



Growing Matters

Greetings

Thank you to all who passed my first newsletter on to family and friends and to those who provided me with names of individuals who would like to be added to Pippi's mailing list. Your feedback, encouragement and support have been heartwarming.

Preparations for the growing season are ongoing with the most recent accomplishment being the completion of the **2003 Descriptive Perennial Listing**. The listing includes a description of the plants available at Pippi's along with lots

of other useful information including the plants' light needs, moisture preferences, and whether it attracts butterflies and/or hummingbirds.

Please call or send me an email if you would like to receive a copy of the listing, and I'll make sure you get one (contact information is on the back). Best wishes for a happy spring and an enjoyable gardening season.

Vicky Hilleges

Garden Planning

Once you've decided you want to create a perennial garden and know basically what you want it to accomplish (hide an eyesore, create a boundary, add a splash of color to your yard), there are a number of things to consider. Among the items to contemplate are size, shape, and style.

Matching the size of your garden to your yard and home is important. A small garden can have a big impact in a tiny yard, but it may get lost in a large yard. To be effective, a large yard requires a bigger or bolder garden.

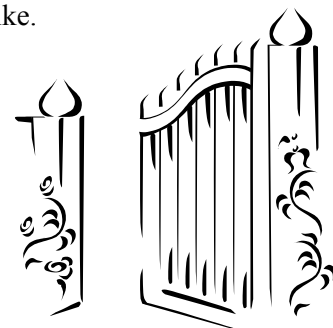
The shape of your garden makes an equally important statement. Gardens that are designed to be in harmony with the contours of the land tend to look more

natural. Use your land as a guide when laying out the size and shape of your garden. A formal rectangular border placed in a rolling landscape will not be as effective as one that is fitted to the natural contours of the property.

Your garden should also reflect the style of your home. If your home doesn't fit any particular style or era, it should express your personal style while matching some of the elements of your home. Is your home formal or informal? Do you like gardens that have a sense of structure, balance, and repetition (formal), or do you prefer a more relaxed, loose appearance (informal)? Not sure what your preference is, note what appeals to you in other people's gardens and cut pictures out of magazines to get an idea of what you like.

Garden Gate Chat

How do I achieve a natural look in my perennial garden? Arrange plants in combinations that enhance their colors, textures, heights, and shapes. Try planting perennials in drifts. Varying the number of plants in each drift and interspersing with larger accent plants will help to achieve the look you're searching for.



Pippi's Plant Spotlight



Penstemon digitalis
'Husker Red'

(PEN-steh-mon)
aka: Beardtongue

Striking, deep red foliage with extra large, pinkish-white tubular flowers borne on thin spikes. Superb for beds, borders, and rock gardens.

1996 Perennial Plant Association Plant of the Year.

- ❖ 30-34 inches high
- ❖ Sun to part shade
- ❖ Attracts hummingbirds


Pippi's Perennials
& Garden Services

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See Pippi's Spring Special Below

Perennials make great gifts! Not sure what to buy? Try a Pippi's Perennials gift certificate!

Attract Hummingbirds with Pippi's Perennials

A couple of years ago I had the honor of holding a hummingbird in the palm of my hand after rescuing the little jewel from under the peak of our front porch. More than once since then, I've had a hummingbird hover in front of me while I worked in the garden. There is no way to know for sure, but I like to think that it is the hummingbird coming back to say thanks.

While hanging a sugar-water feeder in your yard will attract hummingbirds, the best way to get them to linger is to plant their favorite flowers. I make sure to plant a variety of perennials for them throughout my gardens.

The box to the right shows perennials offered by Pippi's that will help you to attract these little bundles of energy to your yard.

- ❖ Buddleia (Butterfly Bush)
- ❖ Clematis
- ❖ Dianthus
- ❖ Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)
- ❖ Heuchera (Coral Bells)
- ❖ Iris sibirica (Siberian Iris)
- ❖ Lamium (Spotted Dead Nettle)
- ❖ Monarda (Bee Balm)
- ❖ Penstemon (Beardtongue)
- ❖ Phlox
- ❖ Pulmonaria (Lungwort)
- ❖ Salvia (Meadow Sage)

*Gentle day's flower –
The hummingbird competes
With the stillness of the air.
-Chogyam Trungpa*

Pippi's Locations

CNY Regional Market Authority
2100 Park Street
Syracuse, NY
7:00 AM - 2:00 PM Saturdays
Between May and October
or visit us at our home site at

12 Sherry Lane
Kirkville, NY 13082
Between April and October
(Sherry Lane is located off Fyler Road just past the intersection of Fyler Road and Bridgeport-Kirkville Road)

**Bring this newsletter to either Pippi's location
and receive 10% off your first purchase!**

Offer expires 6/30/03

Member Perennial Plant Association