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Early Daylily Season

Along with everything else this year, the daylilies will be blooming early. The field is budded up and ready to explode with color. We plan to dig our irises earlier than usual so that those of you who like to pick up your iris orders while the daylilies are in peak bloom will be able to do so. (You will get a postcard when your iris order is ready.)

The daylily field should be in glorious bloom by the end of June this year. The daylily bloom lasts longer than the iris season because there is more variability among the varieties as to when they bloom. Some of the late bloomers start a month later than the early varieties. So there will be lots of bloom out in the daylily field for four weeks or so. We could certainly use some rain, but we have been running sprinklers out there to give them a good soaking prior to bloom time.

We sell our daylilies three different ways. First, we have over 50 varieties potted up and available from the time that we open in spring. (We pot most of the daylilies in mini-clump form—4-5 fans in a larger pot. They sell for \$15.00 or \$25.00, depending on variety.) Second, we take orders during the season, and then dig divisions (generally double fans) in August after the bloom season is over. You get them bareroot, so it is important that you get them planted right away. Orders can be picked up on an agreed upon date, or we can ship them.

The third way for you to buy our daylilies is in clump form. This has become the most popular way for our customers. We dig clumps while you are here to pick them out, dip the roots in water, and drop the clumps in plastic bags. You not only get a great deal, because you get so many fans for the money, but you get the daylilies right away, so that you can enjoy their blooms the rest of the season. We have to hold back enough of each variety for propagation and to fill orders for divisions, so the number of clumps available for any given variety will depend on our supply. In many cases, we can only spare one or two clumps of a variety. So get here early for best selection.

As we mentioned in our earlier newsletter, we are selling off over 150 varieties at the ridiculous price of \$10.00 per clump. We have been taking on new varieties every year, without eliminating any, so it's time to do some housecleaning. Check our website for a list of those varieties.

Please note our hours. We will still be open Sundays through July 8, which should still be a prime weekend for daylilies. After that, we will return to being open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 to 5:00.



'For Your Eyes Only'

Retail Hours

Through July 8, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5:00 p.m. We will be closed on Wednesday, July 4. From July 9 through October 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and we will be closed on Sundays and on Labor Day.

New Hosta Arrivals

A few years ago, we oversold our supply of 'Big Mama' and, as a result, haven't been able to offer it since. And several years before that, we did the same thing with 'Super Nova'. But we recently found a grower who had a quantity of both of these wonderful hostas lined out, and we bought in some beautiful, nice sized plants of each.



'Big Mama' is even bigger than 'Big Daddy'. It differs from 'Big Daddy' in that it is not as blue and it is not cupped, but it has huge leaves that are nicely corrugated and which layer beautifully over one another, forming an impressive and imposing clump, delivering the message "You don't mess with Big Mama."

'Super Nova' is a gorgeous, medium large hosta with gold centers and wide, blue margins. The centers lighten as the season progresses. It appears to have some *sieboldiana* heritage, so it has good substance with nice corrugated texture.

If 'Big Mama' and 'Big Daddy' had a son, what might it be named? How about 'Bigga Luigi'? Actually, 'Bigga Luigi' is a sport of a hosta called 'Simply Sharon'. We got in some liners this spring, and they have

sized up enough that we can start selling them now. 'Bigga Luigi' is blue-green and is listed as extra large, with moderated cupping and good corrugation. It appears to be a rapid grower.

Bocce Ball At The Gardens

The inaugural Hornbaker Gardens Bocce Ball Tournament will take place on Saturday, July 14 at 1:00. Please be signed up by 1:00 so that we can get the brackets organized and start playing as soon thereafter as possible. Mostly we just want to have some fun and play some games, but the winning partners will each receive a \$50.00 gift certificate.

Here are some of the particulars: A team consists of two people. You can come as partners, or singles can draw for partners. Games will be to 11, and a match will consist of 2 out of three games. It will probably be a single elimination tournament. There will be a couple of sets of Bags boards, and perhaps some other lawn games. Come prepared for a fun afternoon. BYOB and lawn chairs.

If you have a set of Bocce balls, bring them along. You might email us a note and let us know you plan to be here and will be bringing a set of Bocce balls.



New Tiered Bubblers

Bubblers have been a big hit here for the last few years. The Pebble Pots have been the real eye-catchers, but drilled boulders and decorative ceramic pots turned into bubblers have been popular, too.

Now we have a new batch of tiered bubblers made out of granite or sandstone. They are round, square, or triangular in shape. Each tier consists of a stone and a spacer made out of the same stone. They can be stacked up to eight tiers high, and sit on a 30" or 36" basin, depending on the height and the diameter of the stone. The top tier is equipped with a rubber stopper into which the 1/2" tubing fits. The new pumps that we are using come with an adjustable flow valve right on the pump so that you can make the bubble just the height you want.

These tiered bubblers are a great way to have a relatively inexpensive, yet classy, water feature that will last forever.

