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GROWING PLACES



Spring, 2004

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Landscape Design Day Workshop

“It was the best \$20 I ever spent”...” Phelan’s workshop far exceeded my expectations!”... These testimonials represent the feedback received from evaluations of our past two Landscape Design Day Workshops. Because the growing season monopolizes a tremendous amount of time from our staff, assisting homeowners with a well thought out landscape plan can be tricky. So during the quieter month of February, this workshop is geared to assist folks who would appreciate the one-on one approach to their personal design. See workshop agenda on page 3.

Date: February 7, 10:00-3 p.m.

Location: Jenkins Middle School

Cost: \$20/person or \$25 per couple (includes lunch)

Potted Flowers, Gardens, and Green Plants are Great Choices for Valentine’s Day



Celebrate Arbor Day With Us!

Celebrated the last weekend in April (24 & 25) Phelan Gardens will keep with our tradition of giving away **free trees for bags of newsprint.** (Two bags of newspaper gets you a tree, limit two trees per family)!

Additionally, this weekend we offer **great sales on all of our landscape trees!**

Order Your Bare Root Shrubs Now!

“Bare Root” refers to plants that were field grown, harvested in the fall, and shipped without soil for spring planting. **Bare root plants are normally 20-40% less than container grown,** and shipping costs are reduced since the weight of the soil is not an issue. Plants are **sold in bundles of five or ten,** and pricing will vary on size of plant. If a hedge or group planting is in the plan, bare root is definitely worth considering. The drawback to this type of plant is the disturbance of a root system. While some plants recover quickly, others will require a year to re-establish themselves before growing. Listed below are just a few varieties that perform well. when handled bare root. Call our listing for a complete list and price!

- Ligustrum or Privet Hedge
- Spirea varieties
- Potentilla
- Viburnum varieites
- Philadelphus or Mock Orange
- Prunus varieties

Salix or Willow varieties

Deadline for bare root order is February 25. Non refundable deposit required. Plant shipment scheduled for mid March. There is no warranty on bare root plant orders



The New Year Begins With a Seed

The reasons for seeding spring plants indoors vary.... To witness the resurgence of life, to grow varieties not easily found, or to save money ... The process of growing plants from seeds can be very gratifying if successful, whether its your first time or you have tried unsuccessfully, we offer some insight that may be helpful.

The growing area does not have to monopolize every sunny window of the house but rather a room in the basement with the help of artificial lights. Serious growing setups might include shelving units with fluorescent lighting set above seed trays. Grow lights are required for blooming plants, but not required for seedlings. Young plants will do best when offered 14-16 hours of light each day. By moving your light source to within 4 inches of the plants, it will almost double the light available to new seedlings.

The timing of seeding is critical... some plants require weeks to germinate while others just days. To determine when a seed should be started indoors, check the seed package for the days required going from germination to transplant.

Use your calendar to count backwards for the appropriate seeding dates. While most seeds germinate best at 70°, others may prefer cooler temps or even darkness for best success. Usually the seed package offers the optimum growing requirements.

Additional seeding products worth mentioning include the soil medium. Some people prefer straight vermiculite, while others utilize a soil that is light and able to hold both moisture and air. The reusable humidity domes that fit directly over a seed tray increase the germination process. Domes should be removed as soon as seeds begin cracking. Jiffy pots are preferred for larger seeds such as melon or nasturtiums when sown directly into pots rather than trays.

The handling of young plants differs from more established plants. The first set of leaves to emerge from a seed is called cotyledons. The next sets of leaves are called "true leaves". Once we see the

stronger true leaves emerge, we can transplant and also fertilize with a weak solution of water-soluble fertilizer. Rather than a cold splash of water, most plants and especially babies would appreciate a lukewarm drink. Trigger sprayers work well.

As we approach the planting time for Colorado Springs, acclimation of young seedlings to both temperature and light intensity is required. Cold tolerant plants such as lettuce or broccoli should experience decreased temperatures or offered protection from extreme cold. These hardened-off

plants can be planted in late April. Tender plants are best planted in mid May while keeping a close watch on night time temperatures. All seedlings require a gentle introduction to full sun conditions beginning with shaded opportunities increased to short periods of direct sun over the course of several days.

Consider attending the March 6th class presented by Larry Stebbins, an award winning gardener and major plant enthusiast who will offer additional information on timing and varieties worth trying. See class schedule on back.



