



THE MEYER THYMES

An Investment That Grows



Gardening Tips for Our Customers

Spring 2009

West Chicago, IL

**Current Hours
Mon-Fri 9-5**

**Open Saturdays
Starting March 28
(Weather Permitting)**

**Open Sun 10-4
(April 19 – June 30)**



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Check These Out!!

The West Chicago Garden Club Meets the 4th Thursday of every month. For more details, see www.westchicagogardenclub.com

The Winfield Area Gardeners (WAG) meet the 1st Tuesday of every month

www.chicagolandgardening.com

Happy Spring 2009!

So, the first draft of this newsletter included a long rant about the record-breaking snowfall as of January, the bad state of the economy, the lack of bailouts to garden centers, etc. Then we decided that no one wanted to hear about it anymore.

Since we have no control about those other things, we've opted to focus on our little corner of the world --- *you, our fellow gardeners*. This is our 25th year helping the people of DuPage and Kane counties beautify their gardens and we would like to help you again. We have created this newsletter for you, the busy gardener, in mind. We have tried to address frequently asked questions and what's going on in your garden to help make your busy life a little easier.

This spring, *it really is time to stop and smell the roses!* We look forward to seeing you again and Happy Gardening!!!

From Meyer Landscaping, Inc.

GARDENING TRENDS

Depending on the shows you watch or books/magazines you read, there are several different trends occurring in gardening. Going green is a universal theme you can't ignore. Native plants, drought tolerant plants, and growing your own vegetable gardens are just a few of the other ideas floating around. Some of these topics we've touched on before but here are the highlights that we think you should consider this year.

GOING GREEN

(Otherwise known as "Trees Are the Answer" and "Trees Are Cool") Planting deciduous shade trees (properly spaced) on the south and west side of your house can serve several purposes. From a design perspective, in addition to scaling down the size of a large house, softening architectural lines and or "framing" the house, these deciduous trees will provide shade to your house in the summer and allow much needed sun to hit in the winter. Great dense shade trees include maples, oaks, linden and pears. For more filtered shade, consider a honey locust.

If you live in a one story house, some larger ornamental trees can be substituted for shade trees. Ornamental trees may serve as an accent or as "understory" trees which will add layering and depth to your yard and may help provide privacy. Great four-season ornamental trees include serviceberry (particularly the multi-stem variety), Japanese tree lilac, hawthorns, and many of the crabapples.

NATIVE PLANTS

The meaning of the term "native plants" is pretty clear. In an overall general way, we are very keen on native plants as they generally will do better in their respective areas. However, sometimes man has improved on nature so we wouldn't rule out any

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NEW SHRUBS THIS YEAR



Endless Summer® Twist-n Shout™ is a great new hydrangea which will only be available at independent garden centers this year! Introduced by Bailey Nurseries, this reblooming lacecap hydrangea with sturdy red stems and glossy deep-green leaves will have either pink or blue petals depending on your soil acidity. It will grow

approximately 3' – 6' tall and wide and is recommended for partial shade.

First Editions™ Cabernet™ Barberry, another great introduction from Bailey Nurseries, grows approximately 2' tall and 2-3' wide and like other barberries, requires full sun.



Its foliage is the color of its namesake wine all season long and when planted with golden hued foliage, will make a big “pop.”

Golden Spirit Smokebush is new to our garden center this year. Growing approximately 8' tall and 6' wide, the foliage emerges with a touch of red, turns a yellowy, golden lime color for summer and ultimately reddish-orange in the fall. It requires full sun to part shade and contrasts well with reddish foliage shrubs like Cabernet® Barberry and Diabolo® Ninebark.



First Editions™ Firegold™ Spirea grows approximately 4-6' tall and 5-7' wide and has white flowers in May. This plant's foliage emerges soft yellow, changing to lemon and finally lime-green in summer. In fall, the foliage turns orange. With an upright, vase shaped habit, it can be used as an accent plant, along a foundation, or as a hedge. The important thing to note with this

plant is that like all Vanhoutte type spireas, it is not meant to be sheared and looks better when its natural, flowing habit is retained. If you desire a “sheared” look, select a different plant.

