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## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2021

A regular feature of this publication is a synopsis of what is new in the various plant materials that we offer. So, here it is for '21.

### Annual Packs

**Bells of Ireland** – great, unique accent to add to arranged flowers from the garden.

**Cleome Sparkler Mix** – 42" tall background plant, colors rose to white, numerous customer requests. **Black pansies** – not new, just increased production, popular.

**Phlox** – nice clear colors, border flower, 10" tall

### Annual Pots

**Alternanthera Little Ruby** – red accent filler, 12", heat tolerant **Artemisia**

**Parfum d' Ethiopia** – 18" silver filler, soft texture

**Begonia Solenia Chocolate Orange** – 12", part sun, deep orange, dk foliage

**Calibrachoa: Blackcurrant Punch**- bi-color,

**Hula- 5 colors**, larger flowers

**Cha Cha** – spreading habit, Deep Blue & Apricot

**Celosia Lizard Leaf**- 10-14", red foliage, accent plant

**Coleus Beale Street** 24", deep red, sun/shade

**Geranium Harmony Series**, introduced last year, great colors & growth habit **Grass -**

**Savannah** 18-24", pink seed heads, upright

**Impatiens NG Roller Coaster**-, 12-16", semidouble flowers, part sun, Pink & Tangy Toffee

**Impatiens Sunstanding Jazzy** – 12-16", lemon-lime foliage, sturdy upright, sun/shade Coral & Hot Pink

**Impatiens Sunstanding Apollo**- 22", upright habit, sun or shade, vigorous Cherry Red, Pink.

**Mecardonia** – low spreading habit, loaded with little yellow flowers, great filler

**Petunias:**

**Capella Cherry Vanilla** – mounding, cherry/wht bi-color, Hippy Chick- semi spreading, vigorous, purple/wht edge, **Bee's Knees**- intense yellow, deep green foliage

**Supercals** – numerous sm-med flowers, red, blue, white, cream, pale yellow, burgundy, hot pink, golden yellow and cinnamon,

**Pinkerbell** – mounding, semi-double, two tone pink/white.

**Surprise Sparkle** – semi-spreading, vigorous, red with white speckles

**Mainstay Glacier Sky** – spreading, deep purple with wht edge & white speckles

**Itsy Magenta** – spreading, always loaded with small magenta flowers

**Crazytunias**- all bi-color, upright-mounding, medium vigor, all multi color Blackberry Jam, Raspberry Lemonade, Frisky Violet & Tiki Torch

