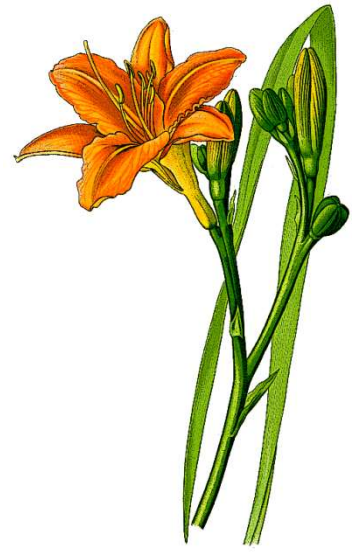


March 2021



## South Schuylkill Garden Club

Third Tuesday of the Month at 6:30

Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven

[www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com](http://www.southschuylkillgardenclub.com)

[www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com](http://www.facebook.com/soschuylkillgardenclub.com)

### Cultivating the Community Newsletter

**Weather Folklore:** *When clouds appear like towers,  
the Earth is refreshed by frequent showers.*

**March** is almost here. That means that spring is just around the corner. Soon the perennials will be popping out of the soil. What a wonderful thought to be rid of winter. Just need to get rid of the snow cover. I myself can't wait to see the soil again. Maybe the deer population will stop eating what is left of my shrubs and some of them can be saved. Below is just a few examples of the deer damage on my property. All of these photos were taken within 5 feet of the house. The deer have eaten Azaleas, Rhododendron, and Holly.



## Date Change

**May** club meeting which was originally set for May 18 has been rescheduled for **May 4**. This is a change that you might want to make in your program book for 2021. The reason for the date change for the meeting, which will be held on the Island in Schuylkill Haven under the pavilion, is to accommodate the Plant Sale scheduled for May 22. Club members on the **4 of May** will be determining what needs to be done as final preparation for the Plant Sale.

## April Tea

With the uncertainties of restriction with may extend into the early spring months, the April Membership Tea will not be planned. How the rest of the year opens up to more friendly gatherings will determine efforts to invite new prospective members into the club.

## Seedling Sale

The Schuylkill County Conservation District will be holding their annual Seedling Sale. The sale of sapling trees has a list of 10 ornamental trees and evergreens for **delivery on April 24<sup>th</sup>**. This is a benefit of Sweet Arrow Lake County Park. **Order by March 20<sup>th</sup>**.

Evergreens are: Austrian Pine, Norway Spruce, Concolor Fir and Eastern Red Cedar. Red Oak, Winterberry, White Flowering Dogwood, Silky Dogwood, Lilac and Dappled Willow (in a 3 inch pot) rounds out the deciduous. Ground Myrtle or Periwinkle is available in 5 bundles.

Order Forms and plant description can be found on Sweet Arrow Lake website or contacting Pat McKinney at Schuylkill County Conservation District 570-391-3326.



## Plant Sale

South Schuylkill Garden Club is planning to host an outdoor plant sale at the Schuylkill Haven Recreation/Senior Center on Saturday, **May 22**. Consider what you would like to contribute. More on this as the plans materialize.

Nancy has been working overtime preparing for the plant sale. She certainly has a green thumb by the photos below.



Cosmoses



Marigolds



Assorted Plants





Leeks

## Way to go Nancy!

### How to Make Seed Tapes

- ☐ Toilet paper or paper towel
  - ☐ Seeds
  - ☐ Paint brush or pencil
  - ☐ Glue / paste made from 1 teaspoon baking flour and a bit of water
  - ☐ Measuring tape
1. The flour and water glue should be thick enough to sit on the end of your brush or pencil without dripping. You need only about a teaspoon of flour to glue several tapes.
  2. Spread seeds out on a plate. Dab the brush in the glue and then pick up a seed with it. Use just the number of seeds you want to plant, without having to thin them out.

3. Write the name of the seeds on the paper.
4. To plant the tape, prepare your growing area as usual and lay the tape down. Cover it with the appropriate depth of soil and water as usual.
5. If you're not ready to plant them yet, just leave the seed tapes flat or carefully folded, stacking one on top of the next in a cool dry place.

### 2021 Philadelphia Flower Show

The Show has moved to an outdoor presentation from **June 5 to 13** in the

FDR Park located in southwest section of the city. (For those who did not know the park here is a description: **Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Park** (originally named League Island **Park** and locally known as "The Lakes") is an aesthetically designed **park** located along the Delaware River in the southernmost point of South **Philadelphia**, Pennsylvania, comprising some 348 acres.) Tickets are now on sale at \$45. Space is limited due to social distancing restrictions. So if you are interested you are advised to register early. Check online at [phsonline.org/the-flower-show](http://phsonline.org/the-flower-show).



