



Growing Matters

Greetings

I don't want to sound naïve, but I'm looking forward to the challenges of 2009. Yes, I read the papers and watch CNN, but I'm still optimistic. I know that the most challenging times in my life have often provided the greatest opportunities for growth.

Among the challenges: how to minimize my impact on the environment, how to minimize expenses and still provide an exciting, and quality product; how to continue to advance my mission statement to promote gardening for the health of the mind, body, and soul; and last but not least, how to do these things and maintain a

healthy balance in all areas of my life.

The winter months provide an excellent opportunity for reflection and planning. Although I don't have all the answers, I have decided on a few things. Pippi's Garden Club will continue with gardening seminars this growing season, and the nursery will be open on Wednesdays in addition to Fridays to offer customers more opportunities to expand their gardening know how and more flexibility in their shopping days.

I wish you the best this season and hope you find ways to use the challenges of the times to find new and exciting ways to grow.

- Vicky Hilleges

The Green & Sustainable Garden

We are hearing the terms green and sustainable more and more often, but what do they mean in terms of gardening? As gardeners we have the opportunity to have a positive impact on the environment and the health of our planet. To me, green gardening simply means gardening in a way that is earth friendly or minimizes negative impacts on the environment. To live or garden sustainably, we must use the Earth's resources at a rate at which they can be replenished.

The need to protect our planet is obvious. How to go about it, can be overwhelming, but following are a few simple and fun ways to have a positive impact.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Onondaga County is currently promoting their "Rain Catchers" program. The CCE states, "The Rain Catchers program promotes clean water and

lake/stream-friendly neighborhoods through the use of rain gardens and rain barrels." Visit their website for more information.

www.cce.cornell.edu/onondaga/rain_catchers.php

This next suggestion is one I have found especially easy to implement. Planting perennials versus short lived and often water and fertilizer needy annuals is a beautiful way to be eco-friendly. If properly selected and sited, perennials do not require additional watering once they are established in the landscape. To further your green efforts, create your own compost and use it on your gardens to reduce waste in landfills. Home made compost is a wonderful substitute for chemical fertilizers and it also enhances your soils ability to use water more efficiently.

Little steps taken collectively can have a significant impact. Join with others and take a green step this season.

Garden Gate Chat

How soon can I plant perennials? Unlike annuals, you don't have to wait until after the last frost to plant perennials. Container grown plants that have been grown outside, like the plants grown at Pippi's, can be planted as soon as the ground can be worked (no longer frozen and not too wet).

Pippi's Plant Spotlight



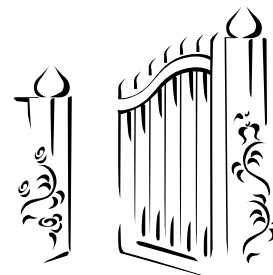
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'

a.k.a. golden hakone grass

2009 Perennial Plant of the Year

This ornamental grass has an arching form that provides a cascading effect. 1/2" wide blades are bright yellow with thin green stripes. Foliage is tinged with shades of pink and red in fall.

- ❖ Part shade
- ❖ 12"-18" tall x 24" wide
- ❖ Moist, humus-rich, well drained soil
- ❖ Deer resistant
- ❖ Zones 5-9



Pippi's Perennials

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hilleges@twcny.rr.com
www.pippis.net

*Pippi's 2009 Plant Listing
coming soon to www.pippis.net*

Gift Certificates Available

Pippi's 2009 Schedule of Events

At right are some dates and times that I hope you will save to spend at Pippi's. There are always new plants to discover and new gardening information to share.

I've taken the liberty of picking a topic that I am particularly interested in for the first Pippi's Garden Club seminar. I would appreciate your input on topics for the May and August meetings. Contact me with your suggestions and if your topic is selected, **receive a Pippi's coupon for 10% off your first total purchase** of the season. I'll announce the winners and the topics in the spring newsletter.

You'll notice that the schedule lists two Customer Appreciation Days. That is our new name for what we have always referred to as our Open House. You'll still receive a 10% discount on your purchases, yummy refreshments, and the opportunity to enjoy our display gardens in a friendly setting. We just changed the name to better reflect what we thought the day was about.

Pippi's Garden Club Seminars

Monday, April 27 @ 6:00 pm:
Attracting Birds to your Garden

Monday, May 18 @ 6:00 pm:
Topic to be announced

Monday, August 31st @ 6:00 pm:
Topic to be announced

Pippi's Customer Appreciation Days

Spring: Sunday, June 14, 10 am - 4 pm

Fall: Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 am - 4 pm

Pippi's Locations & Hours

CNY Regional Market Authority:

2100 Park Street
Syracuse, NY

Open: May 2nd – Oct 17th

Thurs. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (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 22th – Oct. 17th *New Hours*
Wed. & Fri. 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Or By Appointment