**Easy Wave** – added to selection to make 13 are Lavender Blue Sky and Berry Velour (rosy red with a velvet look)

**Begonia Gryphon** – vigorous growth, foliage accent, 16" tall

**Angel Wings** – silvery-white large leaves, "showstopper"

### Perennials

**Columbine Swan Pink & Yellow** – 20-24" tall, large flowers

**Grass Pixie Fountain** – Tufted Hair Grass 20-24"

**Heuchera** (Coral Bells)

## Perennials (continued)

**Sweet Princess** – orange-pink foliage with red-brown veins

**Red Fury**- bronze-red foliage with red undersides

**Season's King** – plum colored foliage, dark veins, intensifies with cooler temps

**Lupine Staircase** – beautiful unusual colors

Dk Blue/Yellow, Orange/White, Red/White, Rose/White & Yellow

**Nepeta Little Trudy** – lavender-prple flowers, silver-green aromatic foliage, 12" tall

**Dicentra** (**Bleeding Hearts**)

**Ruby Gold**- lime green foliage, red flowers, vigorous

**Aurora** – white flowers, blue-green

fern leaf foliage, flowers all spring & summer

**Ferns Red Beauty & Cinnamon** EC

**Geranium Ballerina** – white with lilac-pink veins, dark eye, 8" tall

## Nursery Stock, Trees

**Apple Gravenstein** – very early (8/7) cooking apple, short shelf life like all early apples

**Willow Golden Curls** – golden "corkscrew" branching, 30-40', needs moist soil



## Nursery Stock, Shrubs

**Fothergilla Mt. Airy** – 5-6', fragrant white spike flowers, blue-green foliage, great fall color

**Hydrangea Little Lime** – 3-5', soft lime green flowers, turn pink then burgundy in fall.

**Privet Straight Talk** – narrow growth habit, 2-4' wide, trims up nicely

**Rhododendron Purple Gem** – compact 2-3' plant, evergreen foliage, purple-blue flowers

**Sumac Tiger Eyes** – 6', chartreusegreen foliage turns yellow then flaming orange in fall.

**Coralberry Candy** – 2.5-3', pink berries hold through winter

**Snowberry Galaxy** – 2.5-3', white berries on aching branching into winter

**Viburnum Chicago Luster** – 8-10' Arrowwood, glossy foliage, white flowers in June

**Weigela Dark Horse** – 2-3', bronze foliage with lime accents, great foundation plant

**Juniper Hughes** – 15" tall and spreading, blue-green foliage, unique growth habit

**Honeysuckle Mandarin** – vine with orange flowers with yellow-orange inside

**Aronia Iroquois Beauty** – see They're the Berries

**Honeyberry** Aurora, Borealis – see "They're the Berries"

## They're the Berries

In part, due to the Covid pandemic, there was a huge increase in sales of edibles in 2020.

People had more home time and wanted to have some control

over the food available to them. Among those things were the berries. We have some berries that are also used as ornamental landscape plants.

## They're the Berries (continued)

They include: **Amelanchier or Juneberry** which also called Serviceberry or Saskatoons

**Autumn Brilliance** grows 15-20' tall and bears sweet purple-black fruit in summer

**Regent** is more shrub form 4-6' tall with the same type fruit

Regarding both of these, white flowers in the spring, orange-red fall foliage and they tolerate dry soil well. Pollinators in the spring and birds like the fruit.

**Aronia or Chokeberry** (not to be confused with chokecherry), Iroquois Beauty grows about 4' tall, also bears black fruit in summer with wine-red fall foliage color. These tolerate moist soil conditions and birds like these also.

**Nanking Cherry** – mostly used as an ornamental but produces small red, tasty fruit in July, good for jams & jelly. Compete with wildlife for the fruit.

More traditional berries include:

### Blueberries

**North blue**- 2-3' tall, introduced in 1983, good flavor, nice sized berries.

**Polaris** – 3-4' tall, introduced in 1996, good flavor, slightly smaller fruit than North blue.

**Chippewa** – 3' tall, introduced in 1996 also, heavy producer of sweet berries, earlier.

**Patriot** – 4-5' tall, called Highbush blueberry, early ½" fruit with excellent flavor.

**Honeyberries** are becoming more popular, having nice sized fruits, rich in antioxidants, having a unique blueberry-like flavor. Must have 2 varieties to cross-pollinate.

**Aurora** – 3-4' tall, good sized fruit.

**Borealis** – 4' tall, unique flavor having hints of different berry flavors.

**Grapes** are self-fertile

**Marquette** – red, wine grape, disease resistant, September.

**Valiant** – blue, table, jelly or juice grape with Concord-like flavor, productive.

**Edelweiss** – white, table or wine, good sweet flavor, disease resistant.

### Raspberries

**Boyne** – introduced from Canada in 1960, red, productive, excellent flavor

**Fallgold** – golden yellow, sweet & juicy, productive, crops in spring & late summer

## Buy locally

The majority of small-town economy is from small business. From the gas station on the corner, to the café down the street, to the shoe store across the street, to the hardware store next door, to the bakery the next block over, they all are operated by our friends and neighbors, as are the people they employ. These businesses and employees depend on local customers to be successful. Shopping locally keeps the money in our home towns instead of sending it to corporate headquarters, 3-4 states away. This is what keeps our small towns vital and prospering.

It may cost a little bit more, but you don't have to park 50 yards from the door, you won't find employees who won't make eye contact with you so they don't have answer a question, or you won't be treated as if you are an inconvenience. Local business operators and employees are friendly, are knowledgeable about their merchandise, are willing to help with you purchases and appreciate your coming in their door.

## Gardening Myths

*Don't water mid-day since water droplets act like a magnifying glass & burn leaves.* False! Water on the foliage on a hot day actually reduces leaf temperature of the plant which is a benefit. However, overhead mid-day watering is wasting water as much of it simply evaporates. Best watering practice is to water in the morning, on the soil. Evening watering overhead is not a good practice, since the water stays on the foliage longer and increases the likelihood of disease organisms to grow.

