

New Plants For 2016

Perennials: More and more customers are discovering that *Helleborus* is a wonderful plant. Commonly known as Lenten Rose, it blooms so early that only the earliest visitors see it blooming in our display gardens. It's a great companion to hostas, as it loves a shady or filtered shade location.



Helleborus
 'Dark and Handsome'

Helleborus forms a clump 18-24" tall and wide, and is a reliable grower, hardy to Zone 4. Flowers in a wide range of colors appear in March before most perennials are even poking their noses out of the ground. The foliage is unique, with a somewhat bluish cast, and remains attractive the rest of the season.

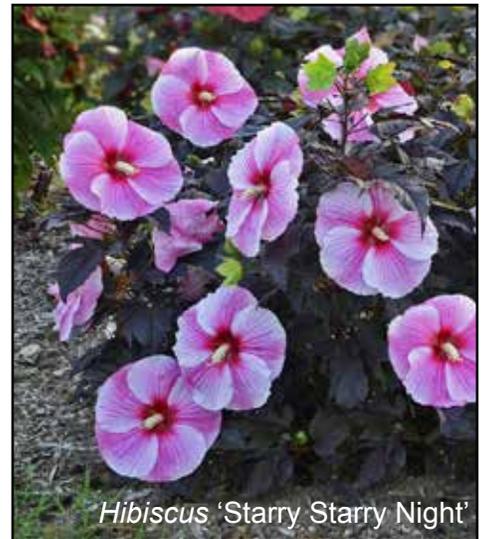
Molly is bringing in ten new varieties this spring, with colors of white, yellow, pink, red, and black/purple. Add these to your shade garden. You won't be disappointed.

Another new perennial for partial shade is *Mukgenia* 'Nova Flame', which is an interesting cross between *Mukdenia* and *Bergenia*. It has the leathery, dark green foliage with burgundy margins and great fall color of the former, combined with the pink flowers of the latter. This could be a really unique plant, and it's hardy to Zone 3.

Also good in part shade is *Ligularia* 'King Kong'. This unusual plant has huge, very dark foliage, with leaves as much as 16 inches across, and grows 3-4' tall and wide. It is topped by golden-orange, daisy-like flowers, and is hardy to Zone 4.

Now to some sun plants. Hybridizers continue to work on shorter, more compact *Buddleias* (**Butterfly Bushes**). New this year is 'Magenta Munchkin', which has a low, rounded, compact habit, 30-36" tall, topped by tons of fuschia-red flower panicles that are 7-8" long.

Hibiscus 'Starry Starry Night' is a new variety with near-black foliage that is the darkest to date. The large, 7-8" flowers are pale pink with darker pink speckling and veining. It grows up to 4' tall and is hardy to Zone 4.



Hibiscus 'Starry Starry Night'

Allium 'Medusa' is an ornamental onion that puts on a nice show in summer with light amethyst purple flowers, around 18-20" tall, above narrow, gray-green foliage. *Allium* plants are reliable and attractive performers in the sunny garden and are hardy to Zone 4.

For late summer and fall flowers, *Anemones* really do the job. Some of the older pink varieties get fairly tall and floppy. 'Cinderella' is a new variety that gets only 12-18" tall, with baby pink flowers from July into October. *Anemones* can handle quite a bit of sun, but perform best if provided with afternoon shade.

Hostas: We have at least 20 new varieties this year. The biggest one is 'Icy Halo', a sport of 'Parhelion' with rich green, round leaves and pure white margins. Give this grower some room!

In the medium to large category, look for 'Cool as a Cucumber', a vigorous grower forming a showy clump of long, tapered leaves with bright green margins and clear white centers, and maturing into a gracefully arching mound. Or try 'Merlin', which forms a striking mound of blue-green foliage with bright gold margins. 'Neptune' is a unique, blue, medium-large hosta that forms a cascading clump of narrow, wedge-shaped leaves with heavily rippled edges. It emerges bright blue in the spring and

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HOURS: From April 10 through July 10, we will be open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 to 5:00 and Sundays 12:00 to 5:00. From July 11 through October 10, we will be closed on Sundays, but will continue to be open Monday through Saturday 8:00 to 5:00.

holds its color well.

'**Ivory Queen**' is a medium-sized sport of '**Blue Ivory**' with reversed variegation. Its eye-catching foliage boasts blue margins with a dash of green and cream to near-white centers.



In the small category is '**Brentwood Blues**', which is described as a nice combination of blue leaves with white margins on a small plant with well-proportioned flowers.

Trees and Shrubs:
One of our favorite

deciduous trees is *Nyssa sylvatica*, better known as **Black Gum** or **Black Tupelo**. It has outstanding intense orange to bright red fall color. The color doesn't last as long as a maple, but it makes up for it with intensity. A new variety, **Red Rage**®, promises to have terrific red fall foliage. We just have a couple of large 25-gal. coming in.

