



# Growing Matters

## Greetings

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in your community. There are many ways each of us can contribute to the overall betterment of our environments. We each have our individual strengths and weaknesses. Sometimes we take our gifts for granted or we just don't realize how significant they are. As gifts go, I didn't consider being a gardener as being up there on the scale of importance.

I've come to realize though, that adding beauty to our landscapes through

gardening is incredibly valuable. Plants add natural richness and strength to our surroundings. As you read the article below about rain gardens, you'll discover that gardens, if designed properly, can add more than beauty to our environment, they can help to keep our streams and lakes cleaner.

Every little bit helps and collectively, especially when we're talking about stormwater runoff, our contributions can make a big difference.

-Vicky Hilleges

## Planning a Rain Garden

Rain gardens are one of the fastest growing areas of interest for home landscapers. You may be wondering what they are and why you would want one.

Rain gardens are a relatively new concept that developed in the 1990's. The gardens are designed specifically to soak up rain water that flows off roofs, sidewalks and other surfaces. As rainwater travels over these surfaces it picks up all kinds of pollutants including fertilizer, pesticides, bacteria from pet wastes and road salts to name a few. Rain gardens capture and filter the rainwater before it has a chance to runoff into streams and lakes, keeping our water cleaner and

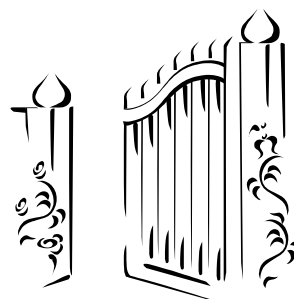
healthier.

If the natural beauty and function of the rain garden aren't enough motivation to include one in your landscape, consider the fact that these gardens also provide food and habitat for birds and butterflies. For more information on how to plan, prepare and plant a rain garden contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County at 315-424-9485 or visit the water quality section of their website at <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/onondaga>.

Also, see the article on the back of this newsletter for a list of recommended rain garden plants available at Pippi's.

## Garden Gate Chat

***When and how do I divide my water lilies?*** Dividing water lilies is easy and should be done in the spring or early summer so that the plants will have plenty of time to recover and harden off before winter. Remove the plant from the pot by rolling the pot on its side. Wash the soil from the rhizomes and look for the "eyes" that have a few leaves and roots. Using a sharp knife, cut out the eye along with the leaves and roots and plant in fresh soil. Place the division so that the leaf sprouts are just at the soil level. Water the pot thoroughly and finish off with a layer of pea gravel being careful not to cover the plant's crown.



## Pippi's Plant Spotlight



*Panicum virgatum*  
'Shenandoah'

Shenandoah switch grass has deep green foliage that takes on red hues by mid summer. The color becomes more pronounced in the late summer and fall when it is topped with rosy red flower heads.

- ❖ Sun
- ❖ 4' tall
- ❖ Tolerant of a wide range of soil
- ❖ Native
- ❖ Zones 2-9

# Pippi's Perennials

perennials • waterplants • shrubs

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)

A garden is the best alternative therapy. -Germaine Greer

## Plant a Rain Garden with Pippi's Perennials

Whether you are looking for plants to fill your rain garden or are looking for a few low maintenance plants to add to your perennial border, Pippi's is the place to shop. The plants at right are tolerant of both wet and dry conditions, making them excellent choices for the rain garden as well as the perennial border.

Remember to select plants with a variety of heights, textures, and bloom times and be sure to choose species appropriate for the degree of sun or shade on your site. You'll be rewarded not only with knowing you are doing something good for the environment, you'll also be providing food for birds and butterflies.

Celebrate *June is Perennial Gardening Month* at  
**Pippi's Open House**  
Sunday, June 10th, 10 am-4 pm  
10% off all purchases ❖ Refreshments ❖ Display Gardens

- ❖ Chelone (Turtlehead)
- ❖ Cimicifuga (Bugbane)
- ❖ Echinacea (Purple Coneflower)
- ❖ Eupatorium (Joe Pye Weed)
- ❖ Liatris (Gayfeather)
- ❖ Lobelia (Cardinal Flower)
- ❖ Monarda (Bee Balm)
- ❖ Panicum (Switch Grass)
- ❖ Rudbeckia (Black Eyed Susan)
- ❖ Solidago (Goldenrod)
- ❖ Athyrium (Fern)
- ❖ Carex (Sedge)

## Pippi's Locations & Hours

**CNY Regional Market Authority:**  
2100 Park Street  
Syracuse, NY

**Open: May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Oct 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thurs. 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM<sup>+/-</sup> (Shed A/18)**  
**Sat. 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Shed D/10&12)**

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

**Open: April 20<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Fri. 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**Or By Appointment or Chance**



Member:

Perennial Plant Association  
New York State Nursery/Landscape Association