



January Newsletter

2010

Yes! WE Made It!

Patty's Plants

2009 was the true beginning or should I say “test” of Patty’s Plants. I kept thinking to myself, should I continue, should I call it quits. What was I thinking starting a new business with this economy. Luckily I have YOU, my wonderful customers. You truly believes in my eco-friendly and unique mini garden center. Yes! Patty’s made it though another year and are looking forward to an even better 2010. I will have many new products as well as plants. I’m excited to add a couple of new growers this year from Wisconsin as well as some from just across the border. We’ll continue to have funky creative container gardens, hanging baskets and even more organic and heirloom varieties of herb and vegetable



plants this spring. I also wanted to mention, if there is anything that you’ve been wanting or trying to find, whether it be a plant or product, please e-mail me at:(patty@pattysplants.com) and let me know. I

will certainly try and find it for you. I will list some of the new products and plants I will be carrying in this newsletter, along with some tips on indoor herb gardening. I will be having a *Workshop* on “*Caring for Your Houseplants in the Winter*”

Look for the details on page 6. Sign up will be required, do to limited space .

Thank You for Your Support
Happy New Year!!!
Patty

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A Big “Thank You”

To all of you who brought non-perishable food items during Patty's Plants 1st Annual Food Drive for The Milton Food Pantry

January - A Reflection and Renewal

January is the month we start reflecting and thinking about renewing areas of our gardens. Why do we do this? Maybe it’s all in the meaning of the name: “January”

Quoting the Mystical World Wide Web: “The name, given to the month of 'January', is derived from the ancient Roman name 'Janus' who presided over the gate to the new year. He was revered as the 'God of Gateways', 'of Doorways' and 'of the Journey.' Janus protected the 'Gate of Heaven', and often

is symbolized by an image of a face that looks forwards and backwards at the same time. This symbolism is associated with this month being known by most of us as the start of a new year which brings new opportunities.”

So we sit with garden plans, seed catalogs and reflect. What will we change, what will stay the same. A true garden never stays the same. What fun would that be. Only we as gardeners know how really true this is.

New Products For Seed Starting

I have added new Seed Company this year. **Botanical Interests** is a family owned business that believes in high quality seed. I will carry their heirloom and certified organic herb, veggie and flower seeds.

The Real Organic-Real Easy Seed starting Kit, from Bethel Organics does just that. It is for the discerning customer who wants to get involved with organic gardening, but may be apprehensive.

This kit includes all you need to get started: Soil tablets, fertilizer, 2 seed packets, wooden plant markers, garden almanac and of course, **DOT Pots**™. Includes OMRI Listed® and USDA organic certified Organic products. Easy planting instructions also accompany each kit. Plus **Seed Starting Pots** which are organic and 100% biodegradable.

DOT Pots are the worlds' only OMRI™ listed Biodegradable plantable pots, packaging is printed with biodegradable soy inks. DOT Pots are Greener from Start to Finish. Wood fiber used is sourced exclusively from thinning of sustainably



managed forests.

Nest Pots are seed starting kits made of coir fiber. Cylinders are pre-filled with a blend of starter fertilizer and coir potting mix. Ideal for seedling propagation.



EcoPots are constructed of 100% Biodegradable Coir Fiber and are a great alternative to plastic pots.



Use a good seed starting mix for your seeds. **Black Gold Seedling Mix**. Approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), Seedling Mix consists of perlite, dolomite lime, double-screened Canadian Sphagnum peat moss and an organic wetting agent.



This mini **Hot House** is a growing system that offers increased growing success by providing gentle warmth to the planting bed and by controlling humidity under the large dome. System includes: UL listed waterproof heat mat, 17 watt, 120 volt, 6.5" humidity dome with dual vent points, 11" x 22" watertight base tray, 72 cell seedling insert.



OXO Tools

OXO Gel-e Garden Tools incorporate a gel material in the tools' soft, non-slip handle (even when wet!). The gel flexes to provide cushioning when digging into tough and compacted soil. The blue tint of the gel helps the tools stand out in the garden.

