

Plant Pansies Now

We're always surprised at how many folks don't realize that you can plant pansies in the fall. Pansies planted in the fall will bloom right up to snowfall. I've even seen them bloom during a February thaw. Their cheery faces will please you all fall, and their show in the spring will be spectacular. There's no magic to it, really. Anyone can do it. Just come in now and treat yourself to some of our winter-hardy pansies. They are meant to be planted in the fall. A good trick is to plant them right over your flower bulbs. Most of the work is already done!



Thanks to
Ray De Vries

And the Winners Are...

Many thanks to everyone who sent in their six-word novels about gardening. What a great response: over 130 entries! That's a lot of novels to read. Good thing each was only six words long. And the winners of \$20.00 Gift Certificates are (drum roll please):

- ♥ Cheryl Edwards: "*His last act: potting a rose.*"
- ♥ Jake Heerema: "*Pa digs, Ma plants, One bouquet.*"
- ♥ Susan Martin: "*Wanted Mom's garden, found my own.*"
- ♥ Dawn Nyhof: "*Wanted: Man with tiller, briefly.*"

We'd love to share all of them with all of you; there are so many really good ones, it was difficult choosing only four. Send an email to info@jonkersgarden.com with "writing contest" in the subject line, and we'll send you a copy, or, stop in for your free copy of all 130+ novels. Thanks to everyone who sent in entries.

897 Lincoln Avenue
Holland, MI 49423-5306
616-392-7234
jonkersgarden.com

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The Joy of Bulbs



Spring-flowering bulbs are one of gardening's greatest joys. You slip them into the soil in the fall, maybe even forget about them, and in the spring they emerge from the ground, seemingly all by themselves, and treat us to a much-appreciated floral show after winter's long lack of color.

Dena Giller, our Greenhouse Manager, tells us how she planted 100 daffodil bulbs a couple years ago at the end of November. Just 5 holes with 20 bulbs each, across the ravine where they can see them from their deck. Even her husband was excited when they came up and bloomed. They took no care, were gorgeous, and the deer didn't touch them. (P.S. – The deer don't like hyacinths, iris, muscari, and many of the botanical tulips, either.)

I have a patch of daffodils in the woods behind my house that were there when I moved in nearly 20 years ago. Every spring they come up and treat me to a yellow bouquet; absolutely no maintenance. (Check out the photos on this page.) I like them so much I've been planting daffodils in other spots in the woods. Just plant them and forget them, until they remind you that they're there in the spring, year after year.

(Speaking of daffodils, did you know that with all the different varieties, you can have

daffodils blooming from March through May?)

Of course, you don't need a woods to enjoy care-free spring-flowering bulbs. They work well planted in groundcovers, mixed in with hosta and other perennials, and many other places.

Another suggestion: most of the spring-flowering bulbs can be successfully planted in pots of all types and sizes. Just water in and store them in an unheated garage or shed, or even outside in a protected area, and next spring move the pots where you can enjoy the flowers.

These are just a few of the many non-traditional ways to enjoy spring flowers. Now do you see why we love bulbs?



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Fall Workshops and Presentations

Nobody likes to see the end of summer. Although we love the seasons, there's something bittersweet about the end of summer's relaxed, warm days and the garden's bounty. This fall we'd like to offer some ways of extending summer's enjoyment. These sessions are all on Saturday morning at 11:00 am, and will be held rain or shine. Please RSVP at 392.7234 ext. 12.

SEPT. 13 - BASIC LANDSCAPING TIPS

Members of Jonker's will get you over the fear of putting your shovel into the sod to begin a landscaping project. Learn the basics of how to lay out a bed, remove sod, and position plants for the best effect.

SEPT. 20 - PRESERVING THE TASTES OF SUMMER

Questions: What do you do with those thousands of cherry tomatoes after you and your neighbors have had your fill? How are you going to use all that basil before the frost gets it? Don't you hate to dump all those pumpkin seeds in the trash? Answers: dashboard dried tomatoes, pesto ice cubes, toasted snacks. Learn how to do these and other fun projects and more (like drying herbs and gift-in-a-jar) during this presentation.

SEPT. 27 - MAKE YOUR OWN GRAPE-VINE WREATH

Jo and Zandra will help you make your own grape-vine wreath, then show you different ways of decorating it with materials collected from your own garden and elsewhere. We'll supply the vines. There is a \$20.00 charge for this workshop. RSVP by Sept. 20 please.

OCT. 4 - BEAUTIFYING YOUR HOME WITH NATURE'S BOUNTY

Bill Bird will entertain and inspire you with many fresh ideas for decorating your home. Be prepared to walk away with tons of great ideas for using Fall's bounty around the home.



www.jonkersgarden.com

Tip: Don't cut back your hydrangeas this fall, you may be cutting off the flowerbuds for next year! If you're not sure, come in and ask someone in the nursery - we're here to help.

Time To Freshen Up!



Are your annual pots, baskets or beds looking a little tired? Did you lose a couple watering skirmishes through the summer? It may be time for a quick make-over. It's amazing what introducing a few mum plants into your landscape will do. You can tuck them into your gardens, plant them in your pots, or just set them where you want color, and plant them at the end of the season for next year. Why not try some flowering cabbage and pansies while you're at it? Better yet, bring your pots or boxes in and let us do it for you! You can have decorative color for the next several months until it's time for Christmas greens. It'll make you feel good every time you look at your fresh flowers.





FALL HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays

“Tomatoes and oregano make it Italian; wine and tarragon make it French. Sour cream makes it Russian; lemon and cinnamon make it Greek. Soy sauce makes it Chinese; garlic makes it good.”



-ALICE MAY BROCK,
AUTHOR (B. 1941)



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**We are proud of the 15
Master Gardeners and
3 Michigan Certified
Nurserymen on our staff.**

Jonker's GARDEN LIVING is published five times a year – free of charge to garden lovers everywhere. Address comments to Jim Jonker, Editor, at 897 Lincoln Ave., Holland, MI 49423-5306 (616.392.7234) e-mail: info@jonkersgarden.com. Mark your calendar: Pansy Fest 2008 will be August 16 - 23.

101 Things You Can Do With a Pumpkin

#72: Make a pumpkin planter.

Hollow it out and plant a couple pansies in it. A larger pumpkin would look good with a mum and some vines in it. (Make snacks from the seeds - see Sept. 20 on opposite page.) Take a walk with the kids and collect interesting seed pods, cattails, bitersweet or grass plumes to finish off your creation. This is fun for parents and kids alike!

And remember, if you don't love your creation, you can always squash it! (Thanks to Jenna Chambers for that last line!)



Thanks to Jenna Chambers, Nicholas Chambers and Hailey Balgoyen (left to right).



Greenwashing

Continuing our series of reprints from long-ago Jonker's Gardener articles about being 'Green', here's part of an "Environmentally Speaking..." article from Vol. VIII, Sept. 1991:

“Fall is the time when many folks generate the largest amount of yard waste, mostly leaves. Although burning is not permitted in most areas, it remains a big source of pollution. It is a very difficult habit to break. Who doesn't get that glow of nostalgia at the first whiff of burning leaves? But the fact remains that it's not good for our air.

Equally harmful in our estimation is stuffing the leave into plastic garbage bags to be carted into the glutted landfills. The alternative of composting makes sense. Many people who don't have the advantage of city leaf collection could start a compost pile. It takes less room than you might think; a pile of leaves will shrink to less than 1/4th of its original size by next Spring. The compost can be used to mulch bushes and flowers, or spaded in to build the soil.”