*Peonies need to have ants for the flowers to open.* False! Peony flowers will open just fine without ants. The reason many think ants are necessary is that normally just before peony flowers open, ants are present. The reality is that peony buds exude a sugary sap that the ants find as a pleasant food source. They are there for the free meal and that's it.

*Wood chips as mulch rob nitrogen from the soil.* This is true of about the top ¼" of the soil only. They can't pull nitrogen from deep in the soil where the plant roots are. So, if wood chips as mulch is the look you are going for, they will work just fine. In practice, I did plant some plants in a soil mix that had wood chips incorporated and the plant growth was affected by the chips using the nitrogen inside the soil, compared to soil without them. I just bumped up the nitrogen and they did just fine. I never incorporated it as a practice, due to the increased fertilization cost.

Jim's Jottings "Pollinators", is a commonly used term of late. These include bees, butterflies, even hummingbirds & more. It's all about perpetuation of the species, whether the pollinators themselves or the plants they pollinate. Plant pollination is all about production of seed for the next generation. Many plants are pollinated by wind, some by flies, like carrots, but the main concern is those that are pollinated by the bees etc. The word pollinator is used for the insect or bird that carries pollen with it, but it is also used to refer to the plant that provides the pollen to fertilize the flower on the plant that will bear the fruit. The context where the word is used will determine which is being referred to. Plants that require a pollinator need one of the same species but of different variety, to set fruit. These include apples, plums, pears and the list go on. Some of these will set fruit without a different variety nearby, but the fruit set is less, meaning that to have the best result, two different varieties must be planted. Some fruits like cherries and peaches that can be grown in colder climates, are self-fertile, meaning they don't need a different pollinator. But for those that require pollination by a different variety, these pollinators are a must. On the most part, our garden vegetables are almost all self-fertile.

Basic botany: Most all fruit bearing plants produce flowers that have both male and female parts. You can't have fruit without flowers. With very, very few exceptions crosses between genera are never successful as they will not cross. So, you can't cross apples and plums and get plupples or apllums, it just doesn't work. That would be like trying to cross dogs and cats (they are generally already cross with each other).

So, how do they get seedless watermelons? It's by crossing of varieties with two chromosomes (called diploids) with those with four chromosomes (called tetraploids) they get what are called triploid, and these are sterile, no seeds. These are **NOT GMO!!** The benefit for the pollinators themselves is simply the food source.

A word commonly in use today is the word "generic." We use it when referring to unbranded drugs or food. In most dictionaries, that is the essence of the first definition. But long before the existence of those

things, generic had a different application, and that exists today as the second or even third definition. In the plant field, the original use of the word is still very much in use.

As an example, being a member of the aster Family, marigolds, as do all plants, have another Latin name. The Latin name for what we call French Marigolds, the short marigolds we all love is, *Tagetes patula* var Bonanza Yellow. *Tagetes* being the Genus, *patula* being the species and Bonanza Yellow being the variety, often referred to as cultivar also. Tall marigolds are called African, Mexican or Aztec marigolds and those are *Tagetes erecta*. There are other species, as well. When referring to these as a group, the plural of genus is genera. Therefore, when referring to the Latin name, it is more commonly called the generic name, the original use of the word.

Many ask why do they use a Latin name instead of just using a common name? In France, they call marigolds, souci. In Spanish they are called, maravilla. So, whether in France, Spain, Sweden or any other country, the name *Tagetes patula*, is global. In reality, the names we are familiar with as a common name are actually the generic name. Examples of these would be things like petunia, impatiens, ageratum, begonia, gazania, etc. However, we prefer to use "coleus" instead of *Solenostemon* or "geranium" instead of *Pelargonium*.

## Bits and Pieces

Here is some interesting information of value to those who have young boys in the family or for those who know those that do. Some things you may discover:

1. If you hook a dog leash over a ceiling fan, the motor is not strong enough to rotate a 42# boy wearing Batman underwear & a Superman cape. It is strong enough, however, if tied to a paint can, to spread paint on all 4 walls of a 20x20 ft. room.
2. A 3-year old boy's voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant.
3. Play dough and microwave should not be used in the same sentence.
4. No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool, you still can't walk on water.
5. Garbage bags do not make good parachutes.
6. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earthworms dizzy.
7. Super glue works well on all sorts of things.
8. A king size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2000 square foot house, 4" deep.
9. When you hear the toilet flush and the words "uh oh", it's already too late.
10. Brake fluid mixed with Clorox makes smoke, and lots of it.
11. 80% of men who read this will try mixing the Clorox & brake fluid.