Gel-e Trowel Has serrated edges for cutting roots and opening bags; easy to read measurement markings for planting at recommended depths. 14"; 11 oz
This **Weeder** features a triangular fulcrum for leverage and a sharpened scraper for cutting weeds below the surface... a modern take of the traditional asparagus/dandelion weeder. 15"; 11 oz.

OXO By-Pass Pruners with Quick Cut Setting
Feature a 3-position locking system: 1 – locks the pruners

closed; 2 – quick-cut setting which limits the opening distance to reduce hand strain during light, repetitive pruning; 3 - opens the blades for larger items up to 3/4" diameter. Non-stick coated blades; cushioned gel pads to prevent blisters. Lightweight, aluminum construction. Replaceable blades.

OXO's version of the all-time favorite Hori-Hori... perfection! Made of durable, high-quality stainless steel, this versatile tool is great for propagating, transplanting, weeding and more. Measurements on the blade help determine distance when planting, and the serrated edge is perfect for splitting roots, cutting twine, and opening bags. Store safely – in its sheath with a belt clip for easy transport.



Ebony King Blackberry

A choice blackberry with contained, erect growth. 2 to 4 feet tall with attractive dark green foliage. Plants flower around the start of summer and fruit ripens about mid-July. Berries are elongated, shiny black, and sweet as can be. Excellent berry for pies, cobblers, turnovers, topping ice cream, and added to cereal.

black fruits. Canes are upright and self-pollinating.

Light: Full sun to partial shade

Harvest: Early summer

Height: 3-4'

Size: Container-8"

Zones:4-8



This thornless blackberry produces up to 1" purplish-

Everbearing Strawberries

'Ozark Beauty'

is a long time favorite and is excellent for preserves or freezing. Large red berries with mouth-watering flavor. The absolute hardiest, most vigorous and one of the heaviest producing everbearing plants. You'll be feasting on big crops of these exceptionally delicious scarlet-red berries from early summer until the first frost. All winter you'll savor preserves and

frozen desserts. This is an everbearing strawberry that produces berries that are semi-firm, red clear through, and full of flavor. High-yielding plants and self-pollinating. We'll have 4", 8" containers and flower pouches.



Raspberries, Blueberries and Grapes

We will have an assortment of these. At this time I do not have the variety list as my supplier won't be back until after this goes out. I will update you as soon as I know what they are providing me this year. They will be planted in 8" containers.

Fun Facts on Raspberries, Blueberries and Grapes

Red Raspberries were said to exist before the Romans came into power. The Romans initially spread the raspberry across Europe. The English hybridized the raspberry and improved them during the middle ages. The English exported the plant to the United States in the 1700's. The black raspberry is native to North America. Raspberries belong to the genus (Rubus). There are over 200 species of raspberries. Botanically, the raspberry is not a berry at all, but is an aggregate fruit of numerous drupelets around a central core.

Blueberries -Plant two different blueberry varieties to ensure cross-pollination. A single blueberry plant will produce fruit, but the yields per plant will be higher if more than one plant is grown.

Grapes- Grapes are the most widely grown fruit in the world. Grapes are native to North America. The wild grapes found by early settlers were quickly rejected because they were high in acid, low in sugar and uniquely flavored. Grapes require a dedicated pruning schedule. Unpruned grape vines get very dense, diseases get hard to control and fruit quality declines.

Tomato Varieties added to 09 List

Certified Organic Tomatoes Heirloom

Jaune Flammee'- Beautiful apricot-shaped heirloom from France. Great for drying, retains deep orange color. Excellent flavor, more fruity than red tomatoes. Very productive, fruits borne in clusters and weigh 2-3 ounces. Indeterminate, 70-80 days from transplant. Fruit are very much like the now discontinued Orange Pixie, tho the plant is not compact like the Pixies. A 2 bite or large cherry tomato with flavor close to Sun Gold.

