



Notes from

HORNBAKER GARDENS

"The Princeton Perennial People"
22937 1140 N. Ave., Princeton, Illinois 61356

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Daylily Bloom Is Here

Undoubtedly, we should have sent this newsletter out a little sooner, because the daylily season is fast upon us. The heat has brought them on quickly. There should be lots of bloom by July 2, and the peak of the season will continue for the next two or three weeks thereafter. Daylilies, of course, have a longer bloom season than the irises do. Some of the early bloomers start in June, and some of the late bloomers don't start until late July.

CLUMPS ARE POPULAR: Molly reports that over 300 varieties will be available in clump form. What that means is that, instead of ordering a start of a certain variety (to be dug later, in early August), you will also have the option to purchase a whole clump, which we will dig right away, drop it in a plastic bag, and send it home with you. Clumps have become so popular that we sell more in clump form than we do by taking orders.

Most people are looking for that instant maturity, and plant the clump as is. But clumps are a great deal for those looking for a lot of daylilies for a large landscaping project. They can be divided into a few nice chunks, or divided further into a lot of single and double fans. One dividing method that works really well is to use two digging forks jammed, back to back, down through the center of the clump. Then pry the clump apart. The process can then be repeated on the halves. The advantage of using the forks,

compared to a spade or knife, is that you will cut off fewer roots. If you divide the clumps, we suggest that you cut off all of the bloom stalks and cut the fans in half with a pair of scissors. This will allow the roots to get reestablished without having to try to support so much top growth.

Please note: We will be closed on Monday, July 4, as well as all Sundays.



New Pottery Shipment Coming

Pottery Alley is in need of replenishing, so we have ordered another batch. We hope to have the shipment by July 9. Several customers have purchased pots for the purpose of creating water features. The bamboo fountain accessories that we carry make that especially easy. Besides the bamboo, check out the foggers. These handy little mechanisms are placed just below the surface of the water, and create a fog that hovers above

the water and then spills out of the container.

Although most of the pots have holes drilled in them, they are easily plugged with silicone. Most of the pots are glazed on the inside, so they hold water. Unglazed pots can be sealed up using a 50-50 mix of silicone and mineral spirits. Paint this mix on the inside of the pot using an old paint brush, and let it sit for a day to cure.

Water Those Trees Deeply

This drought is getting serious, and we would encourage you to water your trees and shrubs deeply. Those planted within the last two or three years are especially at risk because their roots don't go as deep as more established trees and shrubs.

Lately, we have two or three hoses dripping on trees most of the time. We use a hose with a watering wand and a shut-off valve on it. We turn the valve down so that the water trickles out, and leave it trickling beside a tree for three or

four hours at a time. This allows the water to penetrate deeply into the soil, which in turn encourages the roots to follow that moisture down.

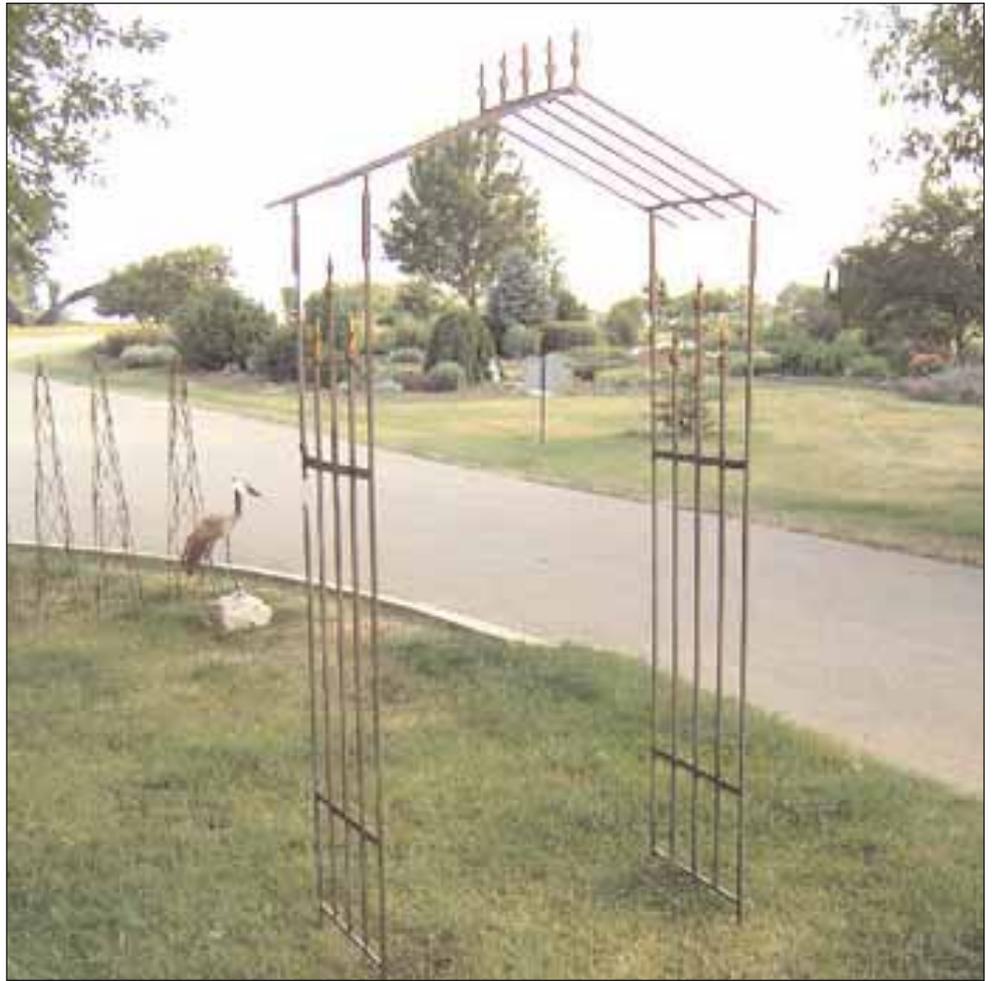
Also, keep in mind that a couple of rains, even if we get them, will not replenish the subsoil moisture anytime soon. We are so far behind on rainfall by now that we might as well plan on periodic deep watering for our trees the rest of the summer and into the fall. Trees, especially evergreens, should not be dry going into winter.

RETAIL HOURS

We are open Monday through Saturday, 8:00 to 5:00. We are closed on Sundays, and will be closed on Monday, July 4.

Iron Art By Grady Mitchell

Local iron artist/welder Grady Mitchell stopped in the other day to show us some obelisks that he had made. We liked them, and bought them. And we talked about arbors and trellises. Over the next few days, Grady brought us a really nice arbor and a couple of trellises. Despite being sturdy and really well made, these pieces are very reasonably priced. And they are going to last longer than most of us are going to live, unlike so much of the flimsy stuff that you see on the market these days. We are in hopes that Grady will be able to supply us with a quality line of iron art for many years to come. For those of you who want some more extensive iron work done, we will be glad to refer you directly to Grady.



GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



We accept

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