#### Description from the website reads:

*“Safely enjoy 15 acres of world-class landscape and floral designs, shopping, plant displays, exciting food and beverage options, entertainment, and educational sessions — all with the exquisite backdrop of FDR Park. The Flower Show will make ample usage of the grand architecture and natural environment of FDR Park as a canvas for colorful inspirational displays.*

*“FDR Park includes open space, gentle hills, huge shade trees, and the sparkling water of Meadow Lake among many other amenities. Plan your Show visit to include a walk through the Park, explore the*

architecture, bird watch, or take the kids to a playground. Beyond the Flower Show designated area, FDR Park will remain open and accessible to the public during the Flower Show.”

## New Perennials for 2021

Why limit your garden perennial choices to those you find blooming at garden centers in spring? This article will familiarize you with new perennials for year-round garden interest.



New England aster 'Pink Crush' Photo courtesy of Walter's Gardens, Inc.

It never fails. Horticultural magazine editors publish their “new plant” editions in the middle of winter when gardeners are dreaming and planning for spring. When April comes along, those subscribers eagerly take their dog-eared copy to the garden center to hunt for these new arrivals only to be disappointed that the introductions are not yet available in a retail setting. Such is the life of a gardener.

Help is on the way! We have spoken to several of the Mid-Atlantic's largest wholesale plant nurseries. They have agreed to share the perennials they are most excited about for 2021. A shared sentiment from the nurseries to which we spoke was that often shoppers are looking for what is in bloom at that moment. When planning and planting a perennial garden, remember to plan for four seasons of interest. Those first visits to garden centers typically are met with the early spring blooming perennials. The selections are so enticing

after our garden's long winter nap. Many of our nursery representatives wanted us to remind our readers that while fall blooming perennials may not look like much in the spring and summer. If you should choose them anyway, you will be rewarded with end of summer color (and you will be helping your pollinators make a final push to prepare for winter).

It bears reminding that just because something is “new” it may not be as “improved” as advertised. We recommend visiting trial garden websites to get a look at how some of these new introductions performed. Gardens listed in order of proximity to Pennsylvania.)

[Penn State Flower Trials](#)

[Mt. Cuba Center](#)

[Michigan State Trials](#)

[Chicago Botanic Garden](#)

[Colorado State Trials](#)

[American Public Garden Association's Gold Medal Plants](#)

Growers are increasingly excited about the public's interest in native and pollinator friendly plants. One favorite native, Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) is new to just about every grower with which we spoke. It is a clump forming, native perennial that prefers moist areas in the southeast. It was previously only available in specialty nurseries. Liner producers are now offering it to wholesale growers. As a result, it can be found regularly and is a top seller in local garden centers. It is a favorite of deer and rabbits so be sure to site it where they can't reach it or use a repellent. Hummingbirds love Indian pink!

Another perennial that several growers would like you to consider is ornamental onion (*Allium* spp.). There are many new cultivars that have hit retail garden centers. These bulbs were traditionally available for sale only in the spring. They are increasingly available over the course of three

seasons. They are pollinator magnets and deer stay away from them. They will grow in full sun. You may be familiar with 'Globemaster' (*Allium giganteum*), but be on the lookout for:

- 'Millenium' – 15 inches tall, mid-summer, rose-pink blooms
- 'Mount Everest' (*Allium stipitatum*) – 2 to 3 feet tall, spring, pure white blooms
- 'Purple Sensation' (*Allium aflatunense*) – 20 to 30 inches tall, late spring large violet blooms
- 'Miami' – 32 to 36 inches tall, summer, dark purple blooms
- 'Ostara' (*A. karataviense* x *A. atropurpureum*) – 10 to 12 inches tall, late spring, purple-red blooms

Fall blooming asters were also at the top of our growers list. Many asters are native and supply late season nectar for butterflies. They can grow in full sun or part shade. Look for

- New England aster 'Pink Crush' (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) – 2 feet tall, compact, dense fall bloomer with strong rosy color
- Big leaf aster 'Twilight' (*Symphyotrichum macrophyllum*) – 2 to 3 feet tall, fall, clear blue blooms
- Smooth aster 'Bluebird' (*Symphyotrichum laevis*) – 3 to 4 feet tall, fall, violet-blue flowers on bluish-green foliage. This aster took first place in Mt. Cuba Center's Aster trials. It provides nectar for migrating monarch butterflies.