Roman Candle-Spectacular smooth iridescent yellow fruits that are 2" wide by 4" long. Very meaty with nice flavor. One of the few pure-yellow bananashaped fruits available to gardeners. Great for making salsa base or tomato sauce. Originated as a sport from John Swenson's beautiful Speckled Roman. Indeterminate, 85- 90 days.

Kentucky Beeksteak-This beefsteak tomato produces enormous fruit weighing as much as two pounds and generally more attractive than other beefsteak tomatoes. The globe-shaped fruit are a deep orange color with a smooth skin.

Certified Organic Hybrid Tomatoes

Better Boy -F1 Hybrid. Plant produces extremely heavy yields of delicious 1 lb tomatoes continuously all season. It is a Guinness World Record holder, producing 342 lbs of tomatoes from one plant. Perfect slicing tomato. Tomatoes turn red when mature. Disease Resistant

Big Beef-This hybrid overcomes adverse growing conditions and adapts to virtually any climate. The smooth skinned fruits are globe-shaped, 9 to 16 oz. and disease resistant. The uniformity of this hybrid also provides an old-fashioned, rich flavor.

Big Boy-F1 Hybrid. One of the most popular varieties grown by home gardeners. Plant produces good yields of very flavorful 1 lb meaty tomatoes. Tomatoes turn bright red when mature. Crack Resistant.

Juliette-1999 AAS Winner! This cherry-type tomato offers 1 oz. elongated fruits with glossy, red-skin that cling to the vine longer than most other cherry-types. Very sweet and resistant to cracking.

Orange Blossom-This is a very good early orange tomato. The fruit is medium-firm, globe-shaped and

average 6-7 oz. The texture is pleasant and the mild flavor is balanced with a little acidity.

Sungold-This golden cherry tomato is very productive offering its fruits very early in the season. The fruits are light orange colored, thin-skinned and very sweet.

Classics Non -Organic- Hybrids

Celebrity- F1 Hybrid. 1984 All-America Selections Winner! Plant produces high yields of 8 oz red tomatoes all season long until frost. Tomatoes are firm and flavorful and turn red when mature. Plant has strong vines and does extremely well in most regions. Disease Resistant.

Early Girl- F1 Hybrid. Plant produces high yields of flavorful 6 oz red tomatoes. High in Vitamin A and C. One of the earliest slicing tomatoes on the market. Excellent for salads and sandwiches. Disease Resistant.

Green Grape- Plant produces high yields of 1 oz green cherry tomatoes. Very sweet, in clusters of six to eight, and stay green when mature. The only green cherry tomato available. Make green ketchup, green tomato soups, sauces, and garnishes. Also great for salads and snacks.

Health Kick-The juicy, plum-shaped fruit weigh about 4 oz. with a very fine flavor. This variety is great for salads and very disease resistant. Plants will grow to about 4 feet tall if staked and will set a large number of fruit under normal growing conditions.

Patio-F1 Hybrid. Plant produces large yields of 2" red tomatoes. Excellent for small gardens or containers on your deck. Great for school projects. Kids love them. Disease Resistant.

Classics Non-Organic Heirlooms

Banana Legs- This is a very prolific and long-lasting heirloom variety. Bright yellow, banana-shaped fruits, approximately 4" long by 1 ½" in diameter, are meaty and low in acid. They are an especially good choice for slicing into salads.

Con't - Tomato Varieties added to 09 List

Black Krim-Originating on the Isle of Krim in the Lower Ukraine, the Black Krim Tomato is one of the oldest varieties of black tomatoes available; it is a most unusual novelty. Fruits are a dark, deep red (almost a shiny black) with heavy green shoulders and are about 10 to 12 oz. Interior is a deep, reddish-green color. Sweet and tasty. Matures extremely early.

Box Car Willie-This old-timer may become your tomato of choice due to its prolific yields of smooth, reddish-orange fruits averaging 10 to 16 oz. with an old-fashion flavor you'll remember from childhood. These high yielding, multi-use tomatoes will last throughout the season and are ideal for canning, freezing, or for home-cooked meals. Crack-free and disease resistant.

