



Growing Matters

Greetings

Ahhhh, it is finally here. The long awaited and much desired *SPRING*. If you are as excited as I am about spring and the upcoming growing season, you may enjoy looking at Pippi's new web site www.pippis.net. Among the information you will find on our web site is Pippi's *2004 Descriptive Perennial Listing*. This is much more than just a list of plants available at Pippi's. Each plant description includes the botanical name and pronunciation, the common name, the plant hardiness zone, the plant height,

when it typically blooms, and a general description. You will also find helpful symbols representing the plants preferred growing conditions, if it attracts butterflies or hummingbirds or whether the plant is deer or rabbit resistant.

Selecting the right plant for your conditions is one way to get more reward and enjoyment from your gardening experience. I hope the information you find on the Pippi's web site will help make this possible.

--Vicky Hilleges

Garden Planning

In the Garden Planning section of the last newsletter, preparation of the garden site was discussed including how to amend the soil to give your plants the best chance for success. Previous articles have also stressed picking the right plant for your growing conditions (sunny, shady, moist, or dry) and selecting plants with staggered flowering times to extend the period of bloom in your garden.

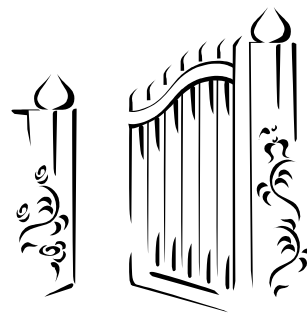
The gardener's golden rule is to "Match the plant to the site." Once you have a list of perennials that you think will thrive under your conditions, note the color, bloom time, height and spread of every plant. Although this can be time consuming, it will help you decide which

plants you ultimately want to use in your garden and how you want to combine them. You may find many plants that fit your environmental conditions, but only a few that are compatible with the style of garden you wish to create. Some plants may be too bold, too fussy, or too aggressive. Taking the time to know your plant's growth habit will help ensure success.

If all this sounds a bit overwhelming, there are some beautifully illustrated resources out there to help you make stunning plant combinations. Two of my favorites are *Better Homes and Gardens, Choosing Plant Combinations*, and *Perennial Combinations* by C. Colston Burrell.

Garden Gate Chat

What are the advantages of mulching my perennial garden? *Covering your soil with an organic mulch helps to control weeds, maintain an even soil temperature, conserve moisture, prevent runoff, and will enrich the soil as it breaks down. Apply mulch to a depth of two to three inches being careful to reduce the amount of mulch directly at the crowns of perennials and woody plants to prevent them from rotting off during wet weather.*



Pippi's Plant Spotlight



Alchemilla mollis
(al-keh-MILL-uh)

aka: Lady's Mantle

An easy to grow early bloomer with light green fan shaped foliage. The tiny yellowish-green star-shaped flowers can be used for dried arrangements.

- ❖ 18 inches
- ❖ Sun to shade
- ❖ Good container plant or ground cover
- ❖ Attracts butterflies
- ❖ Deer & rabbit resistant
- ❖ Zones 3-7

Pippi's Perennials

& Garden Services

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

See Pippi's
Special Offer
below!



"And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with daffodils."...William Wordsworth

Cover lots of ground with Pippi's Perennials

There are many plants that can be used as ground covers. When deciding on a ground cover, it is important to examine why one is desired so the best plant can be selected.

Some of the most common reasons for planting ground covers are to eliminate the need to mow a steep slope, to reduce erosion, or to provide something green where grass wont grow such as under the canopy of a large shade tree.

When selecting a ground cover consider how high you would like the plant growth to be. Ground covers can

range from only an inch or two tall (thyme) while others such as daylilies grow much taller.

Just as you would when selecting a perennial for you garden, be sure to note whether the spot is in shade or sun, in moist or dry soil. Some groundcovers will grow better in one place than another.

The perennials noted at right can all be used as ground covers. There are enough options listed to provide a good ground cover for almost any situation. Contact Pippi's if you need help selecting the appropriate plant for your situation.

- ❖ Ajuga (Bugleweed)
- ❖ Alchemilla (Lady's Mantle)
- ❖ Asarum (Wild Ginger)
- ❖ Cerastium (Snow in Summer)
- ❖ Epimedium
- ❖ Ferns
- ❖ Geranium
- ❖ Hemerocallis (Daylily)
- ❖ Heuchera (Coral Bells)
- ❖ Heucherella (Foamy Bells)
- ❖ Hosta
- ❖ Lamium (Spotted Dead Nettle)
- ❖ Phalaris (Ribbon Grass)
- ❖ Phlox
- ❖ Potentilla
- ❖ Sedum
- ❖ Sempervivum (Hens & Chicks)
- ❖ Stachys (Lambs Ears)
- ❖ Thymus

Hope to see you at the Regional Market starting May 1st.
Present this newsletter & receive 10% of your first purchase!

Pippi's Locations

CNY Regional Market Authority
2100 Park Street
Syracuse, NY
10 AM – 6 PM Thurs. **Shed B/Stall 37**
7 AM – 2 PM Sat. **Shed D/Stall 8**
May through October

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

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