



Growing Inspirations from

Reillys Garden Center @ Summer Seat Farm

May 2004 newsletter

Hours: 9am - 7pm (Sun 10- 4)

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A Rose for Every Purpose

By Lauren Long

For some people, the thought of roses conjures up images of formal parterres and immaculately groomed bushes that have to be primped and fussed over. While this is true of some roses, particularly hybrid teas, there are many varieties that are bred for disease resistance and ease of maintenance.

What's more, there is a rose in almost every shape, size, and habit to fit any niche in your garden. Climbing roses grow up trellises and spill over walls. Some roses, such as the Flower Carpet series, are low growing and can be used in mass as a ground cover or as edging plants at the front of the border. They can be used to stabilize hillsides and slopes. The Palace series of roses grow only two feet high and are useful as container plants. Shrub roses make excellent hedges. Carefree, Knockout and National Park series are all easy care, beautiful roses that anyone can grow and enjoy.

Most perennials and shrubs have a limited length of flowering, but roses bloom all season.

Roses are a wonderful gift for Mother on her special day.

Perennial Plants =Creative Containers

By Linda Fisher

Wait! Don't discard your plans for petunia-packed urns and fuchsia-filled hanging baskets. But, why not save some space for perennials in containers,

There are many reasons and opportunities to grow perennials in containers. Perhaps there's a plant you love but your garden soil doesn't meet the growing requirements. In recent issues of *Garden Gate Magazine*, an illustration showed how a cracked birdbath had been planted with Hens and Chicks (*Sempervivum*), creating a rock garden environment amidst a bed of moisture-loving plants.

Maybe you want to add plant material around your deck, patio, or poolside to help connect the hardscape to the surrounding landscape. Using the same plants in your beds and containers is one way of unifying a garden design.

Perhaps you love Bee Balm (*Monarda*), but not when it's taking over your garden. Growing aggressive plants in containers is a great way to control their enthusiastic habit. And what about deer? Placing palatable perennials in containers closer to the house **might** be one way to keep Bambi from browsing.

Garden Center Parking -- We have many children who come for Strawberry Blossom Tours during May. For your convenience, we have reserved a parking area for garden center customers marked with a white fence close to the front entrance.

May Happenings at Reilly's Garden Center @ Summer Seat Farm

May 8 – **Container Gardening –The Basic Elements** by Anita Gallagher
10:00am Anita is a Master Gardener and has her own business called POTSABILITIES. She creates fantastic container gardens and will teach you the basics of color, texture, and design. She will also guide you in creating your own special container garden to take home and love. There is a \$20 fee to cover the cost of materials. Please call us at 412-364-8662 or e-mail reillysgc@earthlink.net so we have enough materials available.

May 15 **The Well Designed Mixed Garden** by Carol Papas
10:00am Carol is a Master Gardener. She will share her vast knowledge, expertise and ideas about building beds and borders using trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and bulbs. She can turn an ordinary garden into the neighborhood showplace. Come and glean some great ideas!

May 22 **The Making of a Garden** by Clarence and Audrey Rauch
10:00 am Together, this amazing couple creates handmade garden troughs for gardens and patios. They will show some imaginative examples of their handiwork and help you create your own masterpiece to take home. There is a \$12 fee for materials. Please call ahead of time or e-mail us at reillysgc@earthlink.net so we have enough materials available if you wish to come and make one of these special 'in' gardens.

May 29th **Memorial Weekend Family Celebration -- A Wonderful Family Event!**
Come for a hayride around the Farm, Decorate the haywagon, Visit with the Animals. Enjoy the Serenity and Space of the Country.
Free hayrides at 11:00. (Read details) Come and join the fun!

May 8th **Mother's Day** -- Remember Mom with the perfect gift - **a Living Basket** from our beautiful selection. Mom will treasure a basket of flowers that can be enjoyed indoors or planted outdoors after the last frost. We also have lovely gift certificates, so that Mom can choose her favorite flowers from our unique selection. **Give the Gift of Gardening.**

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May 4-21 **Strawberry Blossom Tours** –
Children 3 to 10 years old come to Summer Seat Farm in May to learn about Strawberries. The tour includes a hayride to the blooming strawberry fields, an information session complete with story and puppet show, and baby farm animals. Cost \$5. All are welcome to come along with the small school groups. Must call for availability 412-364-8662. A unique experience in this age of disappearing rural lifestyle.