Quercus Crimson Spire™ is a cross between an English and white oak. It has a tightly fastigiate shape, growing 45' tall but only 15' wide. Bluish green foliage turns rusty red in the fall.

Tree hydrangeas are very useful because of their smaller size (10-12' tall and wide) and their adaptability to sun or part shade. We will have a few specimens of 'Phantom' this year, which has the purest white flowers we have seen yet.

Although it grows as tall as 15', **Amelanchier Standing Ovation**™ is more of a shrub than a tree. Its multi-stemmed form is upright and only 4' wide. It is covered with white flowers in spring, has edible red berries in summer, and sports nice red and orange fall color. A single plant would make a nice vertical accent. And a row would make a great hedge.

Speaking of rows or hedges, we are becoming big fans of **red twigged dogwoods**. Their color in winter, especially when there is snow on the ground, really grabs the eye. *Cornus obliqua* 'Red Rover' (Silky Dogwood) has year round interest, with white flowers in spring, attractive green foliage that turns maroon, then red in fall, and bright red stems in winter. It can handle damp sites in sun or part shade, grows 4-5' tall, and is hardy to Zone 4. *Cornus sericea* 'Bergeson Compact' (Dwarf Red-twigged Dogwood) is an extremely hardy variety from Minnesota. It also has white flowers, maroon fall foliage, and bright red stems in winter. It grows 5-6' tall and is hardy to Zone 2.

The hybridizers have been working on the *Hydrangea serrata* varieties, which are more bud hardy than the *macrophylla* types. Known as Mountain Hydrangeas, the *serrata* types bloom and rebloom all summer and grow best in some partial shade. We will have **Tiny Tuff Stuff**™ this year, a compact plant around 2' tall, with blue lacecap flowers that fade to an attractive pink.

Malus Royal Raindrops® has become our favorite crabapple, with its bright pinkish-red flowers and maroon foliage. This year, we will have the multi-stemmed form of this outstanding ornamental tree, along with the single stem form.



Ginkgo biloba 'Chi Chi' is a shrub form of the Ginkgo tree that is expected to grow only to 4-5' in 10 years. It grows in a fan shape and has good golden fall color. It is listed as hardy to Zone 3.

We have quite a few new conifers this year. Several will be available in 1-gal. containers, which is a more affordable way to try some of these exciting specimens out. Check our price list online for sizes. A couple of **Dwarf Alberta Spruces** will be only in this smaller size. 'Humpty Dumpty' is aptly named, forming a pyramid nearly as wide at the base as it is tall. 'Pixie Dust' is a narrow, upright, miniature form growing only around 2' tall and 1' wide. Yellow tips on its second flush of new growth make for a magical effect.

A couple of new spruces sound interesting. *Picea orientalis* '**Firefly**' is a Golden Oriental Spruce with bright yellow new needles which soften to gold against a green interior. It is a slow-growing, dense, compact pyramid, growing around 6' tall and 4' wide in 10-15 years. *Picea pungens* '**Zafiro**' is a slow-growing, dwarf, pyramidal blue spruce whose needles hold their blue color well. "Garden size" (10-15 years) is listed as 10' tall and 6' wide.

We haven't had any **Bristlecone Pines** for a couple of years, but have both 'Formal Form' and 'Sherwood Compact' this year. The Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus aristata*) is one of the oldest known plants in the world. Both of these varieties are slow growing and long lived.

We have four different varieties of **Swiss Stone Pine** (*Pinus cembra*), including a couple of new ones. The Swiss Stone Pine tends to be fairly slender, with long needles that give it a feathery appearance. They grow around 15' tall in 15 years and are hardy to Zone 3. 'Prairie Statesman' has a bit of a silvery blue tint to it. 'Westerstede' has long, lustrous needles, giving it a fluffy appearance. It is a little wider than most others.

A new **Japanese White Pine** sounds interesting. *Pinus parviflora* 'Fukuzumi' is a slow grower with a naturally variable windswept character. Multiple leaders extend at 45 degree angles with short, twisted needles. If desired, it can be staked to make it a more upright grower.

Two new **weeping white pines** have very different growing habits. 'Angel Falls' has an elegant, upright, narrow form with long, light green needles and a strong weeping habit. It is named for the world's tallest waterfall. 'Niagara Falls' is more of a spreader, running on the ground and cascading over walls. It grows perhaps 6' tall and spreads 10'. It was named Collector's Conifer of the Year in 2009. Both of these varieties are hardy to Zone 3.

Pinus strobus '**Diggy**' is an unusual dwarf white pine with a narrow, upright habit. It is a slow grower that puts out a second push of needles in late summer, resulting in tufts of growth at the ends of shoots. It's also hardy to Zone 3.

