

Annuals, Vegetables and Hanging Baskets

There is still a great selection of all of these. If you've gotten a late start this year or you want to plant a few more things, we have lots of them. There is still time to plant vegetables and get a good harvest. We have a lot of compact veggies that do great in pots. If you don't want to plant a regular garden, it's a great way to still grow fresh vegetables.

Perennials

We've got a great selection of perennials and are putting out more varieties regularly. We just got in a big shipment and more are on the way. Stop in and see what new kinds we have for this season. Come in throughout the summer to see what has come in to bloom. Definitely come in when you need something in bloom at a specific in your garden. We will be happy to help you find a few plants or to fill a new garden.

Choosing Perennials

I hear on a regular basis when I suggest a plant "I don't know what that is, so I don't want it." That kind of mentality takes the fun out of perennial gardening! One of the most enjoyable parts of gardening is trying new plants. If you already have a bunch of something, why plant more of it. The best gardens have a large variety of plants. This ensures a nice succession of bloom throughout the season. Look for early and late flowering plants to extend the flowering time of your garden. Most of my customers come in and buy whatever catches their fancy. They take it home and plant it somewhere. Some of the best gardens are really not planned at all.

A lot of customers don't want anything taller than 18" in their garden. Take a walk on the wild side and plant tall things. Try planting perennials that 4 feet or even taller. This makes it easy to plant three or four rows of plants. The 18" plants may be your shortest row.

People also only want perennials that bloom all summer. These are called annuals. Very few perennials bloom all summer. It's tough to plant a garden with just these plants. Part of the fun of perennial gardening is mixing plants so you always something in bloom.

Shade Perennials

We have lots of perennials that like shady areas. We have dozens of varieties of astilbes. They range from under a foot tall to ones that get to 4 feet. They flower in white pink and red. Astilbes have bloom times from June through August so by planting several varieties, you can have them in flower through the summer. We have over 40 varieties of hostas. There are some really spectacular types. There are lots of ferns ready right now and a few others coming on in the near future. We have many other shade plants. Shade gardens can be really beautiful. They just aren't as bright and colorful as a sun garden.

Fruits and Vegetables

We have really beautiful fruits and vegetables. There are thornless blackberries, red, black and gold raspberries. We have 3 varieties of seedless grape – Himrod, Canadice and Concord. There are blueberries and Goji berries. We have both green and purple asparagus. Now is a good time to plant all of these.

Dead-heading

Don't forget to keep the dead flowers trimmed off your perennials and annuals. Not only does it keep your plants looking nicer, The annuals will continue to bloom better and the perennials may come back into flower. Also keep the flowers trimmed off of your herbs. They keep a better flavor if they don't come into bloom.

Staking Perennials

It's getting late to stake perennials. You many still be able to use Grow-thru rings. You can also put stakes around the plant and make a grid of twine to keep the plant upright. If you have let it go until it has flopped, you may be better off just cutting it down. Try to think ahead next year and get staking around the plants earlier in the season. It's best to do it when they first come up in the spring.

Facebook

If you would like to follow us on Facebook, we are going to post things like plants that are in bloom, new varieties, new things in the garden shop or just interesting information. The correct page has an orange marigold picture. If you have trouble getting to that page, use the link on our website. www.shadowwoodgardens.com. There is good information on the website too.

Houseplants

The next couple months are a good time to work on your houseplants whether you have them inside or outdoors. Fertilize them with either a slow release food or give them some liquid fertilizer every couple weeks. Watch them for insects and spray them with insecticidal soap as necessary. This is also when you should repot houseplants. By doing it now, you give them time to recover from the shock of repotting and give the roots a chance to grow into the new soil. Only go up one pot size when repotting plants. So this means if it is in a 10 inch pot, only go up to a 12". Always use a good soil-less mix. Loosen up the roots or if they are really thickly wrapped, cut some of them off. This can also be done if you have a really large plant that can't be moved to a larger pot. Cut off an inch or two of the roots around the outside of the root ball and the same off the bottom. This will allow you to keep the plant healthy without moving it to a bigger pot.

25% off Any One Perennial

Limited to stock on hand. Expires June 30, 2024

Herbs & Scented Geraniums

There is still a good selection of herbs and scented geraniums available. You have plenty of time to get a good harvest off of herbs. Plant some in pots near your kitchen so they are easily accessible when you need them. If you've never grown herbs before, start with whatever herbs you use on a regular basis. Then add a couple of different ones. Once you start cooking with fresh herbs, you'll never want to go back to dried. If you already grow herbs, try some new ones that you haven't tried before. We have many interesting mints like strawberry, apple, grapefruit and chocolate. Pineapple sage makes great iced tea and is good chopped up in fruit salad. Scented geraniums are good in iced tea and fruit dips. Seasoning celery is really celery and can be used in place of stalk celery in any recipe.

Lemon-Herb Marinade

- ¾ cup olive or vegetable oil
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 2 tsp. seasoned salt
- 2 Tbl. fresh sweet basil
- ½ tsp. garlic powder or 1 tbl. fresh garlic, chopped
- 2 tsp. paprika
- 2 Tbl. fresh thyme

Combine ingredients. Marinate 2-2 ½ pounds of chicken, fish or pork in refrigerator several hours or overnight. Broil or grill the meat. Baste often with marinade.

