



Growing Matters

Greetings

I recently attended a program at Cornell University where I had the opportunity to hear Allan Armitage's (professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, and author of numerous books) presentation "Crazy Perennials for Crazy Gardeners and Other Foolhardy Folks."

The presentation as well as a follow up walking tour of the perennial trial beds at Cornell was not so much about hot new plant introductions as it was about developing a greater appreciation for and knowledge of plants we currently have available to us. What I enjoyed the most was that Mr. Armitage could tell a story

about each of the plants he discussed whether it be about the individual who introduced the plant, how the plant was used historically or how it obtained its common name. It was a little like listening to stories about family. Some were funny, some sad, and some just downright unbelievable. For instance, do you know why *Bergenia* is called Pig Squeak? I do.

Take the time to learn a little about the history of your favorite plants and I bet your gardening experience will be enhanced. I have found that the more I learn about plants, the more I love them.

-- Vicky Hilleges

Garden Planning

Many individuals have noted that it has been a challenge to garden this year due to the hot, dry summer we have had, and I would agree. However, challenges often present opportunities for growth and this summer has presented an excellent opportunity for us to grow as gardeners.

With greater awareness of plant needs and attention to plant selection, garden chores such as watering can be minimized or eliminated even during summers like the one we have experienced this year.

Growing native plants is one way to minimize the care required to maintain a beautiful garden. In a paper titled "Wildflowers: The Case for Native Plants" author and nurseryman Neil Diboll states "Native plants possess the advantage of

being adapted to the conditions of their region. For hundreds, if not thousands of years, they have survived and prospered. They are well accustomed to handling the climatic curve-balls nature throws their way."

Native plants have also developed coping mechanisms for almost every local bug and microbe, making them resistant to pests and disease. Less spraying means savings in time and money.

If you would like to learn more about gardening with native plants, pick up *Native Plants of the Northeast* by State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry professor Donald Leopold.

Garden Gate Chat

How much and how often should I water my new plants? *When plants are dry, water thoroughly so that the soil is wet several inches down to encourage deep rooting. Avoid the daily 'sprinkle.'* Water in the morning to minimize the likelihood of disease, and use a thick organic mulch to keep the moisture in the soil.

Pippi's Plant Spotlight

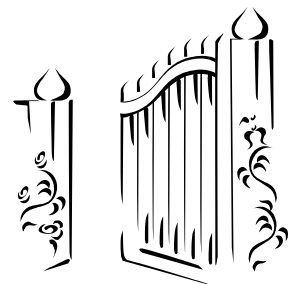


Aster novae-angliae

'Purple Dome'
(ass' ter)

Forms a solid, rounded mound of royal purple flowers. Terrific accent for fall-blooming grasses. The tall flower stems are excellent for cutting.

- ❖ 18 inches tall
- ❖ Full sun
- ❖ Well drained soil
- ❖ Attracts butterflies
- ❖ Native to eastern US
- ❖ Tolerates drought
- ❖ Pest & disease resistant
- ❖ Deer resistant
- ❖ Cut flower
- ❖ Zones 3 - 8



Pippi's Perennials

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Fall is for Planting

Go Native with Pippi's Perennials

In addition to the fact that native plant gardens conserve water and eliminate the need for pesticides, native plant gardens also

- increase biodiversity;
- provide habitat for a wide variety of creatures such as birds and butterflies;
- and, provide a home for many native

plants that are becoming increasingly rare in the wild.

At right is a list of plants native to the eastern United States (as identified by North Creek Nurseries, Inc.) now available at Pippi's. Add some natives to your garden this fall so you'll have less work and lots of beauty next spring.

Pippi's 'Fall is for Planting' Open House
Sunday, September 18, 2005
10 am – 4 pm
10% off all purchases ♦ Refreshments ♦ Display gardens

- ❖ Aster novae-angliae (New England Aster)
- ❖ Baptisia australis (False Indigo)
- ❖ Chelone lyonii (Turtlehead)
- ❖ Coreopsis
- ❖ Eupatorium purpureum (Joe Pye Weed)
- ❖ Eupatorium rugosum
- ❖ Helianthus (Perennial Sunflower)
- ❖ Monarda (Bee Balm)
- ❖ Penstemon digitalis (Beardtongue)
- ❖ Phlox stolonifera
- ❖ Rudbeckia (Black eyed Susan)
- ❖ Tiarella (Foam Flower)
- ❖ Tradescantia (Spiderwort)

Pippi's Locations & Hours (May – October)

CNY Regional Market Authority:

2100 Park Street
Syracuse, NY

Open:

- ⊗ **Thurs. 10:00 AM – 4:00^{+/-} PM**
(Shed A/Stall 18)
- ⊗ **Sat. 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM**
(Shed D/Stall 8)

Home Location:

12 Sherry Lane
Kirkville, NY 13082

Open:

- ⊗ **Fri. 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM**
or by appointment
(Sherry Ln. is located off Fyler Rd.,
¼ mile east of N. Kirkville Rd.)

Member:

Perennial Plant Association
Central New York State Nursery/Landscape Association