



THE GLENWILD GARDENER



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Spring 2002

“Deep down I suspect that many gardeners regard themselves as small-time alchemists. Maybe at some level we’re still in touch with the power of the old gardens.”

Michael Pollan

From an article in The NY Times 6/28/01

“Nature does have manure and she does have roots as well as blossoms, and you can’t hate the manure and blame the roots for not being blossoms”

Buckminster Fuller



On those intermittent warm days of our strange winter, I sat at the edge of the sandbox staring at the dirt, itching to plunge my trowel in. My son wanted to know what I was looking at. Hmmm... Rebirth, Mother Nature carrying on, creativity. My daughter, eating a few pieces of mulch.

Anyway, welcome back to the growing season. I hope every one of you make it over here this year—you’ll see a lot of familiar faces. Jim, Bill, & Barbara are here as well as Herbie, Mike and Jen—and Jane is doing a great job in the back. We’re hoping to see more of Alex around the store and Lee is hoping to be home more. John, our landscape foreman, will join us Saturdays with his extensive plant knowledge, and there is another new face—welcome to Colin Murphy MacKenn, born December 1st, 2001 to Brad & Lorie. He’s almost ready to drive the backhoe! Also, congratulations to Brad who recently became certified as a Landscape Architect.

John MacKen Brooks

Drought Tolerant Landscaping

I do hope that by the time you are reading this, that it is no longer pertinent. However, here are some good policies to remember at all times, but critical to remember during times of water restrictions.

Prioritize your plants. Make sure to give new and/or valuable trees and shrubs first shot at the available water, then move to your perennials and then annuals. Lawns should come last. A very important note—let your grass stay longer! There will be less evaporation and stress if the blades stay at least 3 inches high. If you are planting something new, make sure to add plenty of compost, which helps with water retention. If you don’t make your own, try commercial versions. Always lay down mulch about 3 inches deep. You can even lay down newspaper (no color pages) underneath to enhance water retention. Bonus—it reduces weeds! If possible, reuse water. Plants don’t mind a little soap and grime. Try collecting the water from your final laundry rinse.

- Use drip irrigation. In its simplest form, just lay down a soaker hose and cover with mulch. If you garden more elaborately, there are systems to match.
- A product called soil moist is a polymer crystal that can be added to soil to help retain water. The crystals swell up and release water when the soil dries out. It’s perfect for container gardens.
- We also have mats that lay at the bottom of potted up containers to hold water—



perfect for hanging baskets.

- For deep root watering a tree or large shrub, use a Ross root feeder or poke a hole 10"-15" deep around the tree base to allow water to soak in toward the bottom of the root ball. As an alternative, use Treegators. These are bags that lay around the base of the tree or shrub and slowly trickle water down to the roots.

When buying plants this year, look for the following which are a small sampling of drought tolerant plants:

Trees: Honey Locust, Eastern Red Cedar, White Pine, Golden Rain Tree

Ornamental Grasses: Broom Sedge, Fountain Grass, Little Bluestem, Blue Oat Grass

Ground Covers: Sedum, Thyme, Juniper, Barrenwort

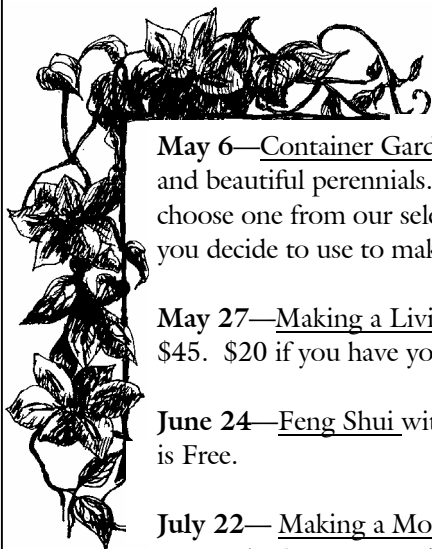
Shrubs: Rosa Rugosa, Yucca, Juniper, Bayberry, Red Twig Dogwood, Viburnum

Perennials: Butterflyweed, Ice plant, Hens & Chicks, Hosta, Coreopsis, Day Lilies, Sedum

We have more comprehensive lists at the garden center. Stop by for more help with your yard and garden.



Sunflower Seed Hulls prevent seeds from germinating. Scoop the hulls from under your birdfeeder and spread them in areas where you don't want weeds to grow. (from seed) You can even grind them up, if you are so motivated, and sprinkle them in between the cracks of walkways, etc.



Class Schedule 2002

May 6—Container Gardening with Succulent Perennials. Plant a pot with these drought tolerant and beautiful perennials. Bring a pot (large strawberry pots are wonderful) or come early and choose one from our selection. Demonstration is free, but total cost will depend on what materials you decide to use to make your container garden.

