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Another Great Year For Daylilies

For the second straight year, ample rains and a cool May have been good for gardens in general, and the daylilies have been loving it. The daylily field looks great, and we will be able to offer the majority of varieties in clump form.

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. (For the first time, this year we potted 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.



'Always a Bridesmaid'

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. 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.

Retro Metal Chairs

We are carrying a new (for us) line of metal chairs that have been manufactured by the Torrains Manufacturing Co. since the 1950s. Torrains describes these retro chairs as, "Just like Mom'n them had, only better!" They come in a wide range of bright colors, and are available in single and double glider form, the usual single chairs, pictured here, and in bar chair height. There are also side tables and patio tables in white. We have a few chairs assembled for the regular price of \$99.99, but we sell them boxed and unassembled for \$79.99, and they are easy to put together.

You can see more about these chairs and see all of the colors on their website, www.torrainsmfgco.com.



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 7. **Please note that we will be closed on Saturday, July 4. However, we will be open on Monday, July 6, which will be a holiday for many of you.**



Malus 'Royal Gem'

Two New Trees

We had several people ask for pink weeping cherries and a crabapple called 'Royal Gem' this spring. (There must have been a magazine article or two that mentioned them to prompt that many inquiries.) We were able to pick up a few of both of these, so we do now have them.

'Royal Gem' is a crabapple grafted on a standard, growing 5'-8' tall and wide—a perfect tree for the smaller garden. Spring flowers are red, and new foliage has a reddish tinge, making for a very attractive tree, even when not in bloom.

'Pink Snow Showers' is the name of the weeping cherry. It is also grafted on a 4' standard, and displays a beautiful cascade of pink flowers in the spring. It is also perfect for the smaller garden or as an accent specimen, growing 6'-8' tall and wide. Both of these trees are looking very nice, and sell for \$149.99.



Prunus 'Pink Snow Showers'

Ozzie, Shadow Patrol

Percy, the fat gray cat that sits in the office windowsill all winter watching birds at the bird feeder and chatting with us, says that there is no such thing as a smart dog. So far, Ozzie is doing nothing to prove him wrong. Ozzie, of course, is the three-year-old yellow lab/mutt who spends much of his time chasing shadows. That is, when he is not sleeping. Heaven forbid that he might run a few deer out of the front yard.

You would think that, by now, Ozzie would have this shadow thing figured out. He's been doing a lot of digging in the grass the last three summers. We were hoping he was developing a taste for catching moles. But no. We realized that when a bird would land and perch on the edge of the gutter on the corner of a building, Ozzie was digging where the bird's shadow was. The birds like to land on this one particular corner, and their shadows drive Ozzie crazy. The shadows move as the sun slides to the west, and if Ozzie is diligent in his shadow patrolling that day, he will have a shallow trench dug in a straight line, several feet long.

The other day, Ozzie sauntered into the back yard, saw a couple of squirrels robbing the bird feeder, and dutifully chased them into the ravine. As he came back toward the house, he suddenly perked up and dashed for a spot in the vegetable garden. He did some furious digging, and then dropped to the ground with his nose

to the spot, waiting. A bird had been perched on top of a feeder, and its shadow had been the cause of Ozzie's

excitement. Percy just rolled his eyes and shook his head. For Ozzie, shadow patrol is a year-round job.



Open House Prize Winners

We had a very busy three days of Open House. A lot of hostas flew out of here. Thank you all for your business this spring. We'll have a good stock of plants all summer, so we hope to see you again.

Thursday's prize winners were Bonnie Barr of Clinton, IA; Christal Crutchfield of Wilmington, IL; and Venesa Schnake of Dixon, IL. Friday's winners were Kathy Tamayo of Joliet, IL; Jack Schauble of Compton, IL; and Mary Oppenheim of Deerfield, IL. And Saturday's winners were Alan Pierson of Somonauk, IL; Ramona Eng of Dixon, IL; and Corinna Walker of Elmwood, IL.