

# Patt's Garden Center Quarterly

April, May, June 2016

## Sweet Smell of Spring

I always look forward to the Hyacinth bulbs that emerge each year next to my back door. I can catch a sweet whiff of spring each time I pass by and it just plain makes me happy. You'll notice many plants around town have been bursting into bloom, from the Flowering Plum and Magnolias to the Forsythia and Tulips, giving life to another year. It's our favorite time of year around here, and we have a beautiful selection of flowering trees and shrubs as well as perennial flowers, vegetable starts and soon, your favorite summer annuals. Much of what we sell is grown right here on site, and we're pretty proud of that. We have a great selection of miniature garden accessories, solar yard lights, humming bird feeders, tools and more. It's going to be a great year, so let's get growing!

- Kate & the Staff at Patt's

## Singin' the Blues

We love blueberries! Blueberry cobbler, pie, muffins, coffeeecake...oh, and the berries themselves are tasty, too. The actual plant is just as delightful as the fruit it bears.



Blueberries grow into shrubs 4' high or more and nearly as wide. Plants are riddled with white blooms in the spring, sprinkled with blueberries throughout the summer and the foliage turns bright red and orange in the fall

We offer several varieties of blueberries in several sizes. 1 gallon plants will produce fruit consistently within two years. But why wait? We have 5 year old plants that will give you a bounty of fruit this season.

Blueberries are self-pollinating, but as varieties ripen at different times, planting several kinds will provide you with fruit over a longer period. Varieties include **Duke, Reka, Blueray, Bluecrop and Chandler**. You may also like patio container-sized plants like 'Jelly Bean' and 'Peach Sorbet'.

## Container Vegetable Gardens

Want to grow some vegetables but have limited space? Try containers! The main advantage of growing vegetables in containers is that it puts you in complete control of the environment. This means you control the soil, the water, the nutrients and even the amount of sunshine (providing the containers are portable). By controlling these factors, you can provide your plants with ideal growing conditions resulting in higher and faster yields. With veggies, this gives you more to eat in a shorter time. Bonus: pests are easier to spot and control in container grown veggies as well.



The larger the container, the better. Half-barrels are ideal. Larger the plant, larger the container. All veggies require a rich, well-draining soil mix and steady supply of fertilizer—which is most easily supplied using any slow-release fertilizer—throughout the growing season. If this is your first year growing container veggies, here are a few easy plants to get you started: Salad greens (lettuce, arugula, spinach and mustard), peas, tomatoes, (remember to use fresh, sterile soil every year to protect tomatoes from blight, etc.) Try carrots or beets, bush beans. Remember to plant what you enjoy - no sense in growing radishes if you never eat them.

Nothing beats the taste of fresh home-grown vegetables. And the greater the variety of foods in our diet, the healthier we will be. Freshness and nutrition aside, the most interesting vegetables are often unavailable or expensive. Wouldn't you like to wander out into your own veggie garden and pick whatever you want to eat whenever you want it? Patt's will carry several varieties of container-ready peppers, tomatoes, onions, lettuce and more, so stop in early and stock up!

### April In The Garden

- ◆ Control root weevils now. New products available.
- ◆ Watch for slugs and snails. Control them before they multiply. Bait around new growth.
- ◆ When transplanting, use a solution of B-1 to encourage root growth and continue with a regular fertilizing schedule.
- ◆ Divide and rejuvenate perennials—share with a friend!
- ◆ Spray fruit trees after petal drop to prevent insects from ruining your fruit crop. Both chemical and organic options are available.
- ◆ Weed and thin strawberry beds.
- ◆ Apply rose systemic and fertilizer once 1 inch of new growth has emerged. Deep-water after feeding. Cut deadwood from climbing roses.
- ◆ Direct-sow or transplant cold tolerant herbs and vegetables. Thin early plantings of seedlings. Rotate crops yearly to replenish the soil and prevent the build-up of pathogens.
- ◆ Fertilize azaleas, rhododendrons, trees, shrubs, container plants, and fruit trees. Water thoroughly after fertilizing.
- ◆ If you have billbug damage (brown irregular shaped patches) to your lawn in the past, an April application of grub control may prevent the build-up of larva populations to damaging levels.
- ◆ Add yard debris from clean-up to the compost pile.
- ◆ Amend the soil with organic matter such as peat moss, compost, or well-aged manure.
- ◆ Now is the time to start adjusting the soil pH in order to change the color of your hydrangea blooms.
- ◆ Start to plant your potatoes and onions now.
- ◆ **Bontanical Baskets Workshop April 28th 5:30pm-7pm \$20. Join us in planting beautiful baskets!**

### May In The Garden

- ◆ Don't forget to leave May Baskets for your neighbors and loved ones!
- ◆ Pinch back fall-blooming chrysanthemums every two weeks through the months of May and June to thicken plants and delay bloom.
- ◆ Plant warm season crops and seed (melons, cucumbers, corn) when danger of frost has passed.
- ◆ Lightly fertilize newly transplanted seedlings.
- ◆ Beautiful Memorial Pots available week of May 20th.
- ♥ **Remember Mom w/a gift from Patt's! May 8th is Mother's Day!**

### May In The Garden, cont.

- ◆ Begin planting annuals. Stop by Patt's to find your old favorites, as well as new and unique choices.
- ◆ Continue root weevil control.
- ◆ Deadhead rhodies by cutting off faded blooms.
- ◆ Apply liquid herbicide when weeds are still small and actively growing to control broadleaf weeds in lawns.

