

Patt's Garden Center Quarterly

July, August, September 2017

Summertime

It's summer time and the livin' is ...busy! We spend the summers at Patt's planning; planning our fall orders and especially our orders for Spring 2018, so if you have any special requests for roses, trees or shrubs, be sure to get them in to us by the end of July.

In the meantime, we have a beautiful selection of bright blooming Vinca, Moss Rose and other annuals to freshen up your containers to get your through the hottest part of the summer. We have plenty of pretty perennials to add to your flowerbeds as well. Plant a few Echinacea, Coreopsis or Hyssop and watch the pollinators and hummingbirds swoop in to spend the summer in your garden.

Also, thank you to all of you who have made our new Patt's Pooch feel welcome this Spring! We still miss Ali, but Posie fits right in here and it's been so fun to have a four-legged friend again.

Come see us this summer!

-Kate & the Patt's Staff

Hummingbird Heaven

We associate Hummingbirds with red flowers and the classic feeder filled with sugary red liquid, right? Turns out, those speedy little guys don't care what color the flower is, as long as the shape of the bloom is suitable to sink their beak into.



They love trumpet shaped blooms in all colors, from deep purple Salvia, to bright pink Monarda, even white Petunias. They thrive on nectar from many of our favorite garden plants, so plant plenty of flowers for them to enjoy. One of their all-time favorite plants is Agastache, or Hyssop. This hardy perennial is sometimes called 'Hummingbird Mint' as its long spikes of trumpet shaped blooms will entice Hummers near and far. Pair those colorful bloomers with the bright foliage of Coleus (Hummers even love Coleus blooms!) for a beautiful show all summer long. Supplement in between heavy bloom periods with a 4:1 sugar water mixture in your hummingbird feeders to keep Hummers healthy all summer.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday September 9th, 2017

Mark your calendars for the 24th 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!



Lawn Care

Summertime is hard on most everything, including your lawn. The warm weather invites critters from all angles—from unwelcome weeds burrowing beneath desired sod, to flying and chewing insects that take up residence in your soil. The best thing you can do for your lawn anytime of the year is to provide adequate water and fertilizer. Healthy grass keeps most pests at bay.

Lawn grasses and weeds do not thrive in the same kind of soil. Weeds love acidic soil, while lawn grass prefers slightly alkaline soil (native LC Valley soil is already alkaline). Tilt the scale in the wrong direction and you build weeds. Compost helps create a healthy, living soil from heavy clay with a high pH. Healthy soil is home to beneficial insects, earthworms and valuable microorganisms. Their presence indicates the soil contains materials that are decomposed thus releasing nutrients back into the soil. This helps keep lawn pests and diseases in check. Nitrogen is a good weapon for attacking weeds. Use a balanced organic fertilizer or corn gluten meal, a non-toxic food product that prevents the germination of weed seeds before breaking down into 10% nitrogen fertilizer.



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 9th!**
- 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.

Presto! A Pesto Garden

Basil still wears the crown as the king of pesto ingredients, and summer is the perfect time to plant a garden full. A pesto garden will be compact, so it will grow well in any sunny area, either in the ground or in containers. Grow as wide a range of basil varieties as you please, or narrow it down to one or two. A pot full of Sweet Basil alone will satisfy your cravings, but why not mix things up varieties like Dark Opal and Thai? Pinch back plants



regularly to keep them from flowering (unless you want to let a few of the Thai Basil flower, the honeybees love them!) and fertilize mid-summer to encourage them to produce through fall.

Lovely Lobelia

Call in all the Hummingbirds this summer with perennial Lobelia! You'll love the tall spikes of bright blooms in pink, red or blue on these tough perennials. The unusual flower shape resembles a bird in flight but has that perfect tubular throat that Hummers love. Plant them as the thrilling centerpiece in a container with Coleus and Salvia or in a flowerbed with Phlox, Delphinium or Salvia for a great summer show.



Mum's the Word

Join us this October for the Celebrate Fall Mum Show co-sponsored by the HiLo Chrysanthemum Society and the All Seasons Garden Club! Last year we displayed our friend (and HiLo President) Edith Cole's magnificent mums and what a sight it was! We're so excited to host Edith and the rest of the hard working society ladies as they show off their Mum collections and share tips for growing award winning Mums. The public is welcome to visit Patt's and browse the Mum Show October 12-14th during our regular business hours.