Newsletter Mailing Update Required

We are trying to save a few trees. If you'd like to receive our newsletter via e-mail, please go to our home page at www.phelangardens.com to sign up. The process is extremely fast and easy to complete and explains our Privacy Policy. Best yet, you'll receive special coupons throughout the season.

For those of you who still wish to receive a mailed copy, please call us or stop by. We are purging our list and need to hear from you if you'd like to remain on our mailing list. Thank you!

Landscape Design Day Agenda

- 9:30 – 10:00 **Registration**
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Opening Remarks by Mary Bernard of Phelan Gardens**
- 10:15 – 10:50 **Landscape Design** *Amy Ottaway*, Colorado Design Concepts, Inc., will offer homeowners design strategies to tackle the top five challenges in creating a landscape design.
- 11:00 – 11:35 **Plant Selection** *Valerie Belding of Phelan Gardens* will discuss plant selection of trees, shrubs and flowering plants to achieve year-round color, interest with lighting and soil makeup as a consideration for success.
- 11:45 – 12:20 **Irrigation Systems** *Kevin Longenecker of A-1 Landscape* will address irrigation design and implementation for new and renovated landscapes. This discussion will offer insight to methods in which to irrigate various water use zones within a particular landscape.
- 12:30 – 1:05 **Hardscape** *Alan Johnson of C&C Sand and Stone* will offer suggestions on organic matter, wood and aggregate mulch, and the utilization of slope retention and walkway options.
- 1:05 – 1:45 **Lunch**
Enjoy a light lunch, look over garden displays, ask questions of speakers and Phelan staff members, and sign up for a consultation time.
- 1:45 – 2:30 **General Question and Answer Time**
Be prepared to ask speakers questions related to your design.
- 2:40 – 3:50 **Design Time**
Participants will begin to design their project with Phelan staff members circulating to answer questions.

**Phelan Gardens has paid full rental fee to use Jenkins Middle School—no tax dollars were used for this rental—School District #11 does not support or endorse this activity.



Having a few months to experience our new building with its high ceilings and ample floor space, we are excited about the direction our business is headed for spring! The ultimate purpose is to showcase garden accents and support product to ensure your gardening and garden related needs are expressed!

Incoming product is the popular rustic art from ornate wall pieces to doormats; this versatile metal will withstand the harshest conditions. Metal containers for walls and hanging purposes, plant stands, and hooks will offer diversity in display. New statuary and outdoor fountains will accentuate your outdoor living space for years to come! Adding to our line of imported ceramic containers, we will offer alternatives such as wooden choices, unique clay, fiberglass and

woven creations.

Diversification in tools and support product will enhance your selection in garden accessories. Specialty items such as gardening books, t-shirts and nature products for children will offer gift -giving options. Lots of surprises will surely delight the possibilities of your purchasing from our garden business.

A vision of expanding our product line in more directions is tempting! Our goal this spring however is to embrace the season and offer ample product to meet your needs. The transition of new merchandise will change with the seasons. We look forward not only to spring but also the merchandise that follows!

www.phelangardens.com

Updated quarterly, our website offers not only information about our business but also a wealth of information on garden topics, plant information, important links, and a Ask Jo Gardener where you can email questions for response!



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Thanks for Growing With Us!

Class Schedule (February-March) RSVR Please!

2/7/04

Landscape Design Day Jenkins Middle School (class agenda on pg 3) \$20/person or \$25/couple
10:00 a. m. -3:50 p.m.

2/28/04

Houseplants Made Easy, Phelan Gardens,
1 -2 p.m.

Learn the strategies of growing indoor plants successfully! Tips on pruning, selection and overall care! Jennifer Dumakowski

3/6/04

Successful Vegetable Gardening for the Pikes Peak Region, Bethel Lutheran Church, 4925 Farmingdale Dr.
10:30-Noon

Presented by Larry Stebbins, an award winning gardener who will offer his secrets on growing abundantly successful vegetable gardens for the Pikes Peak Region.

3/20/04

The Art of Feng-Shui Gardening, Phelan Gardens
10-11 a.m.

Techniques of this oriental method will be applied to bring positive results to your indoor/outdoor gardening. Design and placement will be among areas discussed in this class.

4/3/04

Perennials Gardens & Ornamental Grasses, Phelan Gardens
1-2 p.m.

Learn how to achieve a beautiful perennial garden for your specific situation to include an overview into the varieties and Strategies of ornamental grasses.