Labeling Gardens

It's always a good idea to label both perennial and herb gardens. The perennial gardens so that you know what you have and herb gardens so you don't eat something you shouldn't. We have nice metal markers that are inexpensive and last forever. When you write on them with a special pencil, the writing becomes fairly permanent. It is easily removed with steel wool or sandpaper. We carry beautiful clay herb markers if you want something nicer in your herb garden.

Lavender

We have beautiful lavender plants. There are 2 types of English lavender and 3 of French. The Sensational variety of French Lavender is living up to its name right now. The plants are big and loaded with flowers that are just getting ready to open.

Daylilies

We have dozens of varieties of daylilies. They are budding up and will come into bloom in the next couple weeks. There are several types of everblooming daylilies. These bloom most of the summer. They are one of the few perennials that do bloom a good chunk of the summer.

Beebalm

Beebalm is getting ready to flower. It's great for attracting butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. The flowers and foliage can be used in cooking (see the recipe in the May flyer).

To-Do List

- Weed. The more you weed the less there are to reseed.
- Keep annuals and perennials dead-headed so they can possibly rebloom.
- Divide and move perennials as long as they aren't in bloom.
- Watch for diseases and insects and treat as necessary.
- Keep flowers cut off your herbs and start freezing and drying extra herbs.
- Fertilize everything.
- Mulch everything to preserve soil moisture and keep down weeds.
- Water as necessary.
- Prune flowering shrubs as they finish blooming.
- Label perennial and herb gardens.

Preen

Weeding is a never ending job. Try some natural Preen. It is corn gluten meal which stops germinating weeds from forming roots. It is safe for pets and people and can be used around all plants including edible ones. Don't confuse it with regular Preen which is a chemical. It can't be used around edible plants and is not safe for pets or people. It also stops some perennials from spreading.

Thoroughly weed a section of your garden and then apply The Preen immediately. Put the mulch over it. If your bed is already mulched, put the Preen on the mulch. Apply it every month for best results. You will start to notice a big difference in the amount of weeds you have.

Animal Repellants

We are getting hit hard by the deer this year. If you are having the same problem, start using repellants. We are using Liquid Fence which seems to be helping. We also have Deer Scram which some of our customers swear by. Repels All lists about every mammal there is, so you could give it a try. We are no longer selling Fox Urine Granules. They are not humanely sourced. We are trying Safer Critter Ridder Animal Repellent instead.

Recycling Pots

We are still happy to take old pots but we have to limit what we accept. We can only take white hanging baskets. We don't take back cell packs. Flats are also something we don't accept. We can take regular pots and clay pots but no decorative pots. All pots must be emptied of soil.

Bearded Iris

Cut the foliage of bearded iris back to 3 or 4 inches. They will put on new leaves and look nicer for the rest of the season.

Cilantro and Dill

If you like to have cilantro and dill weed available for use all summer, you need to buy seed and sow new crops of them every couple weeks in the summer. Both of these herbs tend to go to flower very quickly. They can be sowed in pots and they germinate very fast.

Dogs

We love to meet your dogs and certainly don't mind them wandering around with you. But please let us know before you take them out of the car so we can put our dogs in the house.

While you're here, take a look at our Pet Corner. There are lots of things for your dogs and cats and lots for pet parents.

Landscape Consultations

I am scheduling consultations right now. I come to your house and you can ask me anything about your landscape and gardens. The cost is \$50 for an hour. I usually do them in the evenings during the week. Give me a call to schedule one. 724 836-2255

Talks for any Groups

I am also scheduling talks for any kind of club for the Fall and Winter and even into next year. Give me a call and we can discuss the many topics that I have available.

Planning ahead for next spring

If you need a quantity of annuals, vegetables or herbs for next spring, you can order them now while it is still fresh in your mind. This way you can be sure to get everything you need.

Watering

Right now we are pretty good with rain. In a week or so it's going to get hotter and watering is going to really start. Going out and waving a hose over your plants is not watering, it's cleaning the dust off the leaves. You are maybe wetting the soil down an inch at best. The correct way to water is slow and deep. The best way to do this is with a sprinkler or soaker hose. You should ideally put down an inch of water once or twice a week depending on the weather. You will probably end up using less water in the end. If you have trees or shrubs that need water, take a milk jug, bucket or similar container and poke a hole in the bottom of it. Fill it with water and it will slowly seep out deeply watering the plant. Always water at the outer edge of the foliage, not directly next to the trunk.

Mulching

Mulching sort of goes with watering. Although most people think of mulch to keep down weeds, it also helps retain soil moisture. A good layer of mulch will help reduce moisture loss from the soil. This is why everything should be mulched. Trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and even herbs can be mulched with a decorative bark mulch. Vegetables can be mulched with grass clippings with no chemicals or straw. Some people use mushroom manure and then till it in come fall.

We will be closed Thursday July 4th. Our regular hours are:
Tues. – Sat. 10-6 Sunday 11-4 Closed Monday

Slugs

With all the rain we've had this spring, slugs are causing a lot of damage right now. People have been coming in with pictures of all types of plants with slug damage. We have Sluggo Bait. It is an organic slug control that is safe for everything but slugs. Most of the other baits on the market are very toxic so please don't use them.

Garden Shop

Stop into the Garden Shop when you come out. We have lots of gardening and gift items. There is always new stuff coming in. We also have gift certificates.

Clay Pots

We have clay pots in sizes from 4" to 14". They are really good quality pots. There are also saucers for all sizes.

Take the time to enjoy your garden this summer. Sit back with a nice cold drink and really appreciate what all your hard work has accomplished.