



For Garden & Home, Naturally

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SPRING ORCHID SALE SATURDAY MARCH 15 - SUNDAY MARCH 23

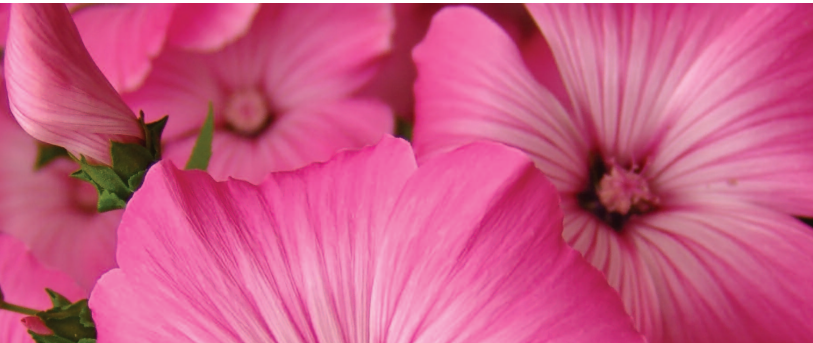
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SPRING CALENDAR

PRUNE woody plants while dormant, including fruit trees, summer- and fall-blooming shrubs and vines. Limit pruning of spring-blooming trees and shrubs to removal of sucker growth and rubbing, overgrown or broken branches.

PLAN your summer vegetable and herb garden. We offer a wide selection of seeds that include all of your favorite annuals, perennials, vegetables and other novelties as well as many hard-to-find selections. Inventory pots and flats used for seedlings, discard unusable ones and make a list of the supplies you will need. Have your garden soil tested for nutrient content. We offer a variety of do-it-yourself soil test kits.

SHARPEN, clean and oil tools and lawn mowers. Begin heavy annual pruning of shrub roses as new leaves appear.

PLANT pansies, English daisies and primrose as soon as the earth is workable. Plant strawberry plants. Sow cool-season vegetables and herbs in the garden.

START spring cleanup and begin major lawn work. Remove debris, dethatch your lawn or aerate compacted areas to improve water and air penetration.

FEED perennials with **Espoma Flower-Tone** and roses with **Espoma Rose-Tone**. Feed berry bushes, grapevines, rhubarb and asparagus with **Espoma Plant-Tone** before new growth begins. Fertilize trees and shrubs with **Espoma Tree-Tone**.

APPLY **Bradfield Organics Corn Gluten** to your lawn to prevent weeds.

SPRAY for spider mites with **Organocide** on needles and limbs of arborvitae, cryptomeria, false cypress, fir, hemlock, juniper, pine, yew and spruce (except blue spruce).

CONTINUE spring cleanup. Cultivate to remove winter weeds and debris from the planting beds. Apply **Preen Vegetable Garden Weed Preventer** and scratch it in to prevent future weeds.

RESEED bare spots in established lawns and cover lightly with **Chesapeake Green**. Keep the area moist until seedlings appear, then mow when the new grass is 3" high.

PRUNE forsythia, azaleas, and other spring-flowering trees & shrubs after the flowers fall.

DIG and divide crowded early spring bulbs after they finish blooming. Enrich the soil with **Espoma Bulb-tone** and **Bumper Crop**.

PLANT and transplant trees and shrubs, including roses, ground covers, and perennials.



WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

Invite Good Bugs to your Garden

Select the right plants for your garden, and you can encourage good bugs to feast on unwanted insects like aphids and whiteflies. Plants that attract 'good bugs' offer food and shelter they need for survival. Beneficial insects' preferred food source is other insects, but to complete their life cycles they also require pollen and nectar, which they dine on when the pest insect population is low. The key to attracting beneficial insects is a diverse offering of plants. The broader the spectrum of food and shelter you provide, the greater the variety of insects your garden will attract.

Remember that you will not eliminate all pests, but their numbers will be minimized so that plant damage is tolerable.

The plants listed provide a haven for beneficial insects. Plant them in flower borders or use them to edge vegetable beds.

Annuals

Bishop's weed (*Ammi majus*). Similar to Queen Anne's lace; blooms April to October. Attracts: parasitic wasps, pirate bugs, syrphid flies.

