



www.hornbakergardens.com
 email: mail@hornbakergardens.com
 22937 1140 N. Ave.,
 Princeton, Illinois 61356
 (815) 659-3282



Open House & Hosta Walk, June 9-10-11

What's New In The Shop?

We have many new items in the shop every spring. We are selling a new line of indoor/outdoor welcome mat rugs from Jellybean®. These rugs measure 21" x 33", have a liner to provide slip resistance, and are machine washable in cold water. We love the brightly colored designs and the ease of cleaning them. We will continue to sell the welcome mat trays and inserts that we have sold in the past, but now also offer these Jellybean® rugs. Another favorite item in the shop are our River Root planters and birdhouses. These were new last year, but they sold quickly, so we ordered several more for this season. These pieces are handmade using the roots harvested from trees in Latin American rivers. Harvesting the root doesn't harm the trees; it actually helps them to grow. You can keep these indoors or outdoors, although if kept outside in the sun it is best to treat with a wood sealer. Many of these unique pieces are particularly cute when used as a home for your fairy garden. Check out the shop for many other new items for your home and garden, including recycled metal farmyard animals, colorful spinners, fairy garden accessories, and much more!



Japanese Maples

We continue to expand our selection of Japanese Maples. They may not be the best trees to plant in a farm yard out on the open plain, but in most town settings or other sites that are somewhat protected from the worst winds, they are remarkably durable plants.

For years, the red-leaved variety 'Bloodgood' has been the standard hardy red variety. This year, we have 'Sherwood Flame', which stays a little smaller at 15' tall and 12' wide. It has red spring foliage which turns reddish green in late summer and then cherry red in the fall. Smaller yet, and cute as a button, is the adorable 'Rhode Island Red', a dwarf growing to only 6' tall and wide. It is a dense, upright, compact tree with foliage that is bright red in spring, maroon in summer, and orange-red in the fall.

Of the red, laceleaf varieties, 'Tamukeyama' and 'Crimson Queen' have long been good, reliable varieties. Now, 'Red Dragon' is being touted as the new standard in cutleaf reds. These varieties have a weeping, spreading form and only grow to 6'-8', depending on how high you stake them. They provide a graceful, feathery touch of peacefulness to your shade garden.

Most people are initially attracted to the maroon color of the red laceleaf varieties. But in the relatively shady areas, where the laceleaves do best, it is the bright green 'Viridis' that actually pops more. It has proven to be very hardy for us, and its foliage colors up nicely in the fall.

Acer shirasawanum 'Aureum' is a different type of Japanese Maple, known as a Full Moon Maple. Its roundish leaves open pale yellow/green and deepen to rich gold, and then develop red tips in the fall. It grows 20' tall and wide. Several years ago, I saw a gorgeous, mature specimen 'Aureum' growing in nearby Tiskilwa at the home of our late friend Holton Rosenquist.



'Rhode Island Red'



'Aureum'



'Viridis'



'Tamukeyama'

Daylily Deals

Thirty years of collecting daylily varieties and lining them out in the field has been a lot of fun. But we finally concluded that we really don't need three or four hundred varieties. The labor it took to weed and maintain our large daylily field simply wasn't justified by the sales of bare root plants. Increasingly, customers have preferred the potted daylilies, which can be purchased and planted at any time during the season.

They are all pretty, or we wouldn't have acquired them in the first place. So it's hard to select which varieties to eliminate and say goodbye to them. But last fall, we did just that to over 75 varieties. Rather than just compost them, we decided to send them off to good homes---yours! We potted them up in nice, full clumps and they are available this spring at half price.

Because there are so many of them, they take up a lot of room. So far, we have displayed several of the sale clumps along the drive, near where the red wagons are parked. But there are many more in one of the houses behind the pottery display. To give them more sun, we may relocate them



Jean Barnhardt



Edge of Darkness



Chicago Firecracker



Hosta 'Sunset Grooves'

Most Impressive New Hosta?

Someone asked me the other day which new hosta has most impressed me. I had to say 'Sunset Grooves' (although 'Sugar Daddy' is a close second). The leaves of 'Sunset Grooves' are very round and puckered, and have excellent substance. It's a sport of the popular 'Rainforest Sunrise', with wide blue-green margins around yellow centers. It forms a smallish clump around two feet wide and a foot high.

HOURS:

Thru July 9, we will be open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5:00 p.m. From July 10 thru 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.

**Open House & Hosta Walk
June 9-10-11**



Tara Scott

New Face At The Barn

In March, we were happy to welcome Tara Scott as an event coordinator at The Barn. She joins Lindsay Esme Funderburg there, and they make a great team.

Tara is a Princeton native. She has worked in the insurance field for several years, and is an experienced massage therapist. Last season, she worked as a valued member of our staff at the garden center, and we hated to lose her from that group. But the garden center's loss is The Barn's gain.

Tara has always been a big fan of Hornbaker Gardens, and is thrilled with her new position here. We hope and expect her friendly face to be at The Barn for many years to come.