## Grasses

Becoming more and more popularly used in both annual and perennial plantings, grasses provide a very unique look to plantings. Having textures ranging from light and airy to coarse & bold, they can be selected for many different applications. Like many other plants, there are grasses that are very winter hardy, ranging to very tropical. In the U.S., the country is composed of areas called hardiness zones, based on normal low winter temperatures. Officially, the USDA classifies our area as zone 3, except for within about 20 miles of Lake Superior, which is Zone 4. These zones are classified by the minimum winter temperature usually reached. In roughly the last 20 years, many gardeners are having great success planting Zone 4 material in our area, some even having success with Zone 5 material. Snow cover and proper mulching has a huge impact on that success. In actuality, many of the plants that we grow as annuals are actually perennials in much milder climates. So, if you happen upon a plant that says on the tag that it is a perennial, look further to see the hardiness zone, as it may be perennial in Missouri (Zone 6) but not in northern Minnesota or Wisconsin. Grasses fall into the same criteria. The Green House offers both perennial and annual grasses. For purpose of discussion, we will consider perennial grasses to be those that are winter hardy for our zone, and annual grasses as those grasses that are perennial, but not hardy for our zone plus those that are truly annual, needing to grow from seed each year. This is the list of those varieties that we have chosen to grow for 2021:

### Perennial grasses

**Karl Foerster** is the most popular perennial grass grown in our area. Also called Feather Reed Grass, it has a very vertical, upright habit and has a golden-tan flower head in the fall. 3-4' Zone 4

**Lightning Strike** is a Feather Reed Grass also, having a central white stripe on the leaves, not quite as vertical as Karl Foerster and is a little wider. 3' Zone 4

**Fescue – Cool as Ice** is a clump mounding grass turning from lime green in the spring to blue in summer. 15-18" Zone 4

**Deschampia – Pixie Fountain**, also known as Tufted Hair Grass, has a somewhat soft look with light silvery white flower heads that turn a rich brown in fall. 20-24" Zone 2

### Annual Grasses

**Purple Fountain Grass** is one of the more recognizable grasses, having

purple foliage that intensifies in color in the fall. 3-5' Zone 9

**Dwarf Purple Fountain Grass** is a bit shorter, 2-3'

**Pennisetum Piglet** is a well-behaved clump grass having white flowers over green foliage 18" Zone 5

**Melinis Savannah** is also called Ruby Grass and has persistent pink flowers over green foliage that work well in containers. 18-24" Zone 9

**Millet Purple Baron** is a coarse foliated annual grass having deep burgundy foliage and very large attractive flower heads. Color is most intense when in full sun. 30-40" For the most part, these grasses excellent components for patio planters provided that the container size is appropriate for the grass selected. Purple Fountain Grass and Millet would require at least a 20" container and nothing smaller than 14" for the rest, unless the pot contains only the grass.

## Employment

Since you are receiving this newsletter, we know you like plants. Come join our team! Every year we hire full time and part time greenhouse retail staff for almost every location. We have many staff members that return, but not all. Many go on to school or have found other employment so we need new staffers. Our retail season goes from roughly May 1 to usually about mid-July. If you like working with plants, talking with fellow gardeners and enjoy the greenhouse atmosphere, give some consideration to applying for employment. Hours are flexible, plus employees receive a significant discount on all merchandise. Greenhouse production ramps up in February so if you are interested in the planting & growing part of the work, apply in January. The easiest way to apply is on-line, at [thegreenhousecarlton.com](http://thegreenhousecarlton.com), or call 218 384-4732 and ask for Mary. Our locations are listed below.

## Locations

**Carlton**, 210 6<sup>th</sup> St. Open 8-6 M-Sat, 9-5 Sun 218 384-4732

**Aitkin**, 320 2d St. NE. Opening April 1, open every day, seasonal hours, 218 927- 1375

**McGregor**, 9 Country House La. Opening April 1, open every day, seasonal hours, 218 768-4463

**Lakeside**, Super One, 5928 E. Superior St. Opening May 5, Open every day 8-8.

**Superior**, 2911 Tower Ave. Opening May 4, open every day 8-8.

**Cloquet**, 1208 Hwy 33S, opening 5/1, Open every day 8-8.