scented geraniums. Stop in and pick up a few to put in pots on your deck or patio. Once you start using fresh herbs, the dried just don't cut it. They are great to use when grilling during the summer. If you've never really cooked with herbs, summer, with all of the great fresh produce, is a good time to start. When you stop in, pick up some of the info sheets we have on herbs.

If you have never grown scented geraniums, take a look at them when you stop in. They would be worth growing just for their beauty. They have interesting foliage and pretty flowers. The bonus is that the foliage isn't just pretty but also fragrant. The scents range from rose to lemon to spice and mint. They can be just enjoyed by rubbing the leaves to release the fragrance. But they can also be used in cooking. They can be used in baking, desserts and beverages.

Container Gardening

Herbs and scented geraniums can be grown in pots and of course annuals too. But you might not know that most vegetables can be grown in containers. So if you don't want to go all out with a vegetable garden, try a few in pots. With the right pots, soil and care, container growing can be very rewarding.

The right pot means, first, it has to have holes in the bottom. Don't ever use pots without holes outdoors. They can't drain. And don't put them in saucers. Any type of pot is okay as long as it is big enough. You can't grow a full sized tomato in a 10" pot or keep a basil in a 6" pot. Plants have to have room to grow to do well. Once they are overly root bound, they will cease to flourish.

Good soil is crucial. Don't use that black stuff that comes in to 20# bags. That stuff is terrible. Use a good soil-less mix. These are usually peat based. We sell the mix that we use in 2.8 cu ft. bags for \$20.00. This is a really inexpensive way to get good soil. Trying to save money by buying poor soil is a big mistake since this is what your plants will be growing in.

There are a couple things that will help you care for your containers. Try using Soil Moist when you are planting your pots. It will help to cut back on the watering you need to do. Every time your plants wilt, they are being damaged. Use a slow-release fertilizer like Osmocote. Put it on once and it will fertilize the entire season. Liquid fertilizers are good but they must be used consistently throughout the whole season. If you are going away even for a few days, make sure you have someone come in to care for your plants, especially during hot weather. Even two days without care can do real damage.

Preparing your Soil

This is the absolutely the most important thing to do when gardening and it is probably the thing that people neglect the most. You can't grow good plants in lousy soil. Well - prepared soil grows better plants, makes weeding and watering easier and drains better. It is an investment in the health of your garden and keeping your frustration level down. First, get a soil test kit from the Extension office and test your soil. Then follow their instructions especially on the amount of lime they recommend. Second is organic matter. This is anything like peat moss, compost, mushroom manure or manure. What we recommend, especially for clay soils, is our Soil Conditioner. It is a bark and humus product that really breaks up clay soils. Our customers rave about it.

To-Do List

- Stake perennials before they flop
- Keep perennials & annuals dead-headed so they will rebloom
- Fertilize everything – trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and herbs
- Mulch everything
- Divide perennials as long as they are not in bloom
- Trim flowering shrubs when they finish blooming
- Watch for slug damage – they love this wet weather
- Start a garden notebook to help you keep track of everything
- Label your perennials and herbs
- Keep flowers trimmed off your herbs
- Watch for insect and disease problems and decide if it is necessary to treat

Fairy and Miniature Gardening

We have just gotten in new items and there are more on the way. Stop in and see our fantastic selection. It's a great way to add something interesting to your garden or containers. This stuff is just adorable!

Moles continue to be a problem. Milky Spore is an organic product that kills the grubs in your lawn and garden areas. Its benefits are threefold. It takes away one of the grubs main food sources by killing the grubs that are also damaging your lawn. This also reduces the number of Japanese beetles. Mole Scram is repellant that disrupts the moles digestive system and makes them go elsewhere to eat.

When you come out to get your plants, take some time to look in the Garden Shop. There are a lot of unique and interesting gardening and gift items in there. And don't forget Gift Certificates. Gardeners love them.

Perennials Galore!

We have the area's largest selection of perennials. Whether you are starting a new garden or filling in some spaces in an existing bed, we can certainly help you. There are perennials for any area - wet or dry, sun or shade. There are perennials for cutting, fragrance or drying. We grow most of our plants so they bloom when they should unlike the ones sold at the big box stores. They are all hardy varieties for this area. Most have been over-wintered so they are ready to plant. Stop in and add something new and interesting to your garden.

Annuals & Hanging Baskets

Even if you are planning a lot of perennials, there is always a place for some annuals. They are still the best thing to plant in pots and hanging baskets. They are also nice to add some pizzazz to perennial beds. They can give a pop of color when your beds maybe aren't in bloom as much as you would like. We have a good selection of annuals and baskets, both the common and the unusual.

Vegetables

We have tremendous selection of vegetables this year. We grow them all right here so there is no chance of bringing in diseases like with the ones grown in the south. We have 40 varieties of tomatoes - both heirloom and hybrid. Many kinds we have chosen for their disease resistance. All of them are available in 4" pots and many are available in 6 packs. There are 10 types of peppers, from sweet to very hot. There are 4 types of lettuce plus swiss chard and arugula. We have many kinds of zucchini, cucumbers, squash, watermelon and cantaloupe. Many of these are bush varieties. Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kohlrabi, kale and Brussel sprouts. Most vegetables can be grown in pots so if you don't want to put in a big garden, try a few on you deck or patio.