VINCA

Do your pots need a little sprucing up after a few weeks of hot weather? We have just the plant to fill those spaces: Vinca! This hardy annual thrives in our summer heat, blooming continuously throughout the summer and well into the fall. Bright blooms in shades of pink, red and lavender covering glossy green foliage will brighten your yard without any deadheading whatsoever! You'll love these hard working, deer resistant plants in all your flowerbeds and containers. Plant them with favorites like Coleus, Sweet Potato Vine, Purple Fountain Grass, Petunias...anything, really!



Rose Requests

Do you have a favorite rose bush you've been wanting to add to your collection? We're currently putting together rose order for 2018 and we're happy to take your requests! Does the sweet smell of 'Double Delight' hold a special place in your heart? Or the giant crimson blooms of 'Chrysler Imperial'? Or maybe you're anxious to try the newest introductions from Weeks Roses or Star Roses? We'll have them all, so be sure to come see us next Spring! Please get your requests in by July 31st.



Leafcutter Bees

Have you seen perfect circles chopped out of your plants this Spring? If you have, you've seen the work of Leafcutter Bees, prime pollinators for Alfalfa crops and many garden plants. A cousin to the Honeybee and about 2/3 their size, Leafcutter Bees are cavity dwellers that lay their eggs in existing holes (fence knotholes, bee houses); they do not create new holes or damage any structures.



Leafcutter Bees stay close to home, foraging for pollen and nectar within 300' of their nest. This proximity is great for summer yards and gardens. They carry dry pollen on their hairy abdomens, which leaves much of the pollen behind on each flower they land on. As a result, they're great pollinators and a friend to any home gardener. These bees are solitary, with each female doing all the chores. The males will fertilize the females and die within in two weeks.



In general, Leafcutter Bees emerge later in the summer, after temperatures have reached 80 degrees. Bee activity stops in late

August, so if you find their munching unsightly, be patient. They'll be on their way soon enough. You'll notice their nesting materials in existing holes facing the morning sun. The female covers each egg with cut bits of leaf. She chooses her leaf wisely, carefully. If she cannot find a suitable leaf in your yard, she'll move on and build her pollinating empire elsewhere. You'll notice she favors non-fibrous leaves like Roses, Lilac and Hosta.

Since female Leafcutter Bees do all of the work, she won't have time to defend her nesting hole, as well. This leaves her gentle and non-aggressive, though she does have a stinger, but will only resort to using it if she feels her life is threatened. She seals each egg chamber with cut leaf bits to protect her eggs from predators while she is away. Once she claims a hole, other Leafcutter Bees will honor it. She might visit someone else's hole by accident while looking for hers, but she won't lay eggs anywhere but in her own home.

Keep an eye out for these fascinating little pollinators!



PATT'S GARDEN CENTER

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Upcoming Events

July 29th— Special Closure for Wedding: Don & Sharon's son Bret is getting married! We will be closed all day Saturday July 29th so our staff and family can attend the festivities.

September 9th—24th Annual Customer Appreciation Day. Join us for sales, snacks & fun!

September 28th—Fall Container Workshop \$65. As your summer flowers fade, it's time to transition those patio pots for Fall! We'll show you fun combinations with long lasting fall annuals and perennials that will take your containers to the next level. You'll take your own unique container filled with great fall foliage and flowers.

October 12-14th—Celebrate Fall Mum Show sponsored by the HiLo Chrysanthemum Society and All Seasons Garden Club. Beautiful mums grown by local society members will be on display.

October 12th—Gourdgeous Gourds Workshop \$50. Join us for an evening turning unusual gourds and pumpkins into "gourd-geous" living centerpieces. We'll use colorful succulents like Sedum and Hens & Chicks to decorate the tops of our locally grown pumpkins, gourds & squash and accessorize with dried flowers, seed pods and pine cones.

November 9th—Holiday Wreaths with Airplants, \$65. Join us for an evening creating your own unique holiday wreath using a grapevine wreath form, live Tillandsia (air plants) and holiday accessories. You'll take home your creation to hang in your home or give to a friend.