

Fall Sale

30% off all Perennials and Herbs

10 % off all Garden and Gift Items

Limited to stock on hand. Some plants are not on sale. Does not include consultations, gift certificates or hand-crafted items.

Sale offer good till September 15 , 2024

Perennials

We still have a tremendous selection of perennials available. This is a great time to add to your existing beds or even to start a new one. This is the time to look at your beds. Do you have anything that is going to bloom in the early spring? If you don't, now is the time to get some things planted. There are many perennials that bloom in March, April and May. But don't wait till then to plant them. Planting them now will give them a chance to get established this fall so they will give you a better show in the spring. Don't forget fall bulbs. These include daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and the like. The smaller bulbs like crocus, iris and others will be the earliest to bloom. Don't forget to fertilize bulbs when you plant them with a complete bulb food like Bulb-Tone. Then feed them again in the spring when they start to come up and again when they finish blooming. By keeping up with the spring feedings every year, you can assure that your bulbs will come back every year and continue to multiply. Don't feed your perennials in the fall. Wait until April to feed them. You don't want them to put on new growth in the fall.

Composting

Fall is a good time to start a compost pile. There are a lot of things that you can compost. Fruits and vegetables, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, shredded paper, grass clippings, leaves, sawdust and fireplace ashes. Don't put plants with diseases or insects in the pile. Don't put in anything treated with chemicals. Make sure the compost stays moist and turn the pile often to aerate it. Without air, the pile will rot not compost. This will cause the pile to stink. If you can really smell your compost pile, it needs turned more often.

We still have a good selection of grapes, raspberries, blackberries, elderberries, gogi berries and blueberries. This is a good time to plant them and get them well established for spring. We also have June-bearing strawberries and both green and purple asparagus.

Fall Mums

We will have fall mums available after Labor Day.

We will be closed:

August 29—September 2

September 19-22

October 9-13

October 17-20

October 26-27

Late Blooming Perennials

Like with the early perennials, now is the time to look around your garden and see if you need something in bloom for the fall.

Lemon Queen Perennial Sunflower – Large light yellow daisies, July-September, 4-6 feet tall, attracts butterflies

Silver and Gold Mum – Yellow button flowers, October, green leaves with silver edges, 15 inches tall

Sedums – Flowers in deep rose, white and pink, August-September, 18 inches tall

False Sunflower – Large golden-yellow to yellow-orange daisies, 24 to 48 inches tall

Toadlily – White orchid-like flowers speckled with purple, September-October, 30 inches tall, likes shade

Turtlehead – Interesting rose-pink flowers, August-September, 30 inches tall, tolerates shade and wet soils

Lobelia – Red purple or blue flowers, August-September, 36 inches tall, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, takes shade

Gateway Joe Pye Weed – Large clusters of rosy purple flowers, July-September, 60-72 ", attracts butterflies

Hardy Ageratum – Blue flowers, Aug.-Oct., 24-36"

These are just some of the late blooming plants that we have. Stop out to see these and more.

Don't forget about Ornamental Grasses. We have all different heights and foliage colors. They add a nice texture to the garden with their graceful leaves and flowers. A lot of varieties are just getting their blooms now and some get good foliage color in the fall so they are a good addition to the fall garden. There are also grasses for the shade.

Planning for Spring

Fall is a great time to start thinking about spring. This gardening season is still fresh in your mind. Start a gardening notebook. Jot down what annuals and vegetables did well for you. Also note which ones didn't. Are there perennials that need divided or moved? Did something need staked? Make a note of spaces that may need another perennial or shrub so that you can decide on one over the winter. Take dimensions of a new garden so that you can start designing it. Putting this all down now will make it easier to get started in the spring. Label perennial and herb gardens while they are fresh in your mind. We carry really metal markers. They last forever and can be reused.