Landscape Consultations

Beckie is scheduling Landscape consultations for the Spring season. She will come to your house for an hour and you can ask her anything about your yard. What to keep and what to get rid of. New beds or fixing up old ones. How to prune. What to plant and where. The cost is \$50. Give a call at 724 836-2255

We often take for granted the very things that deserve the most gratitude. Cindy Ozick

Organic Fertilizers and Pest Controls

We carry an extensive line of organic products. There is probably a safe product to use for most problems so stop in and see us before you spray chemicals. Most chemical controls are carcinogens and nerve toxins. Not only will they harm you, your family and your pets but they also harm birds, butterflies and bees. Try some of the following if you have a problem.

Safer Products - Insecticides and fungicides that are safe and effective

Sluggo - Safe slug and snail bait

Serenade - Biological fungicide for most disease problems including blight

Diatomaceous Earth - For ants, earwigs and other creepy crawlies

Horticultural Oil - Paraffin wax that smothers adults, larva and eggs

Bt - Safe bacteria that kills only caterpillars

Liquid Fence and Deer Scram - Safe deer and rabbit repellent

We also carry organic fertilizers. They are much better for your soil. They give the microorganisms and worms something to munch on so your soil stays much healthier.

We also have a safe weed preventer. **Preen for vegetables** is a corn gluten product that keeps weed seeds from germinating. Thoroughly weed your garden and immediately spread Preen. It can go over or under the mulch. Use it every 4-6 weeks for the best results. It can be used on all edible and ornamental plants. Don't confuse this with regular Preen which is a chemical.

Try to rotate crops in your vegetable garden if you have the space. Different crops use more of some nutrients. By moving the crops each year, you don't deplete the soil as much. Also any soil insects or diseases specific to a particular crop don't have as easy a time getting to them. If you can't move crops around, be sure to use a good fertilizer, preferably organic.

Rhubarb, Asparagus

Black & Red Raspberries

3 Types of Seedless Grapes

Everbearing Strawberries

Coupon
25% off Any One
Perennial

Limited to Stock On Hand Expires 6-17-18

Different Herbs

If you already grow herbs or are just starting, think about trying some other different herbs. This can be as simple as trying Italian parsley, lemon thyme or lime or purple basil. Use garlic chives instead if chives. Often just substituting these other varieties in a recipe can change the entire taste of the dish.

It's also fun to try herbs that you have never tried before. Lovage has a celery-like taste and can be substituted for celery. Borage and salad burnet taste like cucumbers and can be used in all types of salads. Leaf celery is really celery without the stalk. Summer savory is good with all those fresh vegetables that are coming. Fennel goes well in salads and vegetables.

Half the fun of growing herbs is experimenting with them in foods. Try something new and different and you may find an herb that you really like.

Confetti Green Beans

- 1 package(10 ounces) green beans, thawed and drained
- 1 can(7 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- ¼ cup ripe olives
- 1 ½ tsp. fresh or ½ tsp. dried basil
- 1 ½ tsp. fresh or ½ tsp. dried oregano
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder

In a saucepan, combine all ingredients. Cover and cook over medium heat for 8-10 minutes or until beans are crisp-tender. Yield: 6 servings.

Sow dill and cilantro seed regularly throughout the summer for a continual harvest. Both of these go to seed quickly.

Steppables

There are groundcovers that will tolerate being walked on. This makes them nice for between stepping stones or as a ground cover in areas where you don't walk often. Creeping thyme, mazus, rupturewort, pussy toes and Irish and Scotch moss are all good choices for sunny areas. Roman chamomile is a nice fragrant option. It can even be mowed like a lawn. Dwarf loosestrife can be used in shady areas.

The most important thing is to have enough room to plant them. People try to put them in places with just an inch or two of space. This really doesn't work. You should have 4-6 inches or more between the stones for these plants to do well. Any less and the plants will probably die or they will engulf the stones.

Classes

Cooking with Herbs Fee: \$10.00
We will talk about how to cook with herbs and taste dishes made with a variety of herbs. Please preregister for this class so that we can be prepared with the food.

Saturday June 9 1:00

Fairy Gardening Fee: \$5.00

Come in and explore the fun world of fairy and miniature gardening. We will have many different gardens planted for you to see. We will also offer a 15% discount on pots, plants, soil and fairy garden items for you to plant your own garden. You can bring your own container if you like.

Saturday June 16 1:00

Name _____
Telephone _____
Class(es) _____

Mail: Shadowwood Gardens 410 Twin Lakes Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650

Or call us and you can pay over the phone 724 836-2255

Fertilizing

It is time to be feeding all the plants in your yard. Most people feed only the new things that they plant like vegetables, herbs and annuals. These do need fed and fed throughout the summer. Don't be the person whose annuals and baskets look like heck by midsummer because they lost interest in feeding their plants.

The plants that are always in your yard need fed too. This means the shrubs, trees and perennials. I hear all the time that these plants have been there for years and they look fine. They don't look fine but you are just used to seeing them look bad. I have had people tell me that after feeding these plants, they didn't know there plants could look that good. For not much money, you can make a major improvement in your landscape.

We carry a large selection of fertilizers. Stop in and we can help you choose the best one for the job.

Cut back the bearded iris foliage when you cut back the dead flowers. They will sprout pretty new foliage.

With all the rain, keep up with using Sluggo to keep the slugs and snails in check. Especially use it on hostas, peppers and herbs.