

Patt's Garden Center Quarterly

July, August, September 2020

Summer Slow Down

Things are starting to slow down around here for the summer, but we're enjoying a little down time after a wild and crazy spring season full of changes and obstacles. When the going gets tough, the tough get gardening and that was evident this spring season. We're thankful for the peace that comes from digging your fingers into cool, rich earth and watching blooms unfurl and fruit set on and we're so happy to be able to help all of you enjoy that same pastime.



As we kick back and enjoy the spoils of our summer garden, we'll also be looking forward to our fall crop of mums, cabbage, kale and pansies and of course, all of the colorful and unusual pumpkins, squash and gourds from our friend Polly at Taylor Dennler Farms in Juliaetta. Also, keep an eye out for new giftware and garden items this fall, even new Posie merchandise!

- Kate and Patt's Staff

Lemonade in the Shade



Cool off this summer with a refreshing glass of Posie's "Lemonade in the Shade" strawberry lemonade drink mix! Easy to mix and delicious, kids will love this treat featuring our favorite fuzzball in her summer finest.

Keep an eye out this fall for Posie's hot cocoa and apple cider mixes, too! These tasty treats make great gifts and you can even keep the cute tin containers for housing all kinds of special treasures. Stop by and see our collection of Posie greeting cards, coasters and of course, her book "*P is for Posie!*" As always, the star is available daily for visits, photos and belly rubs.



"Like" us on Facebook to keep up to date on what's happening here at Patt's! We post pictures of what's blooming each day as well as upcoming events and workshops. And it's a great place to share your photos of successful planting projects!

Customer Appreciation Day

Saturday September 12th, 2020

Mark your calendars for the 27th 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!



Summer Snackin'

Savory Fine Foods Saltine Cracker Seasoning is one of our favorite go-to snacks!

This easy to make no-bake snack is as simple to put together as it is delicious. Simply add saltine crackers, seasoning and canola oil to a ziplock bag, shake to coat crackers and serve! For more intense flavor, let crackers rest in bag over night. We always use Saltines Minis because it gives you the illusion you can have more! Choose from Original flavor - a customer once described the flavor as a "sophisticated Cheez-it" - Dill, Cinnamon Toast and others. You can even use seasoning packets to season burgers, fajitas, chicken and more!



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 and 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.

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 we have a huge selection, so shop early!

What's Bugging You?



We've seen a ton of bug damage this Spring thanks to the cool, wet weather. It's important to know the signs of some of our most common pests in order to know how to treat them.

Earwig/Slug/Grasshopper damage: All three chew holes in leaves, flowers and fruit to cause unsightly damage. Treat with a granular bait containing carbaryl or bifenthrin for earwigs and grasshoppers, and use metaldehyde or iron phosphate for slugs and snails.



Aphids and Spidermites: These creepy crawlies remove sap from plants with their piercing-sucking mouth parts. A severe infestation can lead to leaf curl and yellow color. They love tomatoes, roses and many other perennials and shrubs. Treat with a liquid spray containing Spinosad, malathion or carbaryl.



Budworm: A particular pest for Geraniums and Petunias, these small green worms eat the tender buds before they can open, resulting in hole-filled blooms or no blooms at all. Treat with a liquid spray containing pyrethroids.

Rootweevil: This critter created a double-whammy effect on plants. The adult weevils chew perfect pinkish shear-like patterns in the leaves of plants while their larvae



munch on the roots. A systemic insecticide containing acephate is most effective. Watch for damage on their favorites like peonies, rhodias, lilacs, roses and holly.

How about Hostas?

Whether you call them Hosta, Plantain Lily or Funkia, hostas are the most diverse, adaptable and easy to grow plants for the shade. They have been around for centuries and varieties are always being discovered and developed. In fact, sometimes there are so many from which to choose that it is overwhelming. Hostas are almost indestructible and grow under a wide variety of conditions, making them the perfect plant for the shade...well, almost. Hostas do have a few enemies, especially slugs and deer. Once you've learned to work around those problems, you are free to choose from a wide array of leaf shapes, sizes and colors.

Generally, hostas will prefer light shade, receiving direct sun only in the morning or filtered through the trees during the afternoon. They also grow well in areas that are high light (lots of light, but not direct sun). Consider these things when you survey your yard for potential planting places. Hostas are tolerant of almost any type of soil, they will grow best in slightly acid soil high in organic matter. To get the most out of your plants, amend poor soils with a lot of peat moss and manure. While they are tough plants and will survive almost anything, hostas will do amazing things in healthy soil. Ideally, the ground should stay evenly moist. Under these conditions, hostas will grow faster, develop larger leaves and be much stronger and able to handle heat stress in the summer. They are relatively drought tolerant and can survive with what nature usually provides.

Hostas have fun names, too. Varieties like 'Curly Fries' and 'Island Breeze,' 'Country Mouse' and 'Humpback Whale' and so many more!





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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' 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', 'Rigoletto' and others have interesting form and texture for flowerbeds and containers.
- ◆ Rudbeckia—summer-blooming, deer resistant perennial
- ◆ Echinacea—blooms summer-fall with brightly colored flowers attractive to butterflies and other pollinators. Deer resistant. Often reseeds.
- ◆ Agastache—spikes of flowers in shades of coral and orange are hummingbird magnets.
- ◆ Hardy Hibiscus— giant dinner plant-sized blooms grace deep purple or dark green foliage from mid-summer through fall.

