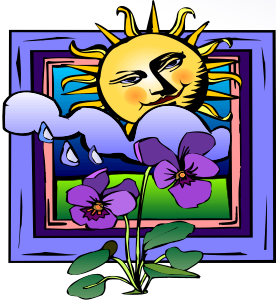




The Gardener's Year

Hopewell Nursery, Inc. & Garden Center

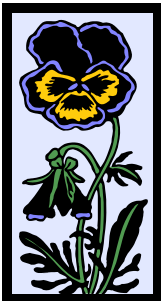
Volume 7, Issue 1
Please call for seasonal hours!



Greetings to our loyal customers and avid gardeners! As I sit here during another snow storm in late February wistfully recalling last summer's warm and sunny days I am glad for this time of respite and reflection. Yet with each passing day the sun lingers longer on the horizon coloring the skies with gold, soft pink, purples, and shades of blue reminding us of our gardens at full bloom in July. These vivid memories are quickly replaced by a yearning for Nature's signals that the earth is once again ready to receive our seeds of hope and inspiration for a season overflowing with creativity, the fruits of our labor, and the wisdom gleaned from her abundant lessons. The signs are faint but a learned eye can detect the swelling buds on many trees; especially on maples and magnolias. Tender green shoots of crocus, scilla, & snowdrops, bravely break through the crusty cold soil ready to burst into bloom heralding the early days of spring. Forsythia dot the countryside with boisterous clumps of cheerful yellow branches waving in the gentle spring breezes. Robins back from their winter habitat scour the landscape for bits of string or twigs eager to build their new abodes. It is time... wander forth and embrace wholeheartedly this offering of new beginnings.



Courage is not the towering oak that sees storms come and go; it is the fragile blossom that opens in the snow.-Alice M. Swaim



There are few examples that illustrate more clearly the anticipation of spring than the employees of a garden center preparing for a new gardening season! For weeks following the holiday season, our shop has been undergoing a transition from dormancy to a state of heighten expectancy for our annual onslaught of gardening enthusiasts! The store has been cleaned and reorganized; greenhouses are filling up with pansies, vegetables, and other new and exciting annuals & perennials.

New collections of pottery and containers are displayed along with a beautiful line of concrete statuary, fountains and garden ornaments from the Masserelli Company that even the most discriminating gardener would appreciate. The once bare shrub yard is filled with a large and varied shrub inventory and loads of newly dug shade and flowering trees are arriving daily. Many new items are scheduled to be delivered including a diverse herb and vegetable collection. Clinics have been programmed for the do it yourselfer with Rinox Pavers, and a possible guided tour of our greenhouses and production areas! As in previous gardening seasons our goal is to offer a pleasant shopping experience where you can find all the ingredients needed to successfully complete your gardening endeavors!

Inside The Gardener's Year



Detailed Early Spring
Gardening Task Page 2 & 3
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Rinox Pavers & Wall Stone Clinic!

Saturday, March 27

10:00a.m. to 2:00pm

Learn how to install
patios & retaining
walls.

Door prizes!

1 Pallet of Pavers with
2 bags of Techniseal
Polymeric Sand
\$100.00 Hopewell
Nursery Gift Card
Free hotdogs & sodas !
Call to register!



Hopewell Nursery's Early Spring Gardening Checklist!



Ever wonder why is my garden failing to produce healthy, robust plants? If you're covering all your bases with proper location, planting and watering, the problem is more than likely in your soil's composition. Every gardener should have a good working knowledge of their soil including the type of soil, (clay, loam, sand or a combination of these), what its ph is, and the levels of essential nutrients. While autumn is the best time to have your soil tested, it can still be done in spring. With this information you'll know what plants will thrive in established gardens and how to correct any deficiencies. Most soils in this area have substantial clay content and tend to become compacted making it a challenge for roots to develop and absorb nutrients so it's a good idea to avoid walking through your garden while it is still holding moisture from winter's rainy season. Once the soil dries out a bit you'll want to cultivate new beds or planting areas with a roto-tiller or double digging by hand to a depth of approximately 1 ½ feet. Work in abundant quantities of organic material. If roto-tilling isn't practical, just add plenty of the amendment of choice to the immediate area where you are installing plants. See us for a large assortment of soil amendments such as cow manure, peat moss and our popular Complete Planting Mix®. For larger projects inquire about our bulk, screened top soil which has added mushroom soil. Don't be tempted to add sand thinking it will help reduce compaction. Sand added to clay, combined with water & hot summer temperatures, will have you gardening with clay bricks! **To further enrich your soil, regular applications of fertilizer gives your plants the boost they'll need to start off their growing season and provide reserves for weather induced stress. Insure good bulb growth for future seasons by fertilizing your bulbs now with BulbTone®. Hollytone® is a great slow release fertilizer for all acid loving plants and should be applied starting in March. To reduce weeding, apply Preen®, a pre-emergent weed preventer along with additional applications throughout the season. To gain the pleasures of working in healthy soil, and reap the benefits of a beautiful and abundant garden, stop in soon for your soil amendments, Preen® products and specialty fertilizers for shrubs, trees, flower & vegetable gardens. As always, we're here to assist you!**

Early Lawn Care - *Lawns are the irreplaceable pieces of the fabric of American life & the welcome mat to our homes.*

