



Compliments of



Unique Garden Centre

Spring 2009

From the Ground Up ↑

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.

-Anne Bradstreet



Ah spring! At long last it is here, the days are longer, the breeze is warmer and the trees are starting to bud. Here at Unique Garden Centre, we have been busy getting ready for spring, and making plans to serve you better this season.

When you come in this spring, you will see us gearing up to make this year the best gardening year ever. Our experienced staff has returned. Some have made the long migration north just like the geese and the monarch butterflies. We are eager to help you with your planting hopes and dreams for this summer. We have also provided lots of garden ornaments and accessories for you to add that special touch to your special place.

As always, we look forward to seeing you this spring. Come in and browse through our greenhouses for annuals and perennials, many of which are locally grown. Walk up and down our rows of trees and shrubs and imagine how fantastic your yard will look with some new greenery. Consult with our staff about what to put where or make an appointment with our landscape designer and have your yard planned out. Most of all enjoy the fact that

"spring has sprung, the grass is ris"

and this is where the flowers is.

See you soon!

Watering Tip

Timing is everything

Water your plants early morning or late afternoon after the sun sets, to prevent water from evaporating and to maximize moisture absorption.





Five Herbs to Try This Spring



Dill

Dill is a quick-growing annual herb with fine, ferny leaves on hollow, upright stems. Dill's umbrella-like heads of yellow flowers are traditionally used for seasoning and occasionally fresh-cut flowers. Dill is very easy to grow preferring full sun and well drained soil. Both the leaf and the seed are used in cooking.

Summer Savory is an annual herb that can be seeded directly into the garden. It is spindly looking so pinch the growing points of this plant to encourage more prolific growth. It is used either fresh or dried in soups, sauces, marinades and in egg, meat or cheese dishes.

Summer Savory



Basil

Basil is a tender summer annual herb available in many different varieties. It is fairly easy to grow in well drained soil in a sunny location. For culinary purposes, look for basil with large tender leaves. It is also nice grown just as an ornamental plant. Use basil in tomato sauce, salads, soups and pestos.

Chives are very familiar in our climate. It is very hardy and seeds can be started indoors or sown directly into the garden when it is sufficiently warm. No harvest is recommended the first year allowing time for the plants to establish. Chives are best used fresh in salads, soups, sauces, marinades and casseroles.

Chives



Thyme

Thyme is a small perennial herb that grows from 2" to 12" high depending on the variety, of which there are many. They need to be grown in a sheltered area with lots of snow cover to survive our winters. As it is somewhat difficult to start from seed, propagation by root division or cuttings is easiest. Use thyme in poultry and fish dishes or tomato and cheese dishes and with many vegetables

Trying to decide what to put where?

These questions will help you choose which plant is a good choice for that empty spot.

1. Will its sun or shade preference be met?
2. Will it thrive in the soil type present?
3. Will its mature height & spread fit the space available?
4. Will it bloom, will it be in spring or summer and what is its bloom colour?
5. Does it produce fruit and is that desired for attracting wildlife or providing colour later in the season?
6. Does it provide other interest such as unusual foliage or bark, or fall & winter interest?

Spotlight on

Frances Williams Hosta

Hosta sieboldiana 'Frances Williams'

One of the many varieties of Hosta, this plant features large puckered blue-green leaves with an irregular chartreuse margin. It blooms in mid summer bearing dainty white bell shaped flowers. It prefers to grow in part to full shade and does not like to dry out. It will grow to about 24" tall and 48" wide, and is hardy to Zone 2.



Marleen Snowberry

Symphoricarpos x doorenbosi 'Marlene'

This is a compact flowering shrub that produces lovely whitish pink flowers all summer followed by showy pinkish purple berries that persist into winter. The foliage is blue green with rounded leaves. This shrub is very effective as a mass planting or in the border. It prefers a moist well drained soil , full sun to part shade, and is hardy to Zone 3.

Black Hills White Spruce

Picea glauca 'Densata'

This is a dense evergreen tree with blue-green foliage. It has a distinctive pyramidal form. Very tough and adaptable, it makes a good accent tree for a large yard. It is considered to be drought tolerant and is therefore useful in xeriscaping. It will grow to be about 35 feet tall and spread about 15 feet. A slow grower it can be expected to live for 90 years or more under ideal conditions, and is hardy to Zone 2.



Some Enchanted Evening

Imagine working all day and coming home in the evening to a garden that was as beautiful at night as it is in daylight. The secret is to add plants that glow in the twilight. Evening gardens utilize plants with white or light coloured flowers that remain open late as well as plants with variegated or silvery coloured foliage. Also there are many plants whose fragrance intensifies as the sun goes down. These are fabulous additions.

White petunias, the tall white flowering nicotiana, and datura are just a few of the annuals that not only glow in the twilight hours but also reward the gardener with their delicious fragrance. Some other annuals for evening gardens are: 4 o'clocks, moonflower vine and evening primrose.

Some perennials to choose for either their flowers or silvery foliage are artemesia, lambs ear, aruncus, anemone, shasta daisy, lupines, lilies, peonies, snow in summer and variegated hostas. Herbs such as lovage and fennel not only introduce texture to the night garden, they also reward the gardener with fragrance.

Some shrubs and trees with bright flowers or foliage are Bridal wreath spirea, Nanking cherry, cotoneaster, Annabelle hydrangea, white roses and silver leaf dogwood.

Remember, gardens have a whole new look in the moonlight. With a little planning, you can make nights in your garden enchanted evenings.

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