



# Growing Matters

## Greetings

I am frequently asked what I do during the non-growing season. And honestly depending on my mood the answer varies. The truth is, I'm still cultivating, but now instead of plants I'm cultivating information, ideas, and renewed enthusiasm.

I had the privilege of attending the New England Greenhouse Conference & Expo in Worcester, Massachusetts this past fall. I spent three days listening and learning from today's leaders in the perennial plant industry. Topics included hot new perennials, weed and pest control,

selecting native perennials, using ornamental grasses in the landscape, plants for water gardens, and my favorite, growing field-grown cut flowers.

The discussion on cut flowers so inspired me that within a week of returning I had planted my first gardens exclusively for producing cut flowers. As a result in 2005, Pippi's will be offering fresh cut perennials for sale in addition to the wide variety of container grown perennials.

I hope you find time this winter to cultivate plans to enrich your gardening experience.   
-Vicky Hilleges

## Support the Fight Against Breast Cancer with Hosta 'Remember Me'

Hosta 'Remember Me' is a stunning selection for the partial or full shade garden. 'Remember Me' is a sport of Hosta 'June' and grows to be about fifteen inches tall. Early in the season the plants pointed ovate leaves resemble 'June' with wide, streaked, blue-green margins and chartreuse centers. As the season progresses, the leaves turn snow white with narrow streaked dark blue-green margins. Light lavender flowers reaching to twenty inches bloom in mid summer.

Its physical attributes are not the only reason it is an excellent choice. From each

plant sold, \$.25 is donated to the Grand Rapids affiliate Susan G. Komen Foundation. The foundations mission is to eradicate breast cancer as a life threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment. 'Remember Me' is a beautiful way to honor those who have died of breast cancer, and to help those who continue to battle with this life threatening disease.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in American women. Help in the fight against breast cancer with the purchase of Hosta 'Remember Me.'

## Garden Gate Chat

***I often see hardiness zones listed for plants in catalogs. What are hardiness zones?***  
*The U.S. Department of Agriculture developed a map dividing the country into 10 hardiness zones. These zones refer to an area's average minimum winter temperature. The lower the zone number, the colder it is. When selecting a plant be sure it is hardy for your zone or colder. In central New York, that generally means zone 5 or lower. You can access a copy of a hardiness zone map at <http://pippis.net/pictures/newyork.pdf>*

## Pippi's Plant Spotlight

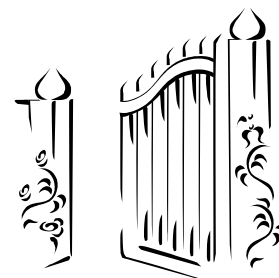


Helleborus x hybridus  
(Hel-LEB-or-us  
ex HY-brid-us)  
aka: Lenten rose

### 2005 Perennial Plant of the Year

Lenten rose, so called because it blooms around the beginning of Lent, is a long lived, long blooming, low-maintenance, evergreen plant that can tolerate even dry shade. The long lasting 2" to 3" blooms are available in a wide range of colors.

- ❖ Zone 4-9
- ❖ 18/24" tall x 24/30" wide mound
- ❖ Drought tolerant
- ❖ Deer resistant
- ❖ Almost pest free
- ❖ Tolerates full sun to almost full shade but prefers partial shade



  
**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!

*"When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves." - Ken Druse*

## Add Structure with Shrubs Available at Pippi's Perennials

Shrubs offer an invaluable service to the perennial garden. Not only do they provide the structure or "bones" that support the floral display of perennials, but shrubs also come in myriad colors that allow us to extend interest into the winter months; an important consideration here in Central New York.

Flowering shrubs provide obvious color when they are in bloom, but since bloom times are often limited, consider

foliage color when selecting shrubs for your garden. Burgundy, blue, gold, and variegated foliage are just some of the options available. Shrubs can offer additional color with fall foliage and fruit, and once the leaves have dropped may provide further enjoyment by exposing interesting stems.

The shrubs listed at right are available at Pippi's. Consider adding one or more to your garden this year for additional structure, color and interest.

*"One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides." -W. E. Johns*

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

**CNY Regional Market Authority:**  
2100 Park Street  
Syracuse, NY  
**10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Thurs.**  
**7:00 AM - 2:00 PM Sat.**

**Home Location:**  
12 Sherry Lane  
Kirkville, NY 13082  
**New for 2005: Open 10:00 AM-6:00 PM Fri.**  
(Sherry Ln. is located off Fyler Rd., east of the Fyler Rd. & Bridgeport-Kirkville Rd. intersection)

- ❖ Berberis 'Crimson Pygmy' (Barberry)
- ❖ Hydrangea 'Limelight'
- ❖ Itea 'Little Henry' (Sweetspire)
- ❖ Physocarpus 'Summer Wine' (Ninebark)
- ❖ Rhamnus 'Fine Line' (Buckthorn)
- ❖ Sambucus 'Black Beauty' (Elderberry)
- ❖ Sambucus 'Sutherland Gold' (Elderberry)
- ❖ Spirea 'Little Princess'
- ❖ Spirea 'Magic Carpet'
- ❖ Weigela 'Midnight Wine'

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