

Hummingbird Season is Here



As we speak the male hummingbirds are arriving to claim their territories, and it's time you put out your hummingbird feeders to ensure that you welcome one of Nature's most colorful and entertaining members to your yard for the season.

Check out Jonker's big selection of hummingbird feeders. These blown-glass feeders are works of art, as well as very functional feeders. They come in lots of different colors to match any theme.

You can easily make your own hummingbird feeder food by adding one part sugar to 4 parts water. You don't have to add

color, as it can actually be harmful.

Another great way to ensure you have hummingbirds in your yard is to plant flowers that attract them. A few examples of plants that hummingbirds love: Red Hot Poker, fuchsia, petunias, cardinal vine, butterfly bush, cleome, nasturtium, zinnia, honeysuckle, lilac, weigela, and columbine.



Greenwashing

Continuing our series of reprints from long-ago Jonker's Gardener articles about being 'Green', here's part of an "Environmentally Speaking..." article from Jonker's Gardener, Vol. VII, May, 1991 (almost 20 years ago!):

"...Research studies show that routine application of broad spectrum insecticides applied three times a year to all trees or bushes on test properties, results in more insects than with no insecticides. This happens because the chemicals kill beneficial insects that prey on other bugs, ruining the natural balance. So think twice before you spray!"

897 Lincoln Avenue
Holland, MI 49423-5306
616-392-7234
jonkersgarden.com

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
HOLLAND, MI 49423
PERMIT #66

GARDEN LIVING™
PUBLISHED FOR GARDEN LOVERS EVERYWHERE





Jonker's

GARDEN LIVING™

PUBLISHED FOR GARDEN LOVERS EVERYWHERE

Spring Celebration April 26

We had such a good time at our Open House that we thought we'd extend the bargains to one more Saturday. If you missed our Open House on the 19th, this is your chance to get some really good deals on stuff you're going to need this year. Check it out:

♥ 25% off ALL POTS: ceramic, clay, concrete, and plastic, and 50% off select pots!

♥ \$1.00 off all one gallon sized perennials

♥ \$4.00 off Pansy flats (reg. \$11.99, sale: \$7.99)

♥ Bayer Advanced Garden Tree & Shrub Insect Control (32 fl. oz.): \$19.99 (\$5.00 off) Now is the time to apply!

♥ Bayer Advanced Garden All-in-One Rose & Flower Care (32 fl. oz.) \$14.99 (\$5.00 off). Fertilizes and protects your plants from

insects and diseases, all with one treatment every 6 weeks!

♥ Fafard Organic Compost (30 qt. size): only \$4.99 (\$3.00 off reg. price of \$7.99)

♥ Fafard Organic Garden Manure (30 qt. size): only 2.99! (\$3.00 off reg. price of \$5.99)

♥ Fafard Container Mix (30 qt. size) only \$6.99! (\$3.00 off reg. price of \$9.99) If you took Jonker's Garden Employees' Garden Tour last year, you may remember Greg's outstanding pots on his decks. He used Fafard Container Mix, and loved the results.



Seminar Rescheduled

THURSDAY, MAY 1
The Beauty of
Native Plants and Insects

Tina Clemons, Executive Director of the Allegan Conservation District will present parts of her "Back-yard Habitat Series". This colorful PowerPoint presentation includes information on how native plants provide food and shelter for our wild friends, as well as habitat for beneficial insects which help suppress the 'bad bugs' and act as pollinators for our important fruit and vegetable crops. Add to this the fact that native plants need less care, water, fertilizer, and pesticides than other plants, and you'll see why you really should be adding native plants to your landscape!

Inside This Issue:

Build Your Soil ...	page 2
Endless Wonder ...	page 3
Hummingbird Season ...	page 4
Greenwashing ...	page 4



Top Gardening Secret Revealed!

It's really no secret. The most important aspect of gardening is soil preparation. OK, site and plant selection are important, too, but the soil comes first. It's a rare gardener who has soil ready to plant. You have to inherit that type of situation by purchasing a home from a long-time gardener!

What kind of soil do you have? If you live anywhere near Lake Michigan, chances are good that you have sand. Sand has very little to offer plants: no nutrition or water-holding ability. The good news is that sand is very easy to work with and drains very well. It just needs organic matter added for nutrition and water retention. Peat moss is one of the best additives for sandy soil: it's great for holding water, but has no nutrition. Adding Organic Compost and/or Organic Garden Manure is a great way to improve sandy soil.