Cool Splash™ Diervilla (northern bush honeysuckle) blooms yellow in May-June and has variegated foliage. Growing approximately 2.5 – 4.5' tall and wide, this plant will grow in full sun to part shade.

Pink Double Knock Out® is one of the latest introductions to the “Knock Out®” family of roses. This shrub rose has pink, double flowers with a light fragrance, grows 3-4' tall and wide, and will bloom in this area from May until frost. Like its



relations (Knock Out®, Pink Knock Out®, and Double Knock Out® Roses), Pink Double Knock Out® is disease resistant and a great addition to any landscape.

Come check out these new plants in the garden center this spring. Certain plants, like the Knock Out® Roses and Endless Summer® Twist-n Shout™ Hydrangea will be arriving from Bailey Nurseries (a licensed grower) ready to bloom for Mother's Day.

{All photos in this section courtesy of Bailey Nurseries, Inc.}

SPRING BLOOMING SHRUBS

Korean Spice Viburnum



Inhale the wonderful fragrance from the blossoms on **Viburnum carlesii** and you will

know why it is one of our favorites! Pink buds open

to aromatic white flowers in mid-spring. At maturity, this bush will reach 4-6' tall by 4-6' wide. To best enjoy the fantastic fragrant flowers, plant it near a doorway or windows.

Other spring-blooming shrubs:

Forsythia, Lilac, Quince, Rhododendron, Sandcherry, Spirea, Sweetspire, Weigela

**Gardening is a way of showing
that you believe in tomorrow.**

Author Unknown

SPRING BLOOMING TREES

Chanticleer Flowering Pear

Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer' is a favorite here at Meyer Landscaping because of the beautiful white cloud-like blooms that burst into life in April. Its narrow upright form makes it ideal for smaller spaces and is perfect for use as a specimen or as a screen. This medium growing sun loving tree will eventually reach 25-30' tall and 10-15' wide.



Flowering Crabapples *Malus sp.*

Ornamental Flowering crab trees have come a long way and are now a much easier tree to maintain and enjoy. Most varieties are grown to be disease resistant and offer smaller fruits or are even fruitless.

Golden Raindrops-small golden fruit, unique foliage, nice head shape, white flower.

Red Jewel-small red fruit, white flower, more upright (great for small spaces), red fruit persists through the winter.

Prairifire Crab-pinkish red flower, persistent maroon fruit, green leaves with a slight purplish cast.



Other spring-blooming trees: Dogwood, Eastern Redbud, Magnolia, Serviceberry, Japanese Tree Lilac

GARDENING TRENDS (Continued from page one)

cultivar of a native plant. For example, native bee balm (*Monarda sp.*) is prone to powdery mildew but several of the cultivars like 'Petite Delight' and "Raspberry Wine" have mildew resistant foliage.

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

Drought tolerant plants are great and we can't say enough good things about them! But these plants are only drought tolerant ONCE THEIR ROOT SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. So you will still have to water them regularly the first year or so to get them firmly established.

GROWING YOUR OWN VEGETABLES

Nothing tastes better than a warm, fresh tomato picked straight off the vine! Besides the great taste, other benefits include lowering your family's grocery bill and teaching your kids where (some) food comes from. If you are starting a vegetable garden for the first time this year, here are a couple of things to keep in mind.

- If you are unsure about your commitment to the whole project, look around your yard for a spot (or spots) that would be ideal for a plant or two. Rather than plant a full-fledged vegetable garden, start with a couple of plants. Tomatoes and peppers are good choices for novices.
- Do not make your first vegetable garden too big! A 10' x 10' plot would be the maximum size recommended for the first year as you may find that the process takes more time than you are willing to put in.
- Buy transplants from a garden center rather than starting plants from seed. Generally these can be planted around Memorial Day (want to wait until the last frost free date) and are much less frustrating for novice gardeners.
- Consider what vegetables your family will really eat and the amount of space that the plants will take up in your garden. For example, while a tomato plant should reap a reasonable amount of fruit per plant, you are better off buying fresh corn at the local farmer's market than attempting to grow it yourself.