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*). Small white flowers on fine-textured plants; blooms May and June. Attracts: hover flies, parasitic wasps, pirate bugs.

Cosmos (*C. bipinnatus*). White works best; 1- to 4-foot ferny foliage; blooms April to November. Attracts: insidious flower bugs, lacewings, lady beetles.

Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*). White to purple flowers on 6- to 8-inch plants; blooms all year in mild-winter areas. Attracts: hover flies, lacewings, parasitic wasps, pirate bugs.

Perennials

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*). Soft, ferny foliage; yellow, flat flower clusters; blooms April to November. Attracts: hover flies, lacewings, lady beetles, paper wasps, soldier bugs.

Coreopsis Yellow, orange, and maroon flowers on plants 1 to 3 feet tall; blooms May to September. Attracts: hover flies, lacewings, lady beetles, parasitic wasps.

Crown pink (*Lychnis coronaria*). Soft gray foliage on 2-foot plants; magenta, pink, and white flowers; blooms April to August. Attracts: hover flies, parasitic wasps.

Feverfew (*Chrysanthemum parthenium*). White daisy flowers on 1- to 3-foot plants; blooms April to September or later. Attracts: hover flies.

Yarrow (*Achillea*). Pink, yellow, red, lavender, and white flowers; blooms April to September. Attracts: lady beetles, parasitic wasps.



IN THE NURSERY

Spring Flowering Trees

The arrival of spring is evident more in the blossoms of trees than anything else. The joyful coloring of the landscape by spring-flowering trees truly lifts the spirits – the pinks and whites of dogwoods and crabapples, the glorious blossoms of magnolia magically appear almost overnight. Together, they proclaim that winter is finally over.

Some of our favorite early flowering trees include (in order by their bloom time):

Magnolia The first to bloom is the Star Magnolia with its many petaled, white flowers. A week later several varieties of Saucer Magnolias make their debut with big, rich, full, cup-shaped flowers in shades of white, pink and purple.

Ornamental Cherry Every landscape should have at least one cherry tree. The breath-taking Weeping Cherry announces spring’s arrival, followed by the famous Yoshino Cherry of Washington D.C. Next, the popular vase-shaped Kwanzan Cherry explodes into bloom with deep pink, double flowers.

Redbud An adaptable tree with charming bright purple flowers along its bare branches. ‘Forest Pansy’ also boasts purplish foliage all summer. This is one of the few trees that will tolerate shade.

Dogwood Our native Dogwood is one of the most beautiful flowering trees. Graceful flowers in white, pink and red appear to float on its bare branches. In fall, leaves turn to a reddish purple color with clusters of red berries.

Colorful Spring-Blooming Shrubs

Pieris Japonica This evergreen shrub has white or pink bell-shaped flowers in early spring. Interesting spring, summer and fall foliage are an added attraction. Grows 4-6’ tall and wide.

P.J.M Dwarf Rhododendron This dependable early bloomer has delightful lavender pink blooms and mahogany foliage in winter. Tolerates more sun than other Rhododendrons.

Azaleas ‘Azaleas announce Spring!’ Choose from a large selection of deciduous and evergreen varieties in shades of pink, white, salmon, rose, lavender, magenta, purple, red, orange and yellow. The perfect addition to any landscape.

Lilac An old-fashioned favorite for its fragrance. Selections of white, pink and purple are available in both the traditional varieties as well as dwarf forms.

SPRING AHEAD

DATES TO REMEMBER

- MARCH 15-23 – SPRING ORCHID SALE**
SAVE 20% on orchids & supplies
- MARCH 20 – 1ST DAY OF SPRING SALE**
SAVE 20% on all merchandise
- MARCH 23 – EASTER HOURS**
BCC 9-4pm, Beltway 10-4pm
- APRIL 1 – TEMPTING TUESDAYS BEGIN**
SAVE 25% on Hanging Baskets
- APRIL 12 – GREAT FALLS GRAND OPENING**
SAVE 20% on all merchandise
- APRIL 22 – EARTH DAY SALE**
SAVE 25% on any one plant
- MAY 23-26 – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**
SAVE 25% on Market Packs (with coupon in mail)
- JUNE 21 – 1ST DAY OF SUMMER SALE**
SAVE 20% on all merchandise
- JUNE 28-29 – ECO FAIR**
learn about what you can do for Mother Earth

