



Colonial Farm Nursery Spring 2010

New for Frequent Buyers

We have two new programs to reward our loyal customers. Sign up for both – it's easy and free! Simply fill out the form and give it to the cashier to get your wallet-sized card for each club.

Seasonal Buyer's Club – Make a purchase of \$30 or more in the spring (March-May), the summer (June-August) and the fall (September-October) and get 20% off one merchandise purchase in November or December. (Labor, delivery and gift certificates excluded.)

Frequent Buyer's Club – For every purchase of \$20 or more, receive a stamp (1 stamp per day). Get all 12 stamps and receive 20% off your next merchandise purchase, anytime. (Labor, delivery and gift certificates excluded.)

To receive our Newsletter:
 By mail using address below
 Go Green! By email, address below

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

We respect your privacy. Your name and details will not be given or sold to anyone else.



The Scoop on Geraniums

The summer annual grown for its red, white, pink, purple or orange flower heads is, technically, not a *Geranium* at all. The correct botanical name for this common annual is *Pelargonium*. A true *Geranium*, or crane's bill, is a distinct perennial species that is extremely hardy and easy to grow. But, geranium is the name that we all know and so we'll continue to use it! Heat and sun loving, the geranium is easy to care for both in the ground and in planters, window boxes and hanging baskets. There are several types that you'll find at Colonial Farm. The zonal geranium is distinguished by a dark horseshoe-shaped band or 'zone' on its leaf. Then there is the ivy geranium which has a daintier flower head and a trailing habit that makes it perfect for baskets. The third variety is prized for attributes other than its flowers which are often smaller or not as attractively colored. These include the scented

geraniums, like the ever popular Citronella, and geraniums with variegated leaves such as the white and green leafed Wilhelm Languth. We begin growing your geraniums in our greenhouse in February where we regularly pinch off the flower buds so the plant puts more energy into developing roots and thick growth. By late April, the plants are ready to go, but don't plant them too early! While geraniums are somewhat hardy and will often linger late into the fall, they won't like being taken from a hot greenhouse and planted out where the spring nighttime temperatures may still be dropping below the frost point. Fertilize with slow release fertilizers when you plant them, then just give them the proper amount of water – not much if they're in the ground, a couple times a week or even once a day if they are in pots or baskets where they will dry out quickly. Pinch off the spent flowers to encourage fresh blooms and if your geranium starts to get a bit leggy at the end of the summer, pinch back by several inches to encourage new, bushy growth.

Culture and Uses: Any well-drained garden or potting soil. Thrives in sun or light shade. Great for planters, window boxes, beds and borders

March's Featured Plants

Spiderplants, cabbages, forsythia, flowering cherries (*Prunus*) and Lenten rose (*Helleborus*) – *Helleborus* are often seen blooming as early as February! They like humus rich soil and partial shade but do not like to be disturbed and take a long time to recover if dug and divided. Lenten roses have large saucer-shaped blooms in white, green, pink or purple and deeply lobed leaves. They make good cut flowers and are a welcome sign in the pre-spring garden.

April's Featured Plants

Tulips, broccoli, azaleas, dogwood (*Cornus*) and bleeding Heart (*Dicentra*) – *Dicentra*, or bleeding heart, are delicate, shade loving plants. Great for growing under trees or in a woodland setting. The roots are fragile and grow close to the surface, so dig and divide carefully to avoid breaking them. *Spectabilis* – the heart-shaped species – die back in the summer heat but the ferny-leafed *formosa* species continues to flower into autumn.

May's Featured Plants

Geraniums (*Pelargonium*), tomatoes, columbine (*Aquilegia*), roses and flowering plums (*Prunus*) – *Aquilegia* are old-fashioned cottage garden plants with dainty, nodding heads in single and bi-colors shades and single or double petals. They prefer a small amount of shade but thrive in any well-drained soil. Columbine are a short-lived perennial and die out after a few years, but self-seed readily so your garden will always have plants!

Visit our website at www.colonialfarmnursery.com to read more information about all of this quarter's featured plants.



Helleborus species



Dicentra spectabilis



Aquilegia

Upcoming Events

March 20, 11 am - Herbs & Vegetables Workshop

This Saturday workshop is on the basics of herb and vegetable gardening. Topics will include basic planting, care and harvesting tips as well as detailed information on specific herbs and vegetables such as culinary uses, the best way and time to plant specific vegetables and square-foot and container gardening. Attendees will receive coupons for free herb and vegetable purchases in the spring. Refreshments are provided using some of the herbs and vegetables we discuss. An RSVP is appreciated so we can be sure of having sufficient refreshments. RSVP to: 304-263-5232 or leann@colonialfarmnursery.com. This workshop is approximately 1 - 1 1/2 hours long and is free.

April 15 & 18, 1 pm - Summer Workshop on Annuals

On Thursday, April 15 or Sunday, April 18 come in for our summer annuals and containers workshops, held on two different days to conveniently fit your schedule. During the first part of the workshop, starting at 1 pm and lasting approximately 45 minutes, we will discuss many different annuals including what's new in our greenhouses this year, the care of specific plants, which plants are great for containers, and lots more.

April 15 & 18, 2 pm - Summer Workshop on Containers

After a short break, starting at 2 pm, we will give you some tips on how to choose complementary plants and assemble a gorgeous container. Learn how to choose plants by their sun/shade and moisture requirements, the three types of plants you need to include, and how to keep your planter looking good all season. Then you will have the opportunity to choose your own containers and plants and assemble a planter, with as much or as little help and advice as you want! **Both workshops are free. Containers and plants purchased during the workshop are 10% off retail cost. Please join us for one or both!**

May 1 - May 9 - Children's Mother's Day Special

Starting May 1, children ages 2-12 may stop by the nursery at any time during business hours and select a FREE 4" planter of specially mixed annuals to give to Mom or Grandma for Mother's Day. There will be many different combinations of flowers to choose from and decorative foil to make the planter complete. Limit, one planter per child.

Our workshops are still in the planning stage, so check back at our website or call us at 304-263-5232 for more details. If you have anything in particular that you'd like to see a workshop on, please let us know.

\$2 off

THESE FEATURED PLANTS

Any flowering cherry or plum tree, dogwood trees,
Harry Lauders, forsythia, azaleas, roses
Expires 5-31-10 - Limit 1 coupon per customer per day

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NURSERY AND LANDSCAPING INC.
Colonial Farm



February's Featured Plants

Corylus 'Contorta' — Harry Lauder's Walking Stick

Harry Lauder's Walking Stick is a wildly contorted form of ornamental hazelnut. The twisted stems get yellow catkins in the spring followed by large bright green leaves. This is a perfect plant for winter interest and should be left untrimmed as the older it gets the more character it develops. A zone 4 plant that gets 10' tall and 6' wide, it will grow in full sun to part shade. Cut a few of the unusual branches to use in flower arrangements.

Sweet Peas (Lathyrus) — This sweetly scented flowering vine was introduced from Sicily in 1699 and gained wide popularity in the Victorian era. It is a cool weather

plant that can be sown outdoors in March, but will fade in the summer heat. Flowers come in many different colors. They are great for baskets or twining up a fancy trellis.

Herb planters — The perfect thing for midwinter blues is a windowsill container of herbs to use in cooking! Buy some rooted herbs or sow seed now to have a supply of fresh culinary herbs at hand. You just can't beat the taste of freshly picked herbs!