

## A Personal Message

April is such a terrific month. Even though we still have some cool days, April is always lots of fun. We'll be having fun at Garden Treasures every Saturday this month. Once again, we'll be offering to spray any plants you purchase there. We'll treat your plants with our natural/organic deer repellent spray when you purchase a plant. There is no cost for this service. Please see the reverse side for more information.

You should see our seed trays. The seed catalogs finally got the best of us. The mail was absolutely full of catalogs this year. We succumbed to the planting bug toward the end of February.

We started with lettuce and baby carrots. They began life in a throwaway aluminum roasting pan. The seeds were direct sown into lightweight potting soil. We'll cut off the roasting pan and place the square of soil into our container gardens.

Our herb garden began with dill, rosemary, basil and lemon grass. The seedlings are almost large enough to plant, but we'll have to wait a little longer. April is still iffy for planting. We purchased mostly organic seeds this year. I think they broke some sort of speed record when it came to germination.

Melissa began planting seeds on a Saturday afternoon. She finished up on Sunday and we placed the trays of seeds in my office beside the pellet stove. Our basil broke ground on Tuesday afternoon with thyme following on Wednesday morning.

We've been busy in the greenhouse over the winter. We'll have some carefully tended plant stock available soon. Please contact our office if you're interested in a list of what's available.

Melissa and I are looking forward to warmer weather in Ocean City. However, we really enjoyed our winter weekend getaways to our tiny camper-trailer.

We finally winterized the unit in November and our place was as warm as toast. We would pack our gear and our ancient cat, Mr. Hobson. The three of us headed to the beach as often as possible. Hobby would complain all the way, but he loved it once we arrived. (Then, he'd complain all the way home too, but that's a cat for you.) Hobby and I have come to the decision that a visit to Ocean City is even better when there are no tourists.

## Garden Tips

- April in the garden. We just love saying those four little words. April is the best month for planting (or transplanting) ornamental grasses and ground covers. It's also the best time to plant shrubbery and trees. Choose early for the best selection. Several local nurseries such as Eastern Shore Nurseries.
- Harrington's and Garden Treasures allow you to select your plant material and will store it for us to pick up later. If you've chosen stock that's too large to handle, let the nursery care for your plants until you're ready. We can deliver large orders and assist you with
- installation.
- Summer blooming bulbs such as dahlias or gladiolas can be planted this month. The soil is now warm enough for bulbs.
- It's a bad idea to cut back the foliage of daffodils and tulips right after they finish blooming. Go ahead and remove the dead flowers and stalks, but leave the leaves until they brown. The plant will store more energy for next year's blooms this way.

## Monthly Property Maintenance

We've got a new twist on an old program and we think you're going to like it.

Once again, we'll offer to come to your property and do a regularly scheduled monthly clean-up. It's like having an outdoor housekeeper for your lawn and garden.

However, you don't have to actually use us each month. There's no minimum charge and no contract. Placing you on a monthly schedule simply assures you that we will be there when things get really busy in the spring and summer months.

Here's the new twist: we have a dedicated crew that will care for your property each month. Many of our customers love the fact that they're guaranteed a spot on the calendar every month. However, they might see a different crew each time. That glitch seems to have been the only complaint with our program.

If you're fortunate enough to have someone help clean your home, you know how important it is to have consistency. You don't want to spend your time instructing them on what to do each time they clean your house. It's the same with your regularly scheduled property maintenance. You have better things to do than follow us

around once a month. So, we'll develop a personalized checklist just for your property. It will give us instructions on exactly what to do each time we arrive. Naturally, we'll be happy to assist you with any extra tasks you may want to have done that month.

We'd like to tell you about the new crew. Dell's sister, Elaine will review your property initially. Thereafter, she'll visit each month to make notes for the crew to follow when they arrive. You won't need to meet her each time, unless you choose. She'll just gather information for the landscapers and do a quality control check. And remember, you can always decide not to use us that month. We'll check back with you the following month.

Iva Herr will head up the landscaping crew. She began working on the grounds crew at Catonsville Community College while she finished her degree.

Then, she spent 5 years with our good friends, Eastern Shore Nurseries. As a nurseryman (nurseryperson?), she gained a wealth of plant knowledge. Her work with the nursery has given her a wealth of knowledge and we are happy to have her with us.

## Deer Repellent Demonstration

I'm really excited about an unusual chance to provide interested consumers with a free trial of our deer repellent. One of the top garden centers in Easton has agreed to allow us to demonstrate our natural/organic deer repellent to their customers.

We'll be appearing at Garden Treasures every Saturday during April from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you stop by and purchase plant material from them while we're demonstrating, we'll spray your plants with deer repellent at no cost.

Our deer repellent spray is 100% effective. It won't harm the deer; it just repels them away from treated plant material.

Many readers are familiar with our deer repellent program. We offer a year round service, designed to protect your valuable landscaping in any type of weather.

We offer the extra added benefit of a very pleasant aroma. Our deer repellent smells like a peppermint candy bar. Some of our customers have been known to open their windows when they know we're coming to their property.

Most repellents use a garlic and egg based formula that is just horrible. You'd think those repellents would be effective because they smell so bad. However, our peppermint based product beats them hands down. Best of all, the cost actually decreases after the first 3 months of service. The repellent is applied more heavily during those first three months of treatment. After that, deer begin to avoid treated areas and we can reduce the amount of spray somewhat. Then, we pass the savings on to you.

The knowledgeable staff at Garden Treasures has always steered us in the right direction when we purchase plant material from them. Let them assist you in making beautiful selections for your outdoor gardens. Then, if you have problems with deer in your area, try my service on one of your plants at no cost. If you decide you like it, we can evaluate your property for the complete service package.

Garden Treasures is located at 29350 Matthewstown Road in Easton. Their telephone number is **410.822.1604**. The garden center is about a block off Route 50.

**I hope to see you there!**