The Best of the Best:
Special Vegetables New & Old
By Andrea Fisher

For most of us **summer** means delicious homegrown vegetables. We know what we want - tomatoes, peppers, melons, etc.- but with all the new varieties how do we choose which ones would perform best in our gardens? Well, I'm going to take the guess work out of it by highlighting 'The Best of the Best' for a lush, healthful, and delicious garden. If you don't have a plot for a garden, just use a pot. You can plant vineing veggies in large pots and train them on trellises, or plant tomatoes, peppers, or whatever tickles your taste buds, in a pot on your patio. Look for our pre-planted patio gardens with the rest of the herbs and vegetables.

The highlight of the year is cherry tomato '**Sweet Baby Girl**'. It is the newest variety of cherry tomatoes with improved taste. The sugar content is higher, making it the sweetest of all cherry tomatoes. The fruit is resistant to cracking. It yields large amounts of fruit and is expected to become the #1 choice of all cherry tomato lovers.

Tomato '**Healthy Kick**' produces bright red, 4 oz., plum-shaped fruits. It is a high yielding, disease resistant variety that tastes delicious. This tomato is special because it contains 50% more Lycopene than the average tomato. Lycopene is the antioxidant that may prevent certain types of cancer.

Tomato '**Old German**' is a medium to large size yellow fruit with reddish-pink striped shoulders and a marbled interior. It is an Heirloom

variety with a deliciously fruity flavor and a smooth texture.

Tomato '**Brandywine**' is known as a favorite good tasting Heirloom variety. The fruit is globe shaped and weighs about 10-16 oz.

'**Cherokee Purple**' with its purplish skin, and smoky-sweet flavor, and '**Arkansas Traveler**', with its heavy yielding, outstanding fruit, are both heirloom variety tomatoes.

Tomato '**Caspian Pink**' is yet another heirloom variety with large, flat, 10 oz. pink fruit and an excellent flavor. Garden writers voted it 'Best Tasting Variety'.

Winter Squash '**Sunshine**' has increased vitamin content and stores well. The flavor is sweet, creamy, and nutty. The flesh is stringless and it has beautiful color. It is an All American Selection winner for 2004.

Cucumber '**Indy**' is a vigorous plant, producing dark green fruit. A multi-virus resistant hybrid, this cucumber is high yielding and has excellent fruit.

Melon '**Amy**' exhibits improved qualities over other canary type melons such as earliness, high yields, smooth, eye catching skin color, and sweet, juicy flavor. AAS winner 2004.

Watermelon '**Sweet Beauty**' is a single serving size watermelon weighing about 5 lbs. It has a consistent crisp, sweet flavor. Early producer.

*All vegetables will have detailed signs for your shopping convenience.
Happy Gardening!*



Looking for a Great Family Activity? Here it is!

**MEMORIAL WEEKEND CELEBRATION
@ REILLY'S SUMMER SEAT FARM**

Saturday, May 29, 2004

At 11:00am, Climb aboard the Haywagon for a Trip around the Farm and an Eagle's Eye View of America the Beautiful

- Children will decorate the wagon ½ hour before we depart. Streamers and Flag making materials will be available.
- Visit with the spring lambs and other farm Animals.
- Refreshments available! Hot Dogs! Popcorn! Slushies!
- Balloons! Old-Fashion Fun! A Chance to Enjoy the Country!

*P.S. Remember to bring your coupon for the great Memorial Day discount of 25% off any one plant at the Garden Center.
(Cannot be used with any other offer or discount)*

Attention all Children from ages 5 to 12 -----

Sign up for **The KIDS COUNTRY CLUB**

Fun and Activities on the farm. Learn about plants and planting.
Meets for 1 ½ hr. during summer on June 19, July 10, August 7.

Did you see the Sunflower House that the Kid's Country Club planted last summer? Wasn't it fun to go inside? Join us for more activities this year.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone number or e-mail _____