Preserving Herbs

Now's the time to start preserving your herbs for winter use. It's easy to either dry or freeze herbs. Drying can be as elaborate as a dehydrator or rubber bands and paper clips. Cut a bundle of herbs, wrap a rubber band around the end, bend out a paper clip and hang them up until they dry. Freezing is easy too. Cut the herbs. Rinse them if dirty and pat them dry. Place leaves or whole stems into a zip bag, press flat and seal. You can blanch before freezing. This will keep them greener. I usually corral the small bags in a large bag so they don't end up all over the freezer. It's best to cut herbs in the morning when they have the most oil. If they have gone to flower, cut the flowers off and let them put on new growth before you harvest. This will get you the best flavor. If you have more than you can use, give your home dried herbs or herb blends as gifts. Add a few recipes and maybe some of the ingredients. They make nice teacher or hostess gifts. You can also make vinegars with herbs.

Start leaving the dead flower heads of coneflowers, black-eyed susan, coreopsis and most any of the other daisies. Little birds like finches love the seeds.

Houseplants

I know it seems early but it's time to start thinking about bringing your houseplants back into the house. Tropical plants can be damaged by temperatures as high as 50 degrees. So don't leave plants outside when the temps start to get into the 40's. Three weeks before you plan on bring them in, you need to do 2 things. First, spray with insecticidal soap hitting the tops and bottoms of the leaves and all the stems and trunks. Do this 3 times one week apart. This should be done whether you see insects or not. A couple tiny bugs can turn into a real problem over the winter. Even after you move them indoors, keep checking for insects and treat as necessary. It's easier to treat a small problem rather than a big one.

If you have your plants out in the full sun, start to gradually move them into more shade over a couple weeks. This will give them time to adjust before being brought in. This should limit the amount of leaves they drop. Stop feeding houseplants. Most tropical plants go dormant just like our trees and shrubs. And watch your watering because they aren't growing, they don't need much water. Remember that most houseplants die from overwatering not under watering.

Don't repot houseplants in the fall unless it is really necessary. You don't want all that wet soil around the roots all winter.

Rosemary Bread Knots

These are good with soups, salads or pasta and they are easy to make.

2 Tbl. olive oil

2 Tbl. grated parmesan cheese

1 Tbl. fresh rosemary, minced or 1 tsp. dried

¼ tsp. garlic powder

½ tsp. pepper

1/8 tsp. salt

1 pkg. (11 oz.) breadstick dough, such as Pillsbury

Preheat oven to 375°. Combine oil, cheese, rosemary, garlic powder, pepper and salt. Unroll breadstick dough; brush with mixture. Tie each breadstick into a knot.

Place about 2" apart on an ungreased baking sheet.

Bake 15-17 minutes until golden. You can also add a tbl. or 2 of lemon zest. You can also substitute any herb or herb blend for the rosemary.

This is the time to start taking cuttings of herbs and annuals that you would like to save. Take extra cuttings in case they don't root well. The best way to start cuttings is in a soil-less mix. These are naturally sterile. Don't use garden soil. You can root plants in water, but it is a harder transition to soil. Using a rooting hormone will make them root faster. You can put a plastic bag loosely over the pot can help. You can also mist them several times a day. Keep the cuttings out of direct sun. They do need some sun but not hot, direct sun. Keep the soil moist but not wet. You can tell if they are rooted by gently tugging on the cutting. If they resist, they are probably rooted. Transplant them to a pot and lightly fertilize them with a liquid food.

Saving Summer Bulbs

Summer bulbs such as cannas, caladiums and dahlias can be saved and replanted next spring. Let a frost hit them and then cut them back. If they are planted in the ground, dig them out taking care to not damage them. Remove the excess soil. It won't hurt to leave some soil on them. Put them somewhere outside so they can dry. A covered porch or garden shed are fine. When they are completely dry, put them in shallow boxes, paper grocery bags or hang them in onion bags. They must be stored in a cool, dry area. Check them over the winter and discard any that are moldy or rotting. If they are planted in pots, you can let the soil dry out and store them in the pots over winter. They can then be divided in the spring.