Elberta Girl-One of the most beautiful tomatoes you'll ever see; resembles its namesake, the famous Elberta Peach! Bright red fruits, striped in regal gold, are nestled amid silvery-green foliage ... almost too pretty to harvest! The plum shaped fruits average 3 oz. in weight. Very productive.

Giant Belgium-A very popular heirloom, the Giant Belgium is an exceptional producer of very sweet pink fruits. The giant fruits average 2 lbs. and have been reported to have weighed in at nearly 5 lbs. The dark pink fruits have smooth blossom ends, low-acid, mild flavor, and are so sweet that some growers use them to make wine. The solid meat and size mean one slice per sandwich!

Principe Borghese-An Italian heirloom variety whose plum shaped fruits are unusually meaty, with very little juice and few seeds. It is a favorite for sun-drying, sauces, and canning. Small, very prolific plants provide large yields of 1 oz. red grape shaped tomatoes and may require support.

Red Pear-One of the rarest of the heirloom varieties still grown today! Hardy, medium sized plants yield plenty of small, red, pear-shaped fruits with very few seeds. Perfect for salads, sauces, or pickles.

Riesentraube-This German heirloom was grown in America by the Pennsylvania Dutch as early as 1855. The name, which translates as "great bunch of grapes," aptly describes its astounding number fruits. As many as 350 flowers per plant transform into bunches of red, pear-shaped fruits with pointed ends

weighing about ¾ oz. each. Riesentraube offers excellent, full-bodied flavor similar to a beefsteak, in fruits barely 1 ½" across. Compact vines, strongly branched, with good foliage cover.

Sausage-Here's an unusually shaped tomato with fruits up to 6" long like huge, red banana peppers. This prolific paste tomato has very fine-flavored meat and is especially ideal for ketchup or sauces.

Yellow Stuffer-This unique tomato heirloom is Australian in origin and is known for its resemblance of a bell pepper. The seeds cluster toward the top of the fruit making it easy to remove the core and perfect for stuffing. Vigorous vines produce loads of 3 to 4 lobed fruits.

These will added to the list from the last two years. As long as there isn't a crop failure, I should have most of them before or by Memorial Weekend.

Go to www.pattysplants.com to see 2008-2009 lists. They are in Topics under January 09 Newsletter and Veggie lists.



Patty's First Harvest of 09

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Natural & Organic
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Patty's Plants

Sick of Winter Already?

Come to Patty's Plants

Workshop on

"Caring For Houseplants in the Winter"

January 18th

6:00 pm

Customers may bring in a healthy or not so healthy plant **closed in a paper bag. She will not know who's plant it is, they will all be placed in a corner from which Patty will pick at random to see if it is in good shape or if it needs a bit of help. She will show how to repot and clean your plants to help them get through the long winter months.**

Sign up is required, limited space. For more info call Patty at 608-580-0066 or e-mail her at patty@pattysplants.com

It will be rescheduled if there is inclement weather

Indoor Herb Gardening Tips

Herbs may not grow as lush as they do outside as they grow outside but they will grow and you can use them anytime you need to be refreshed.

Even if you don't want to cook with them — just smelling them can brighten even the worst of moods. So have fun, experiment !

Herbs will grow very well inside your home or apartment provided there is the right amount of light. Sunny south windows are the best, but if you only have east or west it will do. Fluorescent lights are better than incandescent because they give off less heat and more even lighting. An inexpensive shop light with two standard 48" tubes will be enough for several pots. Hang or mount it 6" above the top of the tallest plants. Raise shorter plants up. Get a timer or turn it off after 14 hrs. or so.

Plants that work well in artificial : Sweet bay, lemon verbena, eucalyptus, curry, lemon grass, pineapple sage, and scented geraniums.

Windowsill plants include: rosemary, tarragon, lemon balm, sage, thyme, oregano, bay, and aloe vera.

Planting herbs in a hanging basket is wonderful when you don't have counter space but you do have a nice sunny window.

