

# Patt's Garden Center Quarterly

July, August, September 2015

## Water, water, water!

This crazy heat wave is affecting everyone, especially our plants! Making a few wise watering choices will make all the difference in raising healthy plants this summer. When temperatures spike, be sure to water deeply and regularly. Choose a watering time (either early in the morning or late in the evening) to minimize water evaporation and maximize water absorption. Plants can only absorb and use nutrients until about 90 degrees, so often, trying to play catch up with in the heat of a 100 degree day, is a waste of both time and water. Build a reservoir around each plant to ensure water gets directly to thirsty roots instead of rolling off the rootball. Give a little extra to newly planted trees and shrubs and if your plants still appear stressed, give them a dose of Liquid Vitamin B1 which will help bulk up the root system and reduce stress. After you've tended your plants, be sure to stay hydrated yourselves!



We have a great selection of miniature garden accessories, bright, heat tolerant annuals to freshen up tired plantings and all the tools you'll need to get your projects done, so come visit us this summer! And, in the fall we'll have some great classes to offer and a fresh batch of nursery stock.

- Kate & the Staff at Patt's

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

### Saturday September 12th, 2015

Mark your calendars for the 22nd annual Customer Appreciation Day celebration at Patt's! It's time to thank you, our valued customers, with a day full of great sales, good snacks and exciting new varieties of plants just in time for fall planting. Don't miss it!



*We're working on our Rose order for 2014! Get your requests in as soon as possible so you don't miss out on your favorites!*

## Excellent Echinacea

We're huge fans of Echinacea, or Coneflower, here at Patt's. Echinacea is a wonderful group of plants fit for all gardeners, regardless of experience or ability. Each year we are presented with more varieties to discover, much like Lewis & Clark who first encountered coneflower on their journey across the American prairie. These hardy perennials come in such a wide variety of colors and sizes, surely there is one that is a perfect fit for your yard. Varieties like 'White Swan' and 'Magnus' will work hard for you in your yard with sturdy stems and a bounty of blooms. Newer varieties like 'Cheyenne Spirit,' 'Pow Wow Wildberry' and 'Raspberry Truffle' will add bright, unusual bursts of color to your perennial beds. All Coneflower are deer resistant, heat tolerant and make excellent cut flowers. Pair them with Lavender, Salvia and Coreopsis or give them a bed of their own and let them show off en masse.



### July Gardening Checklist

- **Water, water, water!** Summer months require more deep watering. Remember to pay special attention to containers, hanging baskets, newly planted trees and shrubs as most all need **daily** watering. Mulch to conserve water and keep down weeds.
- Continue to watch for aphid, scale, slugs and snails, spider mites and earwig damage.
- Remove spent blossoms from annuals and perennials to prevent seed production which saps plant energy. Cut back petunias and use a blossom booster fertilizer to encourage bloom on annuals and perennials.
- Divide bearded iris after bloom. Dig up the clump and discard the old leafless rhizomes at the center of the group. Then cut them apart at the joints. Trim the leaves back to 6-8 inch fans and set them out in dry shade for a day or two to allow the cuts to heal. Replant the divisions 1-2 feet apart and 1/2 inch deep. Water well.
- Keep up with the harvest of berries, vegetables and herbs. Pull out and compost spent plants.
- Plant flower beds for continued summer and fall color. Continue to pinch back fall-blooming asters and mums until mid-July. Fertilize with blossom booster every 2-3 weeks until buds begin to show color. When plants start to bloom, feed once a week.
- Turn and aerate compost pile. If dry, add water to keep moist.
- Tend strawberries. On Ever-bearing varieties, keep the fruit picked so plants will keep producing. After harvest on June-bearing, feed plants with 2lbs 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft.
- Cut your roses. Cut the stem just above a group of 5 leaflets so new growth starts. The leaves closest to the blossoms have three leaflets each while the leaves farther down have five. Cut as far down the cane as needed to maintain desired shape and size.
- Deadhead rhodies, azaleas by snapping off spent blooms at their bases being careful not to take new leaves also.

### August Gardening Checklist

- Sow vegetable and herb seed for fall and winter harvest. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, beans, peas, spinach, carrots and radishes.
- Cut back leggy plants that are past their peak bloom time and fertilize them.
- Fertilize roses for the last time no later than mid-August. Water at ground level or early in the morning to combat black spot, powdery mildew and mold. Prune climbers and ramblers after bloom.
- Continue regular and deep watering through dry weather.
- Control aphids, thrips, mealy bugs and white flies. Bait for slugs, snails and earwigs.
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### September Gardening Checklist

- **Remember Customer Appreciation Day is Saturday, September 12th!**
- Fertilize and aerate established lawns to keep roots healthy for winter. Reseed bare spots.
- Harvest and preserve fruits, vegetables and herbs.
- Plant dill, parsley and winter lettuce.
- Water trees and shrubs deeply and regularly during dry weather. Trim and shape hedges so they are wider at the bottom than the top.
- Harvest annual herbs before frost is expected. Allow perennial herbs enough time for re-growth before winter.
- Plant pansies, cabbage and kale for fall color.
- Plant new trees and perennials so they establish well by next spring. Right now, Patt's has a huge selection, so shop early!
- Cut back leggy plants and divide crowded perennials.