Whatever the trend or topic that you have picked up on, enjoy yourself this year!

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN SPRING

- * Start **CLEANING UP** your garden (if you haven't done so already) and edging beds, walks, etc. as needed.
- * Start **WEEDING** now – get them while they're small!
- * Use a **PRE-EMERGENT** now to eliminate the need for future weeding. Mark it on your calendar so you remember when you did it and when your next application should occur (follow the instructions.)
- * Apply **COMPOST** to garden beds. Also to river birch trees if you have them (they crave micronutrients!)
- * Apply **MULCH** to garden beds – mulch helps prevent future weeds from starting and retain moisture in the soil.
- * **PERENNIAL GRASSES** – If you haven't cut yours down, get out and do it now!!! (They should have been cut down by St. Patrick's Day.)
- * **SHRUB ROSES** – Start pruning (Aprilish), removing all dead growth (those black stems) using proper rose pruning techniques (above an apparent bud, on a 45° angle). Stop, wait a few days and then go back to prune for shape. (Remember, once you've cut it off, you can't glue it back on!) Apply an insecticide/pesticide/fertilizer designed especially for roses by the end of the month.
- * **BULBS** (Tulips/Daffodils) – After they've bloomed, wait until the foliage has yellowed and started to wither before removing --- almost June. {Note: Don't cut the foliage off unless you want to replant the bulbs again in the fall. Also, while tying the foliage in a knot may neaten your yard, it is not recommended. The foliage is feeding the bulb so it will bloom again next year. The more exposure to sun that the foliage receives, the more "food" the bulb will get. }
- * Be sure to mark where your **BULBS** are now with a short stake, especially if you plan to divide or move in the fall (it's so easy to forget exactly where those tulips were 6 months later.)
- * Stake your **PEONIES** by the end of the April while it's still easy.
- * Cut back any dead branches on your **ANNABELLE HYDRANGEAS**.
- * Are there any **PERENNIALS** you want to move or divide now? Check which are best moved in spring and which are best moved in fall prior to digging.
- * Start **DEADHEADING** as needed.
- * **RESEED, FERTILIZE** and apply **HERBICIDE** to your **LAWN** this month.
- * Check the **PRUNING** section to see which **TREES and SHRUBS** should be pruned now.

GREAT SPRING BLOOMING PERENNIALS

- Brunnera – Precious little blue flowers.
- Daffodils – Bulbs are less tasty to critters than tulip bulbs and it means that winter is really leaving!
- Dianthus – Delightful little flowers in spring
- Bleeding Heart – Those cute little hearts!
- Hellebores – Those blooms at the end of winter can really lighten the mood
- Hyacinth – Who can resist those fragrant blooms?
- Poppies – So many colors to choose from!
- Pulmonaria – Cheerful blue flowers.
- Virginia Blue Bells – Who can resist?
- Viola – Their blooms are another sign that spring is really on the way!

2009 HOSTA OF THE YEAR

Earth Angel Hosta

- Blue green foliage with a creamy, white margin.
Purple flower in July-August
24 – 36" tall x 4 – 6' wide (maturity)
Prefers part shade

2009 PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

Hakonechloa macro 'Aureloa'

- Japanese or Variegated Forest Grass
Yellow foliage variegated with green streaks
Mounding, clumping form
12" – 20" tall and wide
Prefers part to full shade
Moist, well drained soil

A tree falls the way it leans.

-Bulgarian Proverb

If a tree dies, plant another in its place.

-Linnaeus

PRUNING

Prune in early Spring:

Buckthorn – Prune to shape.