Many Holland-area gardens are blessed (cursed) with clay soil. Clay holds moisture for a long time, which is a mixed blessing. It also can be difficult to work with. Clay is improved by adding sand or loam and compost (see above).



If you've lived a good clean life, you may have loam to work with. Loam is actually somewhere between sand and clay, and is sometimes referred to as 'sandy loam' or 'clay loam', depending on which side of the continuum it occurs. Loam usually has good drainage and moisture-holding properties, but as with all types of soil, it benefits from the addition of organic matter.

Fact is, I don't believe I know of any soil that wouldn't benefit from addition of organic matter. There's no magic amount to add, and you can't over-do it. Seasoned gardeners add organic matter to their gardens every year.

Check out the great sale on our organic compost and organic manure on April 26!

Are You In The "Zone"?

Experience gardeners (including us) are prone to use terms that few understand, a lingo of our own, so to speak. When you see "Zone 4" on a plant's tag, do you understand what that means? If not, we apologize!

Zones were established to help gardeners decide which plants will survive in their area. Each zone represents a 10 degree difference in the average annual low temperature through the winter. Zone 6, for example, has an average low of 0 to -10 degrees, and zone 7's average low is 0 to 10 degrees.

The Holland area has traditionally been in zone 6, while 10 to 15 miles to the east of Lake Michigan, around Zeeland and eastward, has been zone 5. Holland benefits from the tempering effects of Lake Michigan. There are plants that will survive in Holland that can't take the winter 15 miles inland.

Now that you're beginning to understand, let me throw you a couple curves. The first is global warming, and some recent revised maps have put Holland in zone 6.5 or 7. The other variable is microclimate. Your particular variation of moisture, soil, winds, and exposure may make your zone a little warmer or colder than this.

Talk to the experts at Jonker's Garden and we'll fill you in on the details about which zone you're in, and what plants will thrive in your yard.



Remember Mother's Day

Don't forget your favorite person this May 11th. Mom would love to get just about anything from Jonker's Garden. The traditional favorites are beautiful blooming hanging baskets and patio pots, and you better believe you'll find a great selection at Jonker's. For something a little more permanent, check out

the nursery for all kinds of blooming shrubs and trees that will remind her of your love year after year.

Maybe this is the year you branch out and get something a little different for Mom. The garden shop is full of great gift items, from yard art and hummingbird feeders to wind chimes, garden benches, gazing balls and lots more.

If you can't decide, remember, a beautiful Gift Card from Jonker's Garden is always appreciated, and then she can select exactly what she wants. You can't lose!



SPRING HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. til 8:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m.

Sunday
11:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m.
(May 4 - June 8)



DON'T FORGET: WE DELIVER!
Ask about our delivery, planting, & set-up service for larger trees, statuary, & fountains.



We are proud of the 15
Master Gardeners and
2 Michigan Certified
Nurserymen on our staff.

Jonker's GARDEN LIVING is published five times a year – free of charge to garden lovers everywhere. Address comments to Jim Jonker, Editor, at 897 Lincoln Ave., Holland, MI 49423-5306 (616.392.7234) e-mail: info@jonkersgarden.com. Mark your calendar: Pansy Fest 2008 will be August 16 - 23.



Endless Summer, Endless Wonder

Endless Summer Hydrangea™ has been around for a few years now, and it's living up to all the hype surrounding its introduction. It blooms virtually all summer long, a first for a hydrangea. The flower 'mops' are up to 8" in diameter, and range in color from blue to pink, depending on your soil acidity. The bushes have robust, shiny green foliage, growing between 3' – 5' in height and width. This is truly a super-plant, and it belongs in everyone's garden.

After the success of Endless Summer plant breeders went to work and developed more ever-blooming hydrangeas. For Ever and Ever™ Hydrangea is every bit as desirable and dependable as Endless Summer, with the additional bonus that it comes in different colors. You can get Double Pink, Peppermint, Red, and White, in addition to pink.

These hydrangeas make excellent Mother's Day gifts, so check them out soon!



Impatiens Sale

May 3, 2008 limit 5 flats, while supplies last.
\$7.99 each. (reg. price: \$11.99)

These are the full-sized flats with 48 plants!
(This special does not include New Guinea Impatiens.)



COUPON

This coupon is good for **\$4.00 off**
each full flat of petunias, including Wave™ petunias, no limit!

Coupon valid May 4 - May 11, 2008 only, while supplies last.
Please present coupon prior to checkout.