



# Growing Matters

## Greetings

The thought of spring with little bits of green pushing up through the earth makes me want to do a little dance. I have come to realize in writing these quarterly newsletters that coincide with the changing of the seasons, that I truly love each time of year.

That wasn't the case when I was younger, before I realized that I was a gardener. Back then I couldn't see past the dirty snow, sand strewn roads, and cold

rains that to me were synonymous with spring.

Now I am filled with anticipation, and after many months of viewing my gardens from the window, my days again start with a walk around the gardens to see what new plant is starting to peak out of the ground. My private reward for the labors of the previous seasons and a gentle reminder of the cycle of life.

-Vicky Hilleges

## Planning the Perennial Cutting Garden

Want to fill your home with the wonderful color and scents of the garden? If the answer is yes, then maybe a cutting garden is for you.

Before you decide, consider how much space, time and money you would like to devote to the project. Even the smallest cutting garden requires a commitment of resources. However, there are steps you can take to maximize the return on your investment.

Planning is the key. Choosing a sunny spot with good (or amended) soil and convenient access to a water source is a good start.

Once you've picked your site, draw up a scaled plan showing existing features. Lay out your beds and paths with straight lines, basic geometric shapes, and paths with generous

proportions to make working in your garden easier.

Choose plants appropriate for your garden conditions, remembering to incorporate plants with lots of interesting foliage as well as flowers. Then, locate your chosen plants on your scaled drawing concentrating on color and foliage combinations you find pleasing.

Plan on placing plants closer together than you would in a normal garden. This encourages longer stems for cutting and also minimizes holes left in the garden from regular harvesting.

If the thought of planning a cutting garden, not to mention caring for it, seems overwhelming to you, don't fret. Fresh cut flowers are now available at Pippi's. See the flip side of the newsletter for a partial listing.

## Garden Gate Chat

**How do I care for my ornamental grasses?** An annual grooming at the end of winter or early spring is all most grasses need. For deciduous grasses that have lost all of their color, cut the stems down close to the ground; leave 1 to 2 inches for smaller grasses and 5 to 6 inches for larger grasses such as miscanthus. Evergreen grasses should only be given a light trim to remove scorched tips.

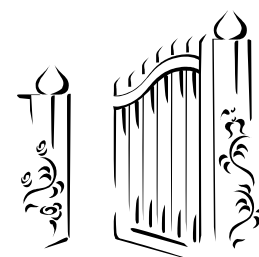
## Pippi's Plant Spotlight



**Baptisia australis**  
(bap-TEEZ-ee-uh)  
aka: Blue False Indigo

Baptisias produce colorful 1' spikes of pea-like indigo-blue flowers over blue-green foliage in late spring. Dried seed pods add interest to the late-summer and fall garden, and are also attractive in arrangements. They are tough, long-lived, low-maintenance perennials for the back of the border. Baptisias grow slowly at first but eventually spread to form huge clumps with deep taproots that are difficult to transplant.

- ❖ Sun to light shade
- ❖ 3' -4' tall rounded mound
- ❖ Drought tolerant
- ❖ Deer & rabbit resistant
- ❖ Zones 3-9



  
**Pippi's Perennials**  
& Garden Services

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[www.pippis.net](http://www.pippis.net)

New for 2005:

**Pippi's will be open Fridays**  
at our home location!

"If you would have a lovely garden, you should live a lovely life" - 1930

## Fresh-Cut Flowers Available at Pippi's Perennials

New for 2005, Pippi's will be offering a variety of field-grown, fresh-cut flowers. Placing fresh-cut flowers in your home or on your desk at work is a quick and inexpensive way to brighten your day. Fresh flowers are also a lovely way to let friends know you are thinking of them.

Next time you or someone you care about is in need of a pick-me-up, stop in Pippi's home or market location and pick

up some fresh-cut flowers. Listed at right are some of the cut flowers that will be available at Pippi's this season.

Love fresh cut flowers but don't want to pay the price, consider planting a cutting garden. All of the plants at right are also available in containers. See the front of this newsletter for tips on planting a cutting garden and Pippi's web site [www.pippis.net](http://www.pippis.net) for a complete listing of plants and prices.

- ❖ Achillea (Yarrow)
- ❖ Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle)
- ❖ Anthemis (Golden Marguerite)
- ❖ Echinacea (Coneflower)
- ❖ Echinops (Globe Thistle)
- ❖ Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)
- ❖ Lavandula (Lavender)
- ❖ Leucanthemum (Shasta Daisy)
- ❖ Liatris (Gayfeather)
- ❖ Monarda (Bee Balm)
- ❖ Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susan)
- ❖ Salvia (Meadow Sage)
- ❖ Scabiosa (Pincushion Flower)
- ❖ Sedum (Stonecrop)

Pippi's will be kicking off June is Perennial Gardening Month with a  
**Grand Opening Sale at our home location Sunday, June 5, 2005!**

- ⊗ 10% discount on all purchases
- ⊗ Refreshments
- ⊗ Pippi's garden tours & tips

## Pippi's Locations & Hours (May - October)

### CNY Regional Market Authority:

2100 Park Street  
Syracuse, NY

### Open:

- ⊗ **Thurs. 10:00 AM - 6:00 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**  
(Sherry Ln. is located off Fyler Rd., 1/4 mile east of the Fyler Rd. & Bridgeport-Kirkville Rd. intersection)

Member:

Perennial Plant Association  
Central New York State Nursery/Landscape Association