ODE TO THE HELLEBORE

Why do we love them so much? Because they:

- Like shade
- Are resistant to deer attacks
- Are among the first perennials to bloom in spring
- Have exquisite flowers
- Have attractive, evergreen leaves

March is the perfect time to try a few hellebores in your garden because they are in bloom and they are discounted 20% for garden rewards members all month.

SPRING IS ALMOST HERE...

but we are not the only ones looking forward to it. That’s why this is the best time to repot and fertilize your house plants with Rain Grow Fertilizer or Organica tablets to give them a good boost after the long days of winter.

4 STEP ORGANIC TURF CARE PROGRAM

- STEP 1 - March / April**
- Apply Limestone
 - Apply Bradfield Organics Corn Gluten if not seeding (if seeding go to Step 3)
- STEP 2 – May / June**
- Apply Compost Tea
 - Apply Bradfield Luscious Lawn & Garden fertilizer
- STEP 3 – late August / early September**
- Apply Bradfield Organics Luscious Lawn & Garden fertilizer
 - Apply grass seed
 - Cover lightly with Chesapeake Green
 - Water lightly for 10-14 days
- STEP 4 – late October / early November**
- Apply Bradfield Organics Corn Gluten



A WORD FROM MITCH

Every gardener I know has a stack of plastic pots and trays from this season and last. Where do they all come from? More importantly, where do they all go? Most of these non-recyclable pots end up in the landfill. While some effort is being made to find a second life for plastic nursery containers (over 350 million pounds made each year) the bottom line is they are still a petroleum based product.

What about biodegradable nursery pots? The rising cost of petroleum makes alternative materials more attractive. Today,

trials are taking place using rice hulls, recycled paper, chicken feathers, coir fiber, compressed dried cow manure and bamboo pulp to make pots for the nursery industry. Biodegradable decorative pots have been available to the consumer for a few years, but changing an entire industry will take time. Growers and retailers like the convenience of plastic pots. Still, the horticulture industry is taking steps to reduce dependence on petroleum products and I expect to see plants in biodegradable pots showing up in garden centers soon.

Check us out this fall on HGTV’s hit show, Curb Appeal, as we re-design a local Bethesda home.



WHAT’S NEW?

*You’ve probably already noticed our new **LOGO** and shortened name, but did you know that we are also opening a new store **LOCATION** in Great Falls, Virginia? Come to our Grand Opening at 10106 Georgetown Pike on April 12th and SAVE 20% on all merchandise on hand. Our stores will have a fresh new **LOOK** this spring, but our great service will remain the same. And this year we will also have an Earth Day Sale on April 22nd, where you can SAVE 25% on any one plant. Maybe it’s time to put in that big Japanese Maple, Yellow Wood, or Cedar.*

2008 Perennial of the Year

Geranium ‘Rozanne’ available mid-late **May**. Its 2 plus inch flowers are iridescent violet-blue with purple veins and bloom from late May til frost. Perennials’ Manager Emily says, “It really is the longest blooming perennial I have ever seen.”



Healthy Soil... Healthy Plants

Why do you have such a hard time with the soil in your garden? Here’s the dirty truth: There simply is very little “soil”. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we all had perfect soil that didn’t need anything added to it to grow perfect plants? Very few of us are that lucky. Depending on where you live, most of our area has clay as the main soil ingredient, making drainage poor, and nutrients unavailable to plants because of the lack of organic matter. But, you can always improve on what nature has given you. The key to successful gardening is “healthy soil.” This basic truth applies to all plants. Quite simply, when you feed the soil the proper nutrients, you let the soil feed the plants. So how do you “feed” the soil? Add organic matter such as Bumper Crop, Leafgro, and Compost Tea. These soil amendments will improve your drainage and add nutrients to your soil. Come in. We’ll show you how to really prepare your soil for spring.