



Notes from

HORNBAKER GARDENS

"The Princeton Perennial People"

22937 1140 N. Ave., Princeton, Illinois 61356

NEWSLETTER No. 15

(815) 659-3282

JUNE 2001

Retail Hours

We are open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday 8:00 to 5:00, and Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. We will be open through October 14.

Please note that we will be closed July 4 and Labor Day (September 3).

PEAK BLOOM SEASONS:

Daylilies bloom during the whole month of July, but the peak of the season will be during the first three weeks. Some ornamental **grasses** plume out as early as July and August, but most, including the spectacular *Miscanthus* varieties, plume out in September and early October.

WORKSHOPS:

Designing with Grasses: We will hold a free workshop on grasses on Saturday, September 22, at 10:00 a.m. We will discuss how and where to use grasses, as well as how and when to plant, fertilize, divide, and maintain grasses. No advance registration is necessary.

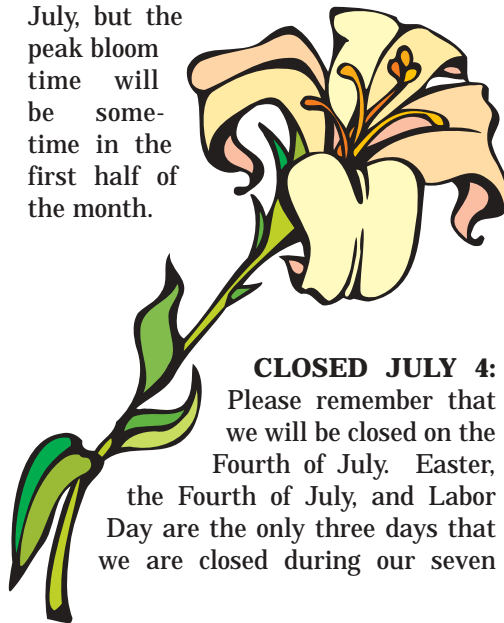
PLANTING

TREES AND SHRUBS:

We have concluded that there is a need for a workshop on planting trees and shrubs. We'll do it in September. Watch in our August newsletter for the exact date. Bud Rosenquist will share his planting techniques, along with some nifty knots to use in staking up the larger trees.

Daylilies Coming On Strong

This year's weather has made predicting the bloom season for irises and daylilies very difficult. Fluctuating heat waves and cold spells have left us guessing. If anything, we are guessing that the daylily season will be a bit early this year due to the heat. So from July 1 on, there should be plenty of daylilies blooming. Daylilies, however have such an extended bloom season, compared with irises, that pinpointing the peak of the season is not as important. There will be daylilies blooming the entire month of July, but the peak bloom time will be sometime in the first half of the month.



CLOSED JULY 4: Please remember that we will be closed on the Fourth of July. Easter, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day are the only three days that we are closed during our seven

month selling season. Please don't come to see the gardens on our day off.

CLUMP SALES: We will have well over 200 varieties available in clumps this year. Instead of placing an order for a start of a variety, to be dug in August, you can take home an entire clump of these varieties right away. We dig the clump that you select, drop it in a plastic bag, and send it home with you. You can then plant your instant clump, or divide it up and have several plants to set out. Clumps are generally priced between \$15.00 and \$35.00 each.

NAME YOUR OWN DAYLILY: We still have a good selection of name-your-own daylilies available. These are seedlings from Fred Smith's breeding program. They are unique hybrids, meaning that you will be the only one in the world to own a daylily with that exact DNA. You can name them yourself, and even register the name with the American Hemerocallis Society, if you so desire. Check out this seedling section while you are here. You just might find something very special out there. This is the second year that the seedlings have been in the field, so for your \$15.00 you will be getting a clump with multiple fans.

Garden Sculptures

The other day, Dick Southwick, the creator/artist/welder who supplies us with the delightful metal praying mantises, dragonflies, mosquitoes, sunflowers, lizards, bird-on-a-rock, etc., pulled in with a giant bug in the back of his pick-up. It is a praying mantis, standing over six feet tall and six feet long. We love it. It's fast

becoming the most photographed thing at our farm.

We also just received a life-sized bronze statue called "Nina", a girl lying on her stomach reading a book. We've had smaller, similar bronzes, but this one is full size, and just beautiful.

A Summer Explosion of Color

Since garden centers are busiest in the spring, and because shoppers tend to buy that which is blooming, the summer blooming plants often get overlooked, leaving many gardens without much color later in the season. Here are some good, reliable plants for late summer color.

Daylilies, of course, do a great job of filling the gap between the spring bloomers and late summer bloomers. After the daylilies, we like to use Rudbeckia, Echinacea, and Perovskia together. All three bloom for a long time during late summer, and together they put on a terrific show. Rudbeckia is better known as Black Eyed Susans, and it blooms from late July until



frost. The common name for Echinacea is Purple Coneflower. It has drooping lavender-purple petals, and blooms for a month or so in late summer. Most varieties of Echinacea grow 30-36 inches tall, but one called 'Kim's Knee High' grows to 18-24 inches.

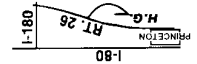
Perovskia is better known as Russian Sage, and has lavender blue flowers on a woody plant standing 3-4 feet tall. 'Longin' is a variety that is more slender and upright than the species, and 'Little Spire' is a shorter variety

at 25 inches.

All of the mentioned plants combine very well with ornamental grasses for a great fall show. The perennials will give you the color, and the grasses add texture, movement and height, along with their showy plumes.

For late summer bloom in shadier areas, try the fall blooming Anemones, with their pink or white flowers, generally standing 3-4 feet tall. Or try the Persicarias. Both P. 'Variegated' and P. 'Painter's Palette' have long, slender flowers resembling deep blood-red pipe cleaners. They aren't the kind of flowers that you notice from a distance, but they are very nice up close, and they make excellent, wispy accents to fresh or dried flower arrangements.

Directions: From the intersection of I-180 and Rt. 26 (5 miles SE of Princeton), go toward Princeton on Rt. 26 about 1/4 mile and take the first left. Go 2 miles to the top of the steep hill.



GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



We accept

Princeton, Illinois 61356
22937 140 N. Ave.

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GARDENS**

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