

Banner Year For Daylilies

The daylily field is looking better than ever. Ample rains and a cool May have been good for gardens in general, and the daylilies have been loving it. Molly has walked the field, and reports that, not only are the daylilies looking great, but that more varieties than ever will be available in clumps this year.

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. 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



Prairie Angel

supply. In many cases, we can only spare one or two clumps of a variety. So get here early for best selection. Some of the earlier varieties will be blooming by late June. The peak of the season usually starts shortly after the Fourth of July. Some late blooming varieties don't start blooming until near the end of July.

Newsletter Reminder

In order to continue getting our newsletter next year, please note that you must do one of two things. Sign up for the newsletter via email by going to our website, or contact us to let us know that you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by regular mail.

RETAIL HOURS

We are open April 10 through October 10, Monday through Saturday, 8:00 to 5:00. We are closed on Sundays, as well as on July 4 and Labor Day, September 1. **Please note that on Saturday, June 28, we will be closing at 4:00 for Molly's wedding.**

Trim Your Spring Flowering Shrubs Now

The best time to trim flowering shrubs is shortly after they are done blooming. This gives the shrub the rest of the season to make new growth, which will provide next year's bloom. Also, the plant will have time to grow back into its natural shape, resulting in the most attractive appearance when it blooms next year. This is especially important for the more arching shrubs such as Bridal Wreath Spirea and Forsythia. Pruned now, these shrubs will have time to grow back out into the sweeping, arching structure that makes them so spectacular in bloom. If trimmed this fall or next spring, the result will be a stiff, chopped appearance instead of the graceful, arching

show it could have been.

We have Dwarf Korean Lilacs in front of one of our porches. We like to keep them trimmed so that we can see out over them when we sit on the porch. So each year, around the first of June, we give them a pretty severe haircut, removing a foot or so of growth. They look pretty bare for a few days, but then flush out and look great the rest of the summer. Every few years, we need to cut them back more severely in order to keep them from getting too large. To do so, we have to cut back into thicker wood. The shrubs look downright naked for a week, but it is amazing how quickly they flush back

Continued on back page

'Kiwi Full Monty' Available Again

One of our favorite hostas is 'Kiwi Full Monty'. We originally bought a handful of plants from Barry Sligh, of New Zealand, and lined them out for propagation. Then, a few years ago, we bought in 100 plants from a U.S. grower. We should have saved some of them back, but we sold every single one of them in one year, thinking that we would be able to get more the next year, and knowing that we at least had a few in the ground from Barry.

For two years, we have been unable to get our hands on any more. Until now. We recently found a supply, so we are able to offer it again.

'Kiwi Full Monty' is a medium-small plant that is like a smaller, blue version of 'Striptease'. It has the same little white stripes along the lighter center, just like 'Striptease'. The color combination is just outstanding, and it holds its good looks all season.



Trimming (continued from page 1)

out with new growth.

If you have not already done so, now is the time to trim back your spring flowering shrubs. This would include Dwarf Lilacs, the early blooming varieties of Spireas and Viburnums, Deutzia, and Kerria. Physocarpus, Itea and Weigela are just now blooming, and can be cut back when they are done.

Trimming will cause each stem to send out more side shoots, resulting in a shrub that is more full and lush.

The French hybrid lilacs are trimmed differently. Rather than trimming the entire plant back, you should reach in and cut out the thickest, biggest trunks.

This effectively shortens the plant a bit since the thickest are also the tallest. The younger, up-and coming shoots will then be able to grow to maturity.

Hydrangeas are also treated differently. We trim back the Hydrangeas in early spring to around knee-high. Often, the tips have died back as a result of winter kill anyway, so you are not really removing much live growth. Cutting them back like this leaves enough buds on the stalk that you will have a nice full plant that is a little shorter and sturdier than it might have been, but most people don't want their Hydrangeas to be too tall anyway.

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE



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