We ask a lot of our lawns. Everyone wants an attractive yard to relax and play in but it takes some work to assure a healthy green carpet of grass in time for the barefoot season. Depending on weather, good turf management begins in late March well before the sounds of lawn mowers are heard throughout our neighborhoods. New lawn and over-seeding can be applied throughout the growing season but take advantage of spring's abundant rain fall and cooler temperatures and seed between March and May. Maintain a healthy lawn by aerating it every 2 years. This penetrates the thatch and opens up compacted soil for better air, nutrient, & water absorption. A lush lawn needs a higher ph level which lime provides. Before seeding new lawns, cultivate lime into the top 4-6 inches of your topsoil, at a rate of 100#/1000sq.ft. For older lawns, top dress with lime at the same rate, but only once every 3 years. We also recommend fertilizing with either 10-10-10 or 10-20-20 at a rate of 10-12#/1000sq.ft. This establishes a strong root system that supports healthy top growth. To help you compute the amount of product needed, it helps to know that an acre consists of 44,000 square feet. **We stock an assortment of Jonathan Green® lawn fertilizers, weed preventers (follow directions for appropriate times of application), garden lime, and an assortment of high quality grass seeds, erosion controls, and lawn tools.**



Perennial Plant Care?!? Now In March?

Most people plant perennials & ornamental grasses because they are a great investment and provide a changing palette of color and texture to your garden and landscape. Protect this investment with year round care starting with a good clean-up in early spring. Go ahead grab your pruners, rake, and digging spade, but beware, many perennials are breaking dormancy so you'll need to step and work carefully. First prune back all dead branches, cut ornamental grasses down to within a few inches, and remove any debris that may have collected over fall & winter. Once your perennials are cleaned up, the next task is to decide which plants could benefit from being divided into smaller clumps and transplanted to other sections of your garden. Older or more aggressive plants that are summer or fall blooming should be lifted and divided in spring while spring flowering perennials should be allowed to bloom and divided in late summer or early fall. A good way to determine if division would

be beneficial is to check the middle of the clump for a bare spot or if the plant is intruding on its neighbors. To make divisions, dig up the entire clump and using 2 shovels or forks, positioned back to back, split apart the clump into smaller pieces. A sharp gardening knife also works well. Even though this gardening task seems a bit tedious, it revitalizes tired grasses & perennials and results in more plants to either enjoy or pass on to friends! **Take advantage of this transplanting opportunity to add organic matter such as our Complete Planting Mix® or peat moss to your new installations along with a specialty perennial fertilizer.** Looking for some new perennials to add to your gardens? Starting in late March we'll be offering a large variety of new and traditional perennials in quart size containers along with an exciting array of Proven Winner® annuals and perennials coming in early April. Be sure to visit often for inventory additions and ask about special ordering!



Kitchen Gardens—Something for Everyone!

There's something about walking through a well tended kitchen garden that brings back memories of parents, grandparents, or neighbors who shared their abundant harvests. Many homeowners who have low maintenance landscapes enjoy the hands on commitment of having a vegetable garden knowing that nothing compares to the just picked flavor of assorted herbs, corn, string beans, tomatoes or zucchini. Increase the growing season by planting vegetables that prefer cooler weather such as spring onions, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbages, radishes, herbs, and an assortment of lettuces & peas. If space is limited, plant warm weather vegetables like tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, etc. in the same space immediately after harvesting the early season veggies and then do a succession planting again in the later summer or early fall when temperatures start to cool. Since these annual plants have a lot to accomplish in a short period of time, having enriched soil, adequate watering, and a fertilizing program in place is essential to growing a healthy, productive garden. **Our shop is well stocked with a nice assortment of flower & vegetable seeds-special ordering is available, onion sets, seed potatoes, heated indoor germination kits as well as other indoor growing supplies, fertilizers, soil amendments, and gardening tools! By late April or early May a nice variety of starter plants including heirloom varieties and herbs will be available. With a little effort & planning, it won't be long and you'll be enjoying the fresh picked flavor of your favorite vegetables and colorful cut flowers from your own kitchen garden!**

I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature's rebirth? - Edward Giobbi



Pruning is for everyone!



Nothing so dramatically affects the condition of your plants as a good and timely pruning. In most cases, pruning or thinning invigorates your shrubs and increases their bloom potential.

Although not a complicated task, one of the most important things to remember is the timing especially with flowering shrubs. Prune at the wrong time and you'll cut off this year's flower buds. A simple way to approach this job is to familiarize yourself with your shrubs' bloom period. Remember that plants blooming on "new wood"-(usually by late June), should be pruned back hard when they first show signs of new growth in spring. Some examples are Butterfly Bush, Clethra, Crape Myrtle, Spiraea, Purple Beauty Berry, and Roses. Spring blooming shrubs or those that flower on old wood, such as Azaleas, Forsythia, Fothergilla, Rhododendron, and Lilac should be pruned immediately after they've bloomed. Pruning before they blossom eliminates their flower buds and you'll

wait another year to enjoy them. Hydrangeas are more challenging to figure out. Lace cap Hydrangea (big, round, showy flowers) blooms on "old wood" and need to be pruned right after flowering. Panicle Hydrangea (whitish, pyramid shaped flowers), blooms on new growth, so prune back in winter or early spring. Oak leaf Hydrangea needs very little pruning since it's a bit slow to grow but any corrective pruning should be done in winter unless the deer do it for you. To get started you'll need a sharp pair of pruners and a pruning saw. First take a look at the overall plant. Has it gotten a bit tired looking over the years with many thick trunks or branches? If so, 1st cut out approximately 1/3 of this older wood for shaping and revitalizing. Then top the remaining branches to remove any winter kill. This same approach can be taken later in the growing season with your spring blooming shrubs. By maintaining an annual pruning schedule you'll have a pleasant task to look forward to and invigorated plants that bloom vibrantly.

Hopewell Nursery, Inc. & Garden Center

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We encourage you to email Monica at
hopewellnurserypa@dejazzd.com with
comments, questions or topics you'd like
us to address.

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