One final conifer to mention. *Pseudotsuga menzi* '**Blue**' is a gorgeous blue Douglas Fir. It forms a noble specimen of an upright pyramid, 25' tall and 15' wide in 15 years, and is hardy to Zone 4.

Events for 2016

Saturday, April 23 at 10 am

Spring Garden Maintenance:

As the growing season gets started, we'll demonstrate how to divide a variety of perennials, including hostas, daylilies and grasses. Most perennials are hardy and easily divided. In addition, we'll share the proper pruning techniques for various shrubs, including hydrangeas, lilacs, spiraeas, and several others. Your shrubs can perform so much better with some regular, simple pruning. Free workshop.

Saturday, April 30 at 10 am

New Plants for 2016:

The Hornbakers will show off new plants for this year, and tell why they are excited about them. Again this year, we want to treat you to breakfast! Join us at 9:30 for a delicious continental breakfast before learning about the new hostas, daylilies, perennials, annuals, and trees & shrubs for 2016! Free workshop.

Saturday, May 7 at 10 am

Kids' Containers for Mother's Day

Here's a chance for the kids to come get their hands dirty and create something pretty for Mom, for Mother's Day. We'll give them some ideas, and help when needed, to get something potted up for Mom. They can bring their own container, and we will have a good selection of inexpensive containers available here. Cookies and lemonade will follow.

Saturday, May 14 at 10 am

Sensational Succulents:

Love succulents? We do! It's no wonder succulents continue to gain in popularity. Their varied colors and textures, unique shapes, and ease of care make them the perfect plants to add interest to any indoor or outdoor space. Come learn about these fun plants while we demonstrate techniques to make a variety of succulent gardens. Stay afterwards to create your own! We'll have all materials available for purchase and help guide you while you make your own creation. Free workshop.

Saturday, May 28 at 10 am

Miniature Gardens:

This is a hands-on workshop for all ages in which you will learn how to create and care for your very own miniature garden. Molly Hornbaker Blogg will provide information on how to get started and assist you along the way. You simply bring your creativity and ideas! Fee includes your container, soil, and plants. You pick out and purchase your choice of miniature accessories, at a special 20% discount for workshop participants. Reservations are required, so please call to reserve your spot. Fee: \$35.

Friday, June 10

thru Sunday, June 12

Open House and Hosta Walk!

Join us for our annual open house. The hostas will be looking great at that time. Refreshments will be served, and drawings for prizes will be held each day. We will also have a selection of specially priced plants, including a good number of hostas.

Saturday, June 11 at 10 am

Pruning Perennials with Jane Morris:

Jane Morris, previously our head gardener for 12 years, says that early June is the ideal time to take out the pruners to pinch and cut back perennials to control height and shape and make for sturdier, more floriferous plants, thus preventing sprawling plants and the need to stake. This continues to be one of our most popular workshops for our customers, as well as our employees! Jane has her own business, The Garden Governess, advising clients on pruning and other general gardening techniques and timing. Free workshop.

Saturday, June 11 at 1 pm

Basic Garden Design with Jane Morris:

The basics of good garden design are the same whether a person is planning and planting a small intimate area next to the patio, or a two acre property. Learn about form, line, texture, color, repetition, contrast, focal points and more to create an outdoor space you love. Learn how to use all types of plants: annuals, perennials, evergreens, shrubs and trees, and man-made items to bring these design basics to life. Free workshop.

Saturday, September 17

4th annual Artisan Market.

Join us in our beautiful country setting for a day filled with fine art, delicious home baked items, live music, wine tasting, fresh-picked local produce, area food trucks, and more. Mark your calendars now and plan to spend a beautiful, fall day in the country.



THE BARN

events@hornbakergardens.com

Pruning Experiment—'Peve Minaret'

Over the last dozen years or so we have recommended and sold a lot of *Taxodium distichum* 'Peve Minaret', a dwarf Bald Cypress that was touted as growing around 8' tall and 3' wide. However, it is pretty clear that those dimensions were on the low side, since the one that we planted in our display gardens has grown to over 10' tall and 7' wide. It is out in full sun, so it has no need to reach for sunlight.

In mid-February, we pruned back every branch by nearly one half. This is certainly an experiment on our part, but we believe that the plant will flush out new growth from latent buds all over the shortened branches. If you have a 'Peve Minaret', you might want to check out our specimen this spring or summer to see how it is doing. We antici-

pate that it won't flush out until late spring because it has been somewhat slow to flush out in the spring already, and now it has to push from latent buds that will take some time to develop.

We definitely recommend planting 'Peve Minaret' in full sun. We have seen a tree planted close to the east side of a house that developed lots of growth on its south side, reaching for the sun, but not so much growth on its north side, giving it a lopsided appearance. Thinning out the south side and shortening the branches on that side is required to even out the appearance of the plant. The one in our display gardens, planted in full sun, is evenly branched all the way around.