Burning Bush – Prune as needed to maintain shape and size.

Butterfly Bush – Cut back hard before bloom.

Clethra – Prune if necessary.

Redtwig Dogwood – Cut back up to 1/3 of oldest branches to 6-12” from the ground to help maintain red coloration.

Ginkgo – Prune only as necessary.

Hemlock – Trim back any dieback on tips.

Hibiscus – Prune back heavily now (if you are going to do so).

Hydrangea (Annabelle) – Cut back all dead growth in spring. Try to keep 12” or taller for sturdier stems.

Hydrangea (Endless Summer) – Start watering well; wait until new growth appears; wait until you know the branch is dead before removing.

Hydrangea (Panicle) – Prune as needed.

Roses – Prune as buds are beginning to swell. Be sure to cut on a slant above a bud.

Smokebush – Prune hard to induce strong shoots with large leaves.

Spiraea – Prune to shape before shrub leafs out or rejuvenate prune by cutting back to 3” from ground.

Sweetspire – Remove damaged wood.

Winterberry – Trim lightly as growth begins in spring.

Witchhazel – Little pruning needed. Can prune during flowering if desired.

Prune in mid spring as new growth appears:

Pines/Spruce – To maintain size, remove up to 1/2 of new growth (the “candle”) in the spring.

The following can be pruned at anytime:

Arborvitae – Needles around trunk will yellow naturally. Fertilize in spring with acid type product.

Barberry – Prune to shape.

Boxwood – Prune individually or sheer to form a hedge effect anytime during growing season.

Cotoneaster (Hedge) – Prune to shape as needed.

Current (Alpine) – Prune to shape (hedge).

Yews – Prune in early spring followed by removal of new growth in summer is the best way to maintain tight shape forms.

Prune after flowering:

Azalea – Little pruning needed. To form tight compact bush, snip off end of new sprouts. Fertilize with acid type product.

Chokeberry – Prune to size and remove any damaged branches.

Crabapples – Prune as needed. Only fertilize in spring or early summer.

Daphne – Prune to shape or to remove dead wood.

Dogwood (Cornelian Cherry) – Remove lower branches to form a small round tree. Remove suckers at anytime.

Dogwood (Pagoda) – Prune only if necessary.

Forsythia – Prune to shape as needed; rejuvenate prune (cut back some of the oldest branches to the ground).

Fothergilla – Only prune if necessary (very slow grower).

Kerria – Cut out old wood; can prune to ground to maintain shape.

Lilac – Cut back high-growing shoots by 1/3 to 1/2 immediately after flowering. Remove weak growth from bush interior.

Magnolia – Only prune if necessary (very slow grower).

Pear – Prune to maintain shape.

Quince – Prune to maintain desired size and to keep center of plant open.

Redbud – Prune only if necessary.

Rhododendron - Little pruning needed. To form a tight compact bush, snip off end of new sprouts. Fertilize with acid type product.

Serviceberry – Prune to shape only.

Sandcherry – Prune as needed only.

Viburnum – Prune as needed (remove suckers at any time).

Weigela – May need heavy pruning to get rid of deadwood and winter injury. Cut back previous year’s growth to new shoots.

Visit your local garden center to obtain the necessary fertilizing products. Please note that Meyer Landscaping does not provide tree trimming services. Please check your local phone book for a tree trimming service near you.

*The first day of spring is one thing,
and the first spring day is another.
The difference between them
is sometimes as great as a month.*

- Henry Van Dyke
Fisherman’s Luck 1899

WHAT'S NEW IN THE GARDEN CENTER

We hope to start digging in our nursery the end of March with new plants arriving in the garden center shortly thereafter. Large size trees and shrubs are available now for your choosing to make an instant impact in your yard. Perennials will be available as the weather improves. Delivery and installation services are always available.

We expect annuals to arrive (including heirloom tomatoes) the week of May 4th. "Bud in Bloom" (plants ready to bloom) will be arriving in time for Mother's Day.