### June In The Garden

- ◆ **Join us for the Musical Garden Tour June 18th!**
- ◆ Spray roses for black spot and powdery mildew. If you've had problems in the past, spray as a preventative measure. Fertilize roses.
- ◆ Thin and tie up brambles. Pinch runners on newly planted strawberries. Use netting to protect berries from birds. Top-dress established plants with fertilizer or compost.
- ◆ **Remember Dad with a gift from Patt's! Father's Day is June 19th.**
- ◆ Thin fruit after the trees naturally drop their unpollinated fruit. Thin triple clusters to doubles and double clusters to singles.
- ◆ Feed new and established lawns.
- ◆ Deep water (all the way through the roots) all plantings, including areas where automatic irrigation might not reach fully.
- ◆ Continue to pinch back mums.
- ◆ Harvest roses so the cut is just above a leaflet with five, not three, leaves. You won't get new growth (flowers) if you cut above a three-leaf leaflet.
- ◆ Clip hedges so they are slightly wider at the bottom than the top. If you shear hedges twice a year, do it early June and again in early fall. Avoid mid-summer pruning as it can lead to sunburn on tender shaded undergrowth.
- ◆ To keep groundcover and low perennials compact, shear them back after the blooms have faded. Water them well and scatter a complete granular fertilizer over the area.
- ◆ Snap the tender new growth of pines (called candles) in half to control their size.
- ◆ Deadhead faded blossoms to prevent seed from setting which reduces flowering.

## April is Arbor Month!

**All trees are 10% off for  
the entire month!**



Did you know...

- Shade trees can reduce utility bills by 15-50%.
- One tree can absorb the carbon dioxide produced by four cars every year.
- Healthy trees can increase residential property values by up to 15%
- Planting trees remains the cheapest, most effective means of drawing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Planting trees makes it more fun to spend time in your yard, too. Try fast growing, shade-making Maples, Ash or Honeylocust. Or, for a smaller, more ornamental look, try fruitless 'Spring Snow' Crabapple, unusual yellow blossomed 'Sunburst' Magnolia or red-leaved choices like 'Thundercloud' Plum and 'Forest Pansy' Redbud. Whatever the spot, we have a tree to fill it, so come visit us!

## **Container Clematis**

If you're a clematis fan, you're in luck, as there is now an entire family of Clematis that will thrive in containers, which means you can squeeze one in to just about anywhere in your landscape. The entire Boulevard series of Clematis have a small, but vigorous, compact habit that makes them suitable for containers, long bloom time from spring through late summer and a cold hardiness to Zone 4. Choose from four different varieties this year in shades of pink, lavender and deep purple.



## Washington-Idaho Symphony Musical Garden Tour



Gardeners, we're SO excited to announce that the Washington-Idaho Symphony is bringing back the Musical Garden Tour! In addition to touring three beautiful LC Valley Gardens, with ticket purchase, you'll enjoy a catered meal and grand finale performance from the Symphony among the beautiful blooms at Patt's. The Garden Tour will commence Saturday afternoon at 4pm. You can tour the gardens in any order you like, as long as you end up at Patt's around 6pm for the meal and performance.

This year you will enjoy the gardens of John & Sally Desimone, Dick & Sherri McMillen and Raymond & Betty Bloom.

Tickets will be available mid-May, so we will have more information shortly. Watch for advertisements on Facebook and here at Patt's. We're looking forward to this fantastic event and we hope you'll all join us!

## Botanical Baskets

Join us Thursday April 28th for an evening planting beautiful Botanical Baskets. You'll take home your own metal basket full of summer blooming annuals. We'll show you fun plant combinations as well as tips for fertilizing and keeping your plants healthy and blooming all summer long. Class is \$65, all supplies and instruction included. To sign up, call the LCSC Continuing Education office at (208) 792-2447, visit [www.lcsc.edu/ce](http://www.lcsc.edu/ce) and click on the Home & Garden tab, or call us at (509) 758-4104.





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## **Spring Happenings at Patt's**

**Mark your calendars because we have a fun few months ahead of us!**

**April is Arbor Month!** It's the perfect time to plant trees, so watch for sales on all Shade, Flowering and Ornamental trees throughout the month.

**April 2nd**—Don's Birthday. Stop by to wish our boss, Dad and head grower a **Happy Birthday!**

**April 28th: Botanical Basket Workshop 5:30-7pm. \$65 per person.** Join us for an evening spent planting a beautiful metal basket with blooming summer color. All supplies (and snacks!) included in the class fee. Sign up through LCSC Continuing Education at (208)792-2447.

**May 6-8th: Mother's Day weekend SALE.** Keep an eye out for advertisements in the Lewiston Morning Tribune and on Facebook.

**May 20th:** Memorial Pots are available. Come check out our selection!

**June 18th: Musical Garden Tour Grand Finale Dinner & Performance at Patt's. 6:30pm, ticket price will include admittance to 3 gardens, finale performance and dinner.**

**June 19th:** Father's Day weekend SALE. Watch for ads in the Lewiston Morning Tribune and on Facebook.

**Visit us often in April, May and June to check out our selection of vegetables, annuals and perennials grown right here at Patt's!**

**Spring Hours: Monday –Saturday 8am-5pm Sunday 10am-4pm**