We can schedule talks now for the fall and holiday seasons. If you have a club that needs a speaker, give Beckie a call. I can give you some suggestions for topics that would be good for this time of the year. We can also schedule for 2025. 724 836-2255

Fall in the Garden

Fall is a bonus season in the garden. The weather is great so get lots of things done. I'm going to give you some things you can do in the fall.

Do soil tests. When you get the results, you may be able to do some of the recommendations this year. You can purchase a test at local extension office or get the forms online at Agricultural Analytical Services Lab.

Fall is for planting. This is not just a slogan, it is true. Plants planted in the fall get well established before the cold weather and are ready to take off and flourish in the spring. Try to get your planting done by the end of September.

Do a final complete weeding of all your beds. The less weeds left, the less that can reseed in the spring before you get to them. Don't use Natural Preen on your beds in the fall.

Mulch all your beds if you need to. This takes one big job away for spring. Don't mulch right up to any plant. Keep an area mulch-free around the stem or foliage. I am also still seeing people recommending mulching over top of perennials. Our winters are too warm and wet to do this. It's a sure way to lose perennials.

There is still time to divide perennials. I always suggest that you dig out the whole clump. The healthiest part of the plant is the outside edge especially in large plants. If you don't need all the plant, cut off the outside edge and replant clumps of this. Throw out the middle. This is the oldest and most root bound part. If you really need more plant, divide the center and try it.

Dry herbs, any flower petals, pods and cones, citrus peels or even evergreen branches for potpourri. Everything that you put in potpourri doesn't have to be fragrant. You add essential oils to get most of the fragrance. We have a good selection of oils and fixatives for potpourri.

Fall is a good time to add lime to flower beds, vegetable gardens and lawns. If you haven't done a soil test, 50 pounds of lime per 1000 sqft. is fine. In most cases, any lime is better than none.

Cut flowers to enjoy in the house. Winter will come soon bring the beauty of your garden inside while you have the chance.

If you have problems with mice in your house, boat, camper or anywhere, try peppermint leaves or essential oil. Mice do not like it. Put the leaves in a lid or saucer. Put the oil on a cotton ball and put it in a lid or saucer. Replenish it throughout the winter. It should keep the mice away.

Fertilize your trees and shrubs in November or December with a good granular food like Holly-Tone. This allows the

fertilizer to get into the soil so it is available to the plant in the spring.

Also fertilize your lawn with a winterizer fertilizer. This food is specifically for root development. The healthier the roots, the healthier the grass. Healthy grass can choke out weeds and is more resistant to disease.

Start thinking about your Christmas shopping. I know that is a depressing thought, but its great if you can get some done early. We have lots of gardening and gift items. There are also good gifts for pets and their parents. We also have gift certificates.

If we have dry conditions in the fall, start to water perennials, trees and shrubs. You want them to be hydrated going into winter. If plants go into winter dry, they can die. Try to get everything thoroughly watered before mid-October.

Prepare new beds for next year so they are ready to plant in the spring. Mulch them with leaves or mulch. You can put Natural Preen on new beds before you mulch.

Fall is the best time to divide peonies. Make sure when you replant them that the shoots are no more than 2 inches below the soil.

If you have deer problems, start applying repellants in November. This should start training them to go elsewhere to feed for the winter. Hopefully if you start early, you shouldn't have to apply them all winter.

Christmas

I know it seems like it is a long way off, but it will be here before you know it. Paperwhites and amaryllis should be here the end of October or beginning of November. We are planning to have our normal selection of greens and poinsettias. Hopefully, we will be able to get most everything this year. If you need a quantity of greens, especially of one kind, please order them by the beginning of October. We can also start taking **kissing balls** orders now.

We will be scheduling our **Fresh Green Centerpiece** classes. If there are only a couple people, we can probably fit you in one of our scheduled classes. If there is a group of you, call and we can schedule a separate time for you. We can take up to 8 people in a class. We like to have at least 4 to schedule a separate class. We can start classes the week after Thanksgiving.

Spray any herbs or annuals you are planning on bringing indoors 3 times 1 week apart with insecticidal soap.

I can schedule some Landscape consultations in September. Give me a call if you are interested. 724 836-2255