Peve Minaret Pruned

2016 Perennial Of The Year

Anemone 'Honorine Jobert' has been named the 2016 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. Although there are some Anemones that bloom in the spring, most bloom in late summer and fall, including this year's selection.

'Honorine Jobert' was discovered as a white sport of a pink flowered Anemone in France over 150 years ago. Its pure white, single flowers have distinguished this plant from all other varieties and maintained its popularity ever since. The flowers are held around 3-4' tall above dark green foliage that tops out around 2'. Bright yellow stamens in the middle of each flower add to the appeal.

Fall blooming anemones can sometimes be slow to get established, although they are hardy to Zone 4. Once established, they can put on quite a show, as each plant produces many flowers. However, they can spread somewhat, but are easily controlled because the root system is relatively shallow. Although they can handle quite a bit of sun, they like it best in some



Anemone
'Honorine Jobert'

afternoon shade, and can do well in a woodland setting with filtered sun.

For some reason, 'Honorine Jobert' seems to be in short supply this year. There are several other varieties that are also excellent, including 'Whirlwind', which has white double flowers. And we have always been fond of the pink varieties. 'September Charm' is a reliable pink single, and 'Pamina' sports double pink flowers. A couple of newer varieties, 'Cinderella' and 'Pocahontas', are pink varieties that are shorter, at 12-18".

Eric Sanders Joins Landscaping Staff

We are pleased to welcome Eric Sanders to our growing landscaping staff. He will be meeting with customers, designing landscapes, and managing landscape projects. Eric grew up in Princeton and, while in school, worked here in the gardens, where he was bitten by the horticulture bug. He attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he graduated with a degree in plant and soil science, with a landscape horticulture specialization. Eric, now 36 years old, has been doing design work since graduating. He worked a year in Wisconsin, four years in Atlanta for a landscape architecture firm, and the last eight years for landscaping firms in Peoria. He has over 16 years of landscape experience.



Eric Sanders

Eric is personable, knowledgeable and talented. He is experienced in both residential and commercial landscape design. He is excited to be back at Hornbaker Gardens, working to help beautify the landscapes in his hometown and the surrounding area. We are sure our customers will enjoy working with him!

2016 Hosta Of The Year

The American Hosta Growers Association has named 'Curly Fries' as the 2016 Hosta of the Year. This small, but exciting, hosta has long, narrow leaves that vary between yellow and chartreuse. What makes 'Curly Fries' so unique are the extremely wavy (dare we say "wiggly") leaves.

As a young plant, these long, narrow, wavy leaves give 'Curly Fries' the appearance that it is a cross between a starfish and a fireworks explosion. As it matures and thickens, the texture created by the waviness and pointed leaves, together with the brightness of the

color, make this Hosta of the Year an outstanding choice.

In addition to its unique appearance, 'Curly Fries' has excellent substance, making it very slug resistant. And, as it matures, red color tends to extend further up the leaf petioles, adding some more excitement, especially as it emerges in the spring. Dark lavender flowers are a welcome complement later in the summer.

Some morning sun will help bring out the bright yellow color. We like to plant 'Curly Fries' with a contrasting blue such as 'Prairie Sky' or 'Pacific Blue Edger'.



Hosta 'Curly Fries'



Truckload Of Pottery

We have another semi load of pottery headed our way. We did this two years ago with a load of brightly colored pottery. This year's load is more in the "rustic" line, featuring more subdued or muted colors and, often, a somewhat rougher, less perfect finish. The rustic look results in more unique pieces that look like they belong outdoors and have been in your garden for many years.

The pottery should arrive sometime in April, and will take a few days to unpack, price, and set out. If you are making a special trip to be among the first to select from this new batch of beauties, you might want to call first to see if it has arrived.

KC The Catahoula

If you were here last season, you probably already met our puppy, KC. He's nearly full grown now, but, of course, he still has a lot of puppy in him. He's no purebred by any means, but he's mostly Catahoula Cur. The official name



of this American breed is Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog, named after a parish in Louisiana. The Catahoula is a herding dog. Its feet generally have webbing that extends further out on the toes than that on most dogs. This makes for a good swimmer and helps with herding in marshy areas.

A Catahoula can have a wide variety of markings, but almost always has spots on any white area. KC has a lot more brindle coloring than most. His face, with its mix of white and brindle, looks like Moose Tracks ice cream, earning him the sometimes-used nickname of "Moose Tracks", or just plain "Moose".

KC will no doubt be a rambunctious youngster this year. He is very friendly, though, is used to being around lots of people, and loves to play with other dogs. We will keep a leash handy in case he is causing a problem. He thinks he owns the place, so be prepared to be greeted by our new friendship ambassador.