Smooth aster 'Bluebird' Photo courtesy of Mt. Cuba Center

## Other perennials to consider

### Spring bloomers



Blue star 'Starstruck' Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc.

- Blue star 'Starstruck' (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) – 2 feet tall, deer resistant, full sun or part shade
- Coral bells 'Carnival Peach Parfait' (*Heuchera* x) – 10 to 12 feet tall, ruffled, peachy-red foliage with darker veining, tiny white blooms, improved heat and humidity tolerance, prefers part-shade, year-round interest
- Old-fashioned Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*) shade to part shade:
  - 'Cupid' – 12 to 18 inches tall, spring, very light pink blooms
  - 'Ruby Gold' – 26 to 32 inches tall, spring, ruby-red blooms over golden foliage
- Lungwort 'Pretty in Pink' (*Pulmonaria*) – 14 to 16 inches tall, rosy pink flowers, prefers shade
- Lenten rose 'Golden Lotus' (*Helleborus* x Winter Jewel™ Series) – 12 to 15 inches tall, winter/early spring, double yellow blooms with red picotee edges; deer resistant, grows in shade
- Bugleweed (*Ajuga* x Feathered Friends™ Series) – ground cover, deer resistant. This new series offers a range of leaf colors and textures with cobalt blue flowers.





Lenten rose 'Golden Lotus' (*Helleborus* x *Winter Jewel*™ Series) Photo courtesy of Terra Nova Nursery

### Summer bloomers

- Hummingbird mint 'Crazy Fortune' ('Atendus'<sup>PBR</sup>) (*Agastache rugosa*) – 14- to 20 inches tall, violet-blue blooms over fragrant variegated leaves, deer resistant, grows in full sun
- Larkspur Delgenius® series (*Delphinium*). Most larkspur are suited for cool climates. This new series has improved heat tolerance, does not require staking and is multi-branched. 18 to 24 inches tall, afternoon shade in warmer climates.
  - 'Breezin' – purple-blue blooms
  - 'Juliette' – mauve pink
  - 'Shelby' – light lavender
- Foamy bells 'Gold Zebra' (x *Heucherella*) *Heucherella* is a cross between coral bells (*Heuchera*) and foamflower (*Tiarella*). This variety is 8 inches with tall, bright yellow foliage marked with dark red, white blooms, prefers part-shade.
- Bearded penstemon 'Coral Baby' (*Penstemon barbatus*) – 16 to 20 inches tall, coral blooms. Can tolerate heavy clay soil. Shorter so it does not need staking, prefers full sun.



Hummingbird mint (*Agastache rugosa*) 'Crazy Fortune' Photo courtesy of Plantipp BV®

And don't forget to add grasses to your garden! Ornamental grasses add color, texture, and fall and winter interest to your landscape. They are deer resistant. Three favorites:

- Little bluestem 'Twilight Zone' (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) – 4 feet tall, silvery mauve purple foliage that becomes brighter purple in the fall
- Little bluestem 'Chameleon' – 2 feet tall, bright white and green striped leaves that develop a pink blush in fall
- Sedge 'Feather Falls' (*Carex oshimensis*) – 12 to 18 inches tall, white and green, glossy, variegated leaves that feature a thinner blade. It has a floppier habit that could work well in a container.



Little Bluestem 'Twilight Zone' Photo courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc.

**Thank you to the following nursery  
representatives:**

- Judy Bergmaier, Centerton Nurseries, 345 Woodruff Road, Bridgeton, NJ 18302
- Mark Huber, The Perennial Farm, 12017 Glen Arm Rd., Glen Arm, MD 21057
- Wendy Brister, Cavanos, 6845 Sunshine Ave., Kingsville, MD 21087
- Terry Bachmann, Quality Greenhouses & Perennial Farm, 250 Union Church Rd., Dillsburg, PA 17019

Holly Throup

Master Gardner Coordinator

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**Houseplant Master Class: Houseplant Selection with  
Focus on Foliage.**

Not sure this will work, but this is a recording of a session I did through PSU.

[https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Houseplant+MasterclassA++Houseplant+Selection+with+Focus+on+Foliage/1\\_0pkfzg1o](https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Houseplant+MasterclassA++Houseplant+Selection+with+Focus+on+Foliage/1_0pkfzg1o)

**Stay Safe by staying socially separated from others by at least 6 feet. Wash hands frequently and above all don't touch your face, but with clean hands.**