



# Growing Matters

## Greetings

For the past two years Pippi's has sold primarily at the Regional Market in Syracuse. This year we decided to open our home location on Friday's from 10 am to 6 pm. To kick off this new venture, we held a Grand Opening Sale on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

I experienced a great deal of anxiety prior to the event... would anyone come? Would anything be blooming in my gardens? Would the nursery plants be rooted enough to sell? Would I have enough of the right kind of refreshments?

Finally, the big day arrived and so did

family, friends, acquaintances, and lots of friendly new faces. It was one of those hot, humid days we've had this spring but still people came. The gardens were enjoyed even though they weren't in full bloom (isn't that what I'm always telling people, learn to appreciate their foliage and texture). Refreshments were consumed, and plants were purchased.

The day was a wonderful success. My heartfelt thanks go out to all who came and participated in this special event.

-- Vicky Hilleges

## Garden Planning

Water gardening took me by surprise. As the popularity of water gardening escalated, I remained indifferent.

That changed last year when my husband and I inherited an old hand pump from a loved one. Hand pumps make great garden ornaments by themselves, but we felt this one needed to be more. When my husband suggested a pond, I was skeptical to say the least.

We had an area behind the garage that could provide the grade necessary to construct a stream and pond. We discussed the possibilities and although reluctant at first, the plan took shape.

The hand pump now spills water into a

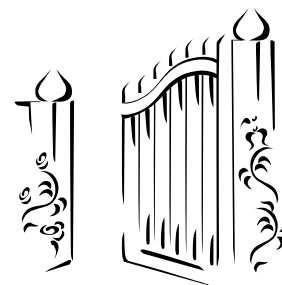
pool that flows into a stream with two small waterfalls before cascading over the main waterfall into the pond.

The pond has become the focal point of our yard and is loved by creatures of all shapes and sizes. Frogs, toads, butterflies, birds, children and adults alike are drawn to the splashing water.

Water gardening can be as simple or complex as you want it to be. Stop in your local library or book store and pick up a book to find out more about the wonders of water gardening and how you may be able to add excitement to your home by adding a water feature.

## Garden Gate Chat

**The top half of my Russian Sage is twiggy. Should it be trimmed?** *Russian sage (Perovskia) is a shrubby perennial that grows 3'-5' tall with gray-green leaves and powder-blue flowers that bloom for over a month in summer. In our northern climate, the plant often dies back to the soil in winter but will resprout from the roots. Dead wood can be removed anytime, but to avoid the twiggy look next spring, trim the plant to 1' after the first hard frost.*



## Pippi's Plant Spotlight



Lobelia x  
'Ruby Slippers'  
(low-BEE-lee-uh)

Erect spikes of velvety ruby red flowers.

Lobelias are best suited to moist-soil gardens, especially along ponds and streams. Combine them with Japanese iris, astilbes, and ferns.

- ❖ 4 feet tall
- ❖ Light to partial shade
- ❖ Prefers moist soil
- ❖ Cut flower
- ❖ Attracts hummingbirds & butterflies
- ❖ Zones 4 - 8

# Pippi's Perennials

12 Sherry Lane  
Kirkville, NY 13082-9212

315-656-0842

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



*June is Perennial Gardening Month*

## Attract Dragonflies with Pippi's Aquatics

Whether your pond or water feature is big or small, consider adding plants. Plants soften the water's edge and tie the pond to the surrounding landscape. They aid in the biological stability of the pond by adding oxygen to the water and consuming harmful or algae-feeding nutrients in the water. But best of all, plants attract a variety of winged friends

including birds, butterflies, hummingbirds and even dragonflies. Dragonflies provide an added benefit; these voracious eaters consume up to 200 mosquitoes a day.

At right is a list of hardy water plants now available at Pippi's. Consider adding plants for the health of your water garden and for the enjoyment they will bring you and a variety of other creatures.

- ❖ Acorus (Sweet flag)
- ❖ Chelone (Turtlehead)
- ❖ Iris laevigata (Japanese water iris)
- ❖ Lobelia
- ❖ Lysimachia (Moneywort)
- ❖ Nymphaea (Water lily)
- ❖ Pontederia (Pickerel weed)
- ❖ Sagittaria (Arrowhead)

*I'm Dashy the Dragonfly-  
Swift is my flight  
Over the water-  
I'm soon out of sight.*



*Darting and flashing,  
Whatever the day.  
Oh! There goes an insect,  
I really can't stay!  
- 4to40.com*

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

### CNY Regional Market Authority:

2100 Park Street  
Syracuse, NY

#### Open:

- ☼ **Thurs. 10:00 AM - 5:00<sup>+/-</sup> 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 N. Kirkville Rd.)*



Member:

Perennial Plant Association

Central New York State Nursery/Landscape Association