



Growing Matters

Greetings

As Pippi's begins our second growing season, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to meet the needs of our customers.

I firmly believe in continuing education and striving to stay informed about advances in the perennial industry. In addition to being a member of the Perennial Plant Association which is dedicated to improving the perennial plant industry by providing education, Pippi's recently became a member of the New York State

Nursery/ Landscape Association (NYSNLA).

The NYSNLA is one of the state's leading trade associations and as such, makes available a wide variety of educational information. I look forward to taking advantage of the educational opportunities these organizations provide and hope to share this knowledge with our customers during the upcoming season. -Vicky Hilleges

Garden Planning

Thinking about adding a new perennial bed this spring? Preparing the site is essential to the overall success of your garden. Because perennials grow in the same spot for many years, it is important to do a good job of preparing the soil.

If your site is currently covered with grass, you will need to remove the sod or kill it either by covering it with plastic or applying an herbicide. Once dead, rake out the soil to eliminate all of the grass and weeds and level the area.

Most perennials prefer a well-drained soil. After the sod has been removed, work in three to six inches of organic matter such as manure or compost to improve the soil. This organic material will improve

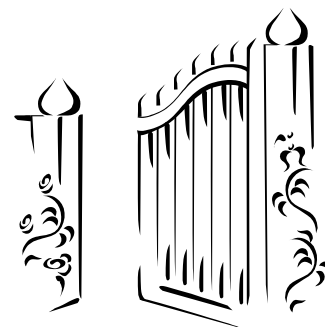
drainage in heavy clay soils or improve water-holding capacity in sandy soils. Then, apply low nitrogen fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 or an equivalent organic source at a rate of about two pounds per 100 square feet. Work the fertilizer into the top four to six inches of the soil.

Your local Extension office can provide you with information about how to test your soil to determine your pH and nutrient levels and give you directions on how to modify your pH or correct nutrient deficiencies, if necessary.

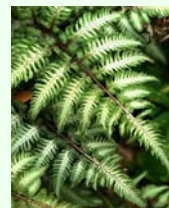
The time you spend improving your soil is the most important time you'll spend in the garden. It will repay you many times over as your garden flourishes.

Garden Gate Chat

I like the season long color that annuals provide. Why should I consider planting perennials? Perennials have many advantages. They don't have to be planted every year. They can be divided every few years to make more plants. Many perennials provide attractive foliage that adds interest even when they are not flowering, and finally, considering the fact that they come back year after year, they are a great value.



Pippi's Plant Spotlight



Athyrium niponicum
'Pictum'

(uh-THEE-ree-um)

aka: Japanese
Painted Fern

A low maintenance fern that makes an outstanding combination plant for adding color, texture, and habit to the shade garden.

- ❖ 12 to 18 inch fronds
- ❖ Part to full shade
- ❖ Well-drained, compost-rich soil
- ❖ Deer & rabbit resistant

Pippi's Perennials

& Garden Services

12 Sherry Lane
Kirkville, NY 13082-9212
315-656-0842
hilleges@twcnny.rr.com

Look for Pippi's
Special Offer
in the spring newsletter!

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." - Anne Bradstreet

Plant a shade garden with Pippi's Perennials

When deciding where to plant a perennial garden, don't overlook the cool, shady spots in your lawn. With a little care and planning, a shade garden can provide years of pleasure not only for the color and texture the perennials will offer but also as a place to cool off on a hot summer day.

Be sure to choose the right perennials for your conditions. Is the soil moist and fertile or dry with low fertility? There are

plants available for either site. Also choose plants with white or pastel flowers and light or variegated foliage. Light colors will stand out in the shade while dark colors will recede into the background.

The perennials listed at right thrive in shady conditions. Plan now to brighten up a dark area of your yard this spring. Contact Pippi's if you need help selecting the appropriate plants for your conditions.

"All through the long winter, I dream of my garden. On the first day of spring, I dig my fingers deep into the soft earth. I can feel its energy, and my spirits soar." - Helen Hayes

Pippi's Locations

CNY Regional Market Authority
2100 Park Street
Syracuse, NY
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Thursdays
7:00 AM - 2:00 PM Saturdays
May through October

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

- ❖ Alchemilla (Lady's Mantle)
- ❖ Aruncus (Goats Beard)
- ❖ Astilbe
- ❖ Bergenia
- ❖ Brunnera
- ❖ Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)
- ❖ Epimedium (Barrenwort)
- ❖ Ferns
- ❖ Helleborus (Lenten Rose)
- ❖ Hosta
- ❖ Lamium (Spotted Dead Nettle)
- ❖ Creeping Phlox
- ❖ Pulmonaria (Lungwort)
- ❖ Tiarella

Member:
Perennial Plant Association
New York State Nursery/Landscape Association