



# Growing Matters

## Greetings

Let me share with you a little bit of a mother's joy. The other day on the way home from swim lessons, my seven year old daughter, Nicole (aka Pippi), asked me what I would think of her starting her own business. I contained my exuberance and casually asked her what type of business she was considering.

Her response was that she thought she would like to grow and sell plants like me. At that point I had to pause for a moment to

keep tears from welling up in my eyes because, WOW, isn't that what we all want... for our kids to think that what we do is cool enough to emulate.

Nicole has since poured over my supply catalogs picking just the right plants to grow for her customers. She tells me she plans to have her own table at the market, so please be looking for her. Her selection may be limited, but I expect that her growth potential is boundless.  
-Vicky Hilleges

## Garden Inspiration

Looking for inspiration to create or renovate your garden this year? There are a number of approaches available to get you on the path to garden fulfillment.

Before you set out on your search for inspiration, have an idea of what type of gardening you would like to pursue. There is so much information available, it is easy to get overwhelmed if you don't create some parameters for your search. Are you interested in planting a drought tolerant garden, a garden of natives, a water garden? Once you have an idea, head to your local library or book store. Both have an abundance of magazines and books devoted to all types of gardening. Be a kid again and just look at the pretty pictures.

When the opportunity arises, visit private and public gardens. A number of local communities have private garden

tours in the spring. Not only will you have the opportunity to view a variety of plant materials, and garden styles, you may also have the opportunity to talk to the gardeners about what inspired them. Watch you local paper for notices.

One public garden worth the drive is Cornell Plantations located in Ithaca. It is comprised of an arboretum, a 25 acre botanical garden and extensive natural areas. Cornell Plantations provides a fantastic opportunity to view a number of specialty gardens, including one created primarily for winter interest.

Also, visit your local nurseries. Many, including Pippi's, have display gardens highlighting the plants available for sale. Inspiration can come from a variety of sources. Where will you find yours?

## Garden Gate Chat

**When should I divide my perennials?** *Springtime or early fall are both good times for dividing perennials. In general, spring is best for dividing plants that flower in mid or late summer. Plants that bloom in spring such as peonies, columbine, bleeding heart, and euphorbia are best divided in September or October. Dividing plants also provides the opportunity to enrich your soil by adding organic matter such as compost or manure.*

## Pippi's Plant Spotlight

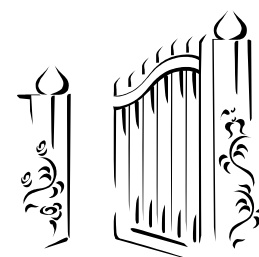


**Nepeta xfaassenii**

'Walkers Low'  
(NEP-uh-tuh)  
aka: Catmint

The gray-green, aromatic foliage of catmint gives way to a plethora of soft lavender-blue flowers that are produced on wirey stems over a long period starting in early summer. Catmints are lovely along walks or as edging for beds. It is easy to transplant and propagate by tip cuttings.

- ❖ Full sun
- ❖ 2' tall rounded mound
- ❖ Prefers average, well drained soil
- ❖ Good cut flower
- ❖ Attracts butterflies
- ❖ Attracts hummingbirds
- ❖ Deer & rabbit resistant
- ❖ Zones 5-9



# Pippi's Perennials

12 Sherry Lane  
Kirkville, NY 13082-9212  
315-656-0842  
[hilleges@twcny.rr.com](mailto:hilleges@twcny.rr.com)  
[www.pippis.net](http://www.pippis.net)

See Pippi's website for a list of hardy waterplants available this spring.

April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. - William Shakespeare

## Native Shrubs Identified at Pippi's Perennials

In response to the increasing awareness and demand for native plants, we are working harder to identify the natives within our midst. In addition to the growing number of native grasses and wildflowers available at Pippi's, we thought you would like to know that five of the shrubs currently offered are also native to the northeast (see list at right).

Two of the five native shrubs available this year are new for us. Little Honey Oakleaf Hydrangea is a distinctive new oakleaf with foliage that emerges gold, changes to chartreuse as the season progresses and ends with brilliant red autumn foliage. It prefers sun or part sun and reaches a mature height of 3'-4'.

Physocarpus (Ninebark) 'Coppertina' is a new hybrid that flushes an attractive copper in spring and transforms to a rich red in summer. It prefers full sun and reaches a mature height of 6'-8'. Consider bringing home a native this year.

- ❖ *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oakleaf Hydrangea) 'Little Honey'
- ❖ *Itea virginica* (Virginia Sweet Spire) 'Little Henry'
- ❖ *Physocarpus* (Ninebark) 'Coppertina'
- ❖ *Sambucus* (Elderberry) 'Black Beauty'
- ❖ *Sambucus* (Elderberry) 'Sutherland Gold'

Celebrate *June is Perennial Gardening Month* at Pippi's  
**Open House, Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 am-4 pm**  
10% discount on all purchases ❖ Refreshments ❖ Display gardens

## Pippi's Locations & Hours (May 1st – October 14th)

### CNY Regional Market Authority:

2100 Park Street  
Syracuse, NY

#### Open:

**Thurs. 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM<sup>+/-</sup>**

**Sat. 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

### Home Location:

12 Sherry Lane  
Kirkville, NY 13082  
(Sherry Ln. is located off Fyler Rd., ¼ mile east of N. Kirkville Rd.)

#### Open:

**Fri. 10:00 AM-6:00 PM**

**Or By Appointment or Chance**

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