May 27—Making a Living Wreath Plant an English wreath of live flowers, plants and moss. \$45. \$20 if you have your own form.

June 24—Feng Shui with Geri Wilson Learn how to create harmony in your garden. This class is Free.

July 22—Making a Mosaic Stepping Stone with Winnie O'Leary This very popular class will be repeated. Come try again or for the first time. \$14.

November 25—Making a Holiday Wreath Create a stunning wreath made from balsam, lemon leaves, berried juniper and fragrant cedar among other greens. Nicer than the catalogues! \$16.

All classes are held Monday evenings at 6 PM and usually last about an hour and a half.

Class sizes are limited, so call as early as possible to sign up.

You may pay when you arrive for the class, but please register ahead of time!

Get a 10% discount on any purchases the night of the class.



How to Buy a Perennial

Buying perennials can be an intimidating process for the new gardener. Those codes on the tags, all those plants that look like nothing in a pot, all those failures in the garden. Why can't they bloom the whole season like those other plants do? And...I have to pay for these weeds?

There are some simple steps to take when starting to garden with perennials. Remember that perennials die back in the winter, and bloom for generally short periods at different times of the growing season. Don't be in a rush to buy. The best way to decide what to plant is to visit the local garden centers frequently over the 3 seasons and admire the flowers. Buy the ones you like.

The information on the tag is a *guide*. If it says full sun, and you aren't sure if you have full sun—plant a pot and see how it does. Of course, it is wise to know the difference between dense shade and full sun—you don't want to throw money away. However, as many an experienced gardener will tell you, there are other factors that influence success. Plants for sun can occasionally survive nicely in partial shade, sometimes for unknown reasons.

Generally, perennials come in three sizes—quarts (the small ones), 1 gallon (most common, medium size), and 2 or 3 gallon (the big ones). Try to buy in groups of three, especially with quarts and gallons, after you've ascertained that you have the right spot for that variety. One plant usually gets lost visually, and two can look artificial, unless you want a more formal look. Three

gallon pots are good when you really need a mature plant right away, but you may want that less often than you think. There is a certain satisfaction in watching your babies grow over the years!

It's better to concentrate on only a few varieties in the beginning. It's easier to care for a simple garden, rather than trying to keep up with one with too many different needs. Also, have you noticed the beautiful photos in all those gardening magazines?

The masses of color and texture help move the eye across the garden in a very pleasing way. It actually makes your garden look bigger, healthier, and just more satisfying. It may take a few years of experimentation to decide which plants to use in this way, or you could start with some favorites recommended by gardeners or garden center employees in your area.

The general health of the plant should be good—make sure there are no obvious signs of insect or disease damage. Ask for help if you aren't sure. Look for plants that are not too root bound, or worse, not filling the pot enough. (Busting out of their pots as opposed to too much loose soil surrounding the stem area).

To get the best bargains, buy in groups. (We discount after 12 quart or 6 gallon pots are purchased). Or you can look in the "discount area". As the season wears on, we almost always have an area where the less than perfect plants are. Within a season to a year, most of these plants will recover their fullness. Then, of course, buy in *late* fall. It's a great time to plant anything.

As you wander around all those black pots and beautiful flowers, don't forget to ask questions!

Perennial of the Year 2002

Phlox 'David'

Is a fragrant, white summer phlox that is a great choice for any garden. It's mildew resistant and has a long blooming season. It grows to about 38" tall and grows best in full sun to partial shade in moist, but well-drained soil. It is a native plant from New York to Georgia and west to Illinois, and looks wonderful planted with *Miscanthus Morning Light* & *Aster Bluebird* which has blue flowers in the fall.

Spring Fling Weekend is April 20th & 21st Look inside for a Free Giveaway coupon!

“If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in the water.”
 Loren Eiseley
 1907-1977



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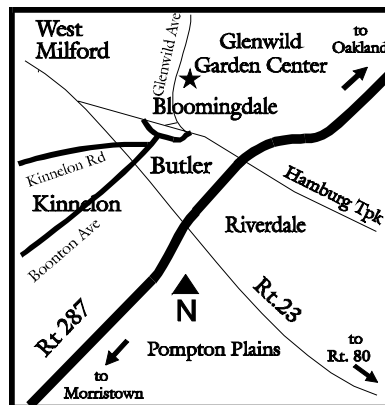
Glenwild Garden Center is a full service garden center & nursery. We carry all the basics of gardening & a bit of the unusual too. Visit us for a pleasant & unique experience.



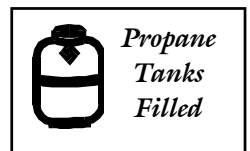
- Nursery
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Spring Hours— Mon-Fri. 8-8, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 9-5