Our experienced staff is always eager to help you make the best selections for your needs.

NEW PERENNIALS FOR 2009

There are a number of new perennials hitting the garden center this year and we can't wait for them to show up. Among these are:

Calamintha 'Elfin Purple' dainty rose-purple flowers all summer, approximately 8-12" x 12 – 15"

Echinacea (Coneflowers):

'Coconut Lime' has a green pom-pom center with white petals approximately 24-30" x 30-36"

'Pink Double Delight' has a pink pom-pom center with short pink petals, approximately 18-24" x 12-18"

'Tiki Torch' has bright orange cone center and orange petals, non-fading, fragrant, approximately 20-26" x 30-36"

Heuchera (Coral Bells):

'Georgia Peach' peachy-rosy foliage, white flowers, heat and humidity tolerant, approximately 12-18" x 18-24"

'Midnight Rose' dark purple leaves with pink spots that lighten as summer progresses, approximately 8-12" x 12-16"

'Miracle' chartreuse foliage with purple centers which change to red with a gold edge, pink flowers, 8-10" x 8-10"

Iris 'Temper Tantrum' – a blue-violet, repeating iris approximately 36-48" x 18-24"

FREQUENT FLOWER CLUB

We will resume our FREQUENT FLOWER CLUB again this year. It's a very simple program --- you don't have to register, it doesn't cost you anything, and you don't have to save any coupons to redeem later. The terms are simple. Spend \$100 or more on any flowers (annuals, perennials or roses) purchased from April 1st through June 15th and you earn a 10% reward. In July, we will calculate your total (excluding tax) and send you a coupon that you can bring in and redeem in August.

OUR WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out our weekly **SPECIALS** where we describe the current "**TREE OF THE WEEK**" and anything else going on in the garden center. **TREE OF THE WEEK** will resume in mid-April. **PERENNIAL OF THE WEEK** will resume in June.

We look forward to seeing you again this year!

APRIL is **NATIONAL GARDENING MONTH** so don't forget, "**When you garden, you grow.**"

MOTHER'S DAY is SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2009 (Garden Center OPEN!)

MEMORIAL DAY is MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009 (Garden Center OPEN!)

FATHER'S DAY is SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2009 (Garden Center OPEN!)

We hope you enjoyed this issue and look forward to seeing you in the Garden Center!

Meyer Landscaping, Inc. Garden Center

27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185

April 2009 Coupon

Expires April 30, 2009

APRIL 2009 GARDEN CENTER NEWSLETTER COUPON

\$5 OFF (WITH ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE)

Valid April 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009
ONLY ONE COUPON PER MONTH PER PERSON

Applies to the purchase of in-stock plants only.
May not be combined with any other sale offers or redeemed for cash.
Excludes tax, delivery and installation charges (if applicable.)

COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE – NO EXCEPTIONS

Meyer Landscaping, Inc. Garden Center

27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185

May 2009 Coupon

Expires May 31, 2009

MAY 2009 GARDEN CENTER NEWSLETTER COUPON

\$5 OFF (WITH ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE)

Valid May 1, 2009 through May 31, 2009
ONLY ONE COUPON PER MONTH PER PERSON

Applies to the purchase of in-stock plants only.
May not be combined with any other sale offers or redeemed for cash.
Excludes tax, delivery and installation charges (if applicable.)

COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE – NO EXCEPTIONS

Meyer Landscaping, Inc. Garden Center

27W067 North Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185

June 2009 Coupon

Expires June 15, 2009

JUNE 2009 GARDEN CENTER NEWSLETTER COUPON

\$5 OFF (WITH ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE)

Valid June 1, 2009 through June 15, 2009
ONLY ONE COUPON PER MONTH PER PERSON

Applies to the purchase of in-stock plants only.
May not be combined with any other sale offers or redeemed for cash.
Excludes tax, delivery and installation charges (if applicable.)

COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE – NO EXCEPTIONS