## Colorful Coreopsis

You'll love the long bloom season of these great perennials. From June until October, the frilly, brightly colored blossoms will attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds! You'll love the

cheerful flowers in shades of yellow and red. Ferny, airy foliage is an added texture bonus for your flowerbeds. Plant them with Salvia, Echinacea and Delphinium for a little cottage garden charm. Hardy to Zone 5 (-20).



## Agastache

Agastache are here! (It may sound like it a sneeze, but it's actually a great hummingbird attractant.) You'll love this long-blooming perennial with colorful flower spikes from summer through fall. Agastache, also known as Hyssop or Hummingbird Mint, has lightly scented leaves which make it an interesting addition to patio containers. The flowers are long-lasting in floral arrangements, too! Hardy to Zone 5 (-20).



## Summer Turf Tips

- ◆ Follow the '1/3 Rule' when mowing. Remove no more than 1/3 of the height of the grass at one time. Leaving your lawn a bit longer encourages deeper root growth, so the lawn needs less watering. And, the longer blades help shade one another to prevent burning under the intense summer sun. Use the clippings as mulch, or just leave the grass on the lawn.
- ◆ Use a sharp mower blade. Your mower will still cut grass when the blade is dull, but it won't do as good a job.
- ◆ Remember your remaining fertilizing schedule: 4th of July & Labor Day.

## Red Birds in a Tree

We're always on the look out for unique perennials to add to our collection, so it's not surprise we love *Scrophularia macrantha* 'Red Birds in a Tree'! This hardy perennial has loose green foliage topped with tubular red flowers that resemble tiny birds perched along a tall stem. The "birds" appear mid-June and persist all summer and into fall.

Hummingbirds will frequent your yard to visit



these unique plants, too! Plant it in full sun with your other favorite garden perennials.

## Planting For Mid-Summer To Fall Color

When the temperatures begin to rise and we are trying to keep even with the weeds and the watering, sometimes the last thing we want to think about is planting for mid-summer to fall color. However, it won't be too long before the weather turns cooler and we can enjoy the beauty of our planning and planting. Now is the time to think about drought tolerant and showy plants to add to your garden for summer color. Listed below are some of the many choices at Patt's:

- ◆ Gaillardia—summer-blooming, deer resistant, perennial. 'Arizona Sun' and 'Red Shades' are favorites for compact foliage and long bloom time.
- ◆ Salvia— Deep purple flower spikes attract hummingbirds. 'May Night' and 'Caradonna' and the new white variety called 'Snow Hill' are attractive garden additions.
- ◆ Sedum—both upright and groundcover varieties thrive in dry, hot spots. Try 'Tri Color' and 'Blaze of Fulda' for interesting texture and color.
- ◆ Ornamental Grasses—'Karl Forester', 'Morning Light' and others have interesting form and texture for flowerbeds and containers.
- ◆ Rudbeckia—summer-blooming, deer resistant perennial





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## **FALL HAPPENIN'S AT PATT'S**

**July 17th-19th:** Closed at noon on the 17th through the weekend for special event. Patt's family member Justin Patterson is getting married!

**September 12th: 22nd Annual Customer Appreciation Day**

**September 17th:** Fall Container Workshop. Join us Thursday September 17th for an informative workshop detailing how to transform your summertime containers into gorgeous fall displays. We'll use favorite fall flowers like Mums, Asters, Pansies and more. \$50 per person. Container and plants included in class fee.

**October 8th:** Miniature Garden Workshop. Join us Thursday October 8th for a whimsical evening crafting a miniature garden with tiny shrubs and blooming plants. You'll take home your own unique garden with plants and tiny accessories. \$65 per person. Includes container, plants and two \$5 accessories.

**October 22nd:** Gourdgeous Gourds. Join us Thursday October 22nd for a fun-filled evening turning unusual pumpkins, gourds and squash into delightful fall centerpieces. We'll use sedum, hens & chicks, seed pods, flowers and more to create one-of-a-kind centerpieces that will last for months. \$45 per person. Class fee includes all instruction and supplies.

Sign up at [www.lcsc.edu/ce](http://www.lcsc.edu/ce) under the Home & Garden tab or call (208) 792-2447.