

B & B Nurseries Spring Newsletter

Welcome friends and gardeners to our 30th year "growing" for you!

We extend a warm welcome to you after a bitter cold and chilling winter! Despite the recent snows, signs of Spring are ever present with sap buckets still hanging, songbirds returning and extra minutes of sunlight increasing day by day.

Production is well under way in our greenhouses, and we are focused on growing our repertoire of plants to fill your gardening needs. Many of you come in looking for new or unusual plant options for your containers and garden beds. We are excited—and know you will be, too—about some of our new selections, particularly for shade! Listed below are just a few annual plants we'd like to bring to your attention for the 2014 growing season:

- **Begonia: Dragon Wings** offers bright red blooms on strong branches, adding graceful substance to your window boxes and hanging baskets! **Mocha Series Cherry** is a dark-leaved tuberous begonia, creating leaf contrast!
- **Browallia:** Better known as "amethyst flower," this often underutilized beauty provides all-Summer purple-blue blooms in light or dappled shade!
- **Coleus:** With so many to choose from, we opted to add a trailing variety, **Wedding Train**, as another good mixer!
- **Evolvulus:** Here's a new one to try with its velvety, blue-green foliage and clear blue blooms!

We have seeded some tasty vegetables and are excited for you to try these new varieties, including the following:

- **Green King** broccoli and **Super Red 80** cabbage, **Sweet Valentine** lettuce and **arugula**
- **Odessa Market** and **Lady Bell** sweet peppers and **Hungarian Hot Wax** pepper, great for grillin'!
- **Soldacki** beefsteak tomato and **Green Doctors Frosted** cherry tomato, said to rival Sun Gold in sweetness!

As we wait for sunshine to awaken our overwintered perennials and shrubs, smoke pours from our potting shed woodstove. We are busy potting up more plants, including over 30 new varieties of perennials. The following plants will encourage you to delight in Spring and even the inevitable cleanup of your gardens:

- **Aubrieta Cascade Red** pairs well with creeping phlox for a blanket of deep rose blooms in mid-late Spring.
- **Gymnocarpium**, or oak fern, emerges a bright green and provides a delicate groundcover at 10".
- **Pulmonaria long. ssp. cevenensis** offers clusters of pink blooms that fade to a cheerful blue, a perfect pairing to early spring bulbs. Silver-speckled leaves will grow to 20", brightening your shady spots all season!
- **Echinacea Ruby Star** offers vibrant, carmine-purple rays held stiffly outward from the bronzy cone.
- **Hemerocallis Rosy Returns** is a repeat-blooming, pink, compact daylily, similar in habit to Happy Returns!
- **New grasses:** blue-leaved **Helictotrichon**, blazing red **Andropogon Red October**, and **Schizachyrium s. Carousel**.

This year, we are introducing a smaller size pot for some of our favorite creeping perennials, including sedums, thymes and bugleweeds, allowing you to plant them in those tricky, smaller spaces. Look also for several perennial herbs in 6" Jumbos, sold alongside our annual plants, for those fun, kitchen-side herb planters you'll make.

As always, we will be digging from our fields as soon as the ground thaws. We have added over ten new varieties of container shrubs, including the following:

- **Picea mariana 'Nana'**, or Dwarf Black Spruce, grows in a dense mound to 2' tall and can tolerate light shade. Its gray-green needles provide a great accent for rock gardens or as a low ground cover.
- **Thuja occidentalis 'Bobozam'** (Mr. Bowling Ball): This dwarf American arborvitae grows in a globular shape 2-3' tall and wide. Dense, soft, lacey thread-like foliage is blue-green in color and prefers a bit of afternoon shade.
- **Picea abies 'Acrocona'** is a dwarf cultivar of the Norway spruce, loved for its dense and irregular branching and attractive display of purplish red immature cones in Spring maturing to 2-3" long tan-colored cones in the Autumn.
- **Ceanthus americanus**, or New Jersey tea, is a compact, rounded shrub growing to 3', excellent as a groundcover for dry, rocky slopes and banks. Clusters of white, fragrant flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds.
- **Potentilla tridentata 'Nuuk'** was selected in Greenland, so rest assured, it is cold hardy. It forms a low mat of shiny green leaves, topped by small, white, buttercup-like flowers in late Spring and is highly deer resistant.

We continue to offer a wide selection of stone and paver products!

If you have any avid gardeners in your life, consider giving them the "gift of savings" by purchasing a Savings Card in their name, and they'll receive 15% off regular priced items during the 2014 season.

We want to assure you we will do our best to accommodate your needs and requests throughout the growing season.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Crew at B & B Nurseries