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Patty's Plants
220 S. Janesville St.
Milton, WI 53563
608-580-0066
www.pattysplants.com.
patty@pattysplants.com

Patty's Plants



It's Patty's Plants 1 Year Newsletter Anniversary!

Inside this issue:

Garden Mum 2
Planting & Care

Mums Fall Friends 2

Planting Hardy 3
Bulbs for Beautiful

Keeping Critters 3
From Having Lunch
In Your Garden

Customer Recipes 4

Patty's Plants Or- 5
ganic & Natural
Products for Pesky
Critters

Bring in your 5
Houseplants

Florist Mums

These are Not Hardy

- They are meant to be given as a gift to brighten someones day
- To create a splash of color for an easy decoration at a party or gathering.
- Use rainbow colored mums as an annual in a container garden

It's hard to believe I started writing newsletters 1 year ago today. Last year at this time I left my job as a greenhouse manager after being there 22 years and in the garden center business for the last 27. I loved those jobs and I knew I would miss being in it. This is why I started my gardening help and advice web site and my newsletters. Then, just when I was content just to doing that, I still missed seeing all my customers. It was then that my family and friends told me I needed to get back in the business and start my own. I was petrified at the thought. Questioning myself, could I do this? Yes, I could with the support of my family and friends, I did it!

Patty's Plants was born. May 5, 2008 .A Natural and Organic Garden Supply Store. Organic gardening has always been something I believed in, so opening my shop

Mums Hardy Or Not?

I like to call fall mums, "Garden Mum" instead of "Hardy Mum". The reason I think we all know. They **may** decide to come back the following year and they **may not**. The later is what most people find happens.



was my way to help people learn more about gardening this way in my own community. Of course, I had to carry plants too! As some of you may know, I lived in Hawaii when I was little and with all the beautiful gardens and plants there, I think I must have been hooked right from the beginning. Here at Patty's Plants, I'll keep trying to get the most usual and unique houseplants, flowers, veggies and herbs that I can find. I want to thank all of you for supporting me!!!!

Congratulations! To our Winner:

Nancy Gilley of Shear Impulse in Milton, won the Organic Product Gift Basket drawing August 17th after our organic heirloom tomato/veggie taste testing day.

Now, Let's get on with the newsletter.

This can be very frustrating, I know. In this newsletter I will give you some tips on growing Mums and how you **may** get them to return for another colorful season. I do carry 8", 10", Jumbo 12", container gardens with mums and even fall hanging baskets.

Garden Mum - Planting and Care-

Many of our gardens need freshening up this time of year. What better way to do it than with the beautiful colors of garden mums? Replace wore out annuals in your gardens or in your containers.



Chrysanthemum x morifolium

come in many wonderful colors and flower type. Varieties such as: daisy like, pompon, cushion, buttons (small pompons), decorative, spiders and spoon-petal are available. My favorites are the daisy types but the most popular are the cushion. The best time to plant mums is actually in the spring. But in spring you may not find as many colors and they will be only available in a 4.5" pot size. By planting in the spring, their roots will have time to grow and get established.

Planting– Mum should be planted in full sun. A good 5-6 hours is perfect. Find an area that has good drainage as it is very important for their survival over winter. Mums have a very shallow root system so they prefer to be somewhat moist but not soggy soil. A good rich, fertile soil high in organic

material is also helpful. We carry really good Fox Farm planting mix to use just for helping your mums live through the winter.

Mulching– Is a must when planting here in our climate this fall. When our ground freezes and thaws in the winter, the ground heaves up, some plants with shallow root systems. This causes them to be damaged or die in the winter. Use shredded bark, leaves or straw but do not put it on to early. You should wait until the ground starts to freeze. Small critters might make a nest in it if you put it down to soon. There is no need to prune off the dead growth after a

Spring/Summer Care Tip:

To encourage branching and development of compact bushy plants it is very important to pinch back your mums in the spring . When new growth has reached 6", pinch 2-3" off of every branch.

Whenever a branch grows another 5-6 inches repeat the pinching. Stop pinching the second week of July, this is when the plant will slow it's growth and start developing flower buds.



Fox Farm Planting Mix

Fox Farm's multi-purpose Planting Mix is a concentrated blend of organic peat, composted forest humus, earthworm castings, Norwegian kelp meal and bat guano: nature's finest soil amendments. The best medium for lush flower and vegetable gardens, pH-balanced Planting Mix is ready to use right from the bag.

Mums Fall Friends

Flowering Kale- These plants thrive in cool weather and full sun. Great mixed in planters with Mums.

Pansies-Pansies are one of the most popular and recognizable cool weather annuals. Some may survive the winter if mulched.

Ornamental Peppers-Ornamental pepper plants grow well indoors or outside. These peppers are very hot.

They grown for their great fall color added to planters.

Millet-This purple foliage plant is the AAS Gold Medal Winner and stays beautiful spring through fall!

Asters– This is their time to shine. Gives nice color in shades of blue and pink added to fall planters.

Rubeckia– **Black-Eyed Susan** offers bold splashes of reliable color from

splashes of reliable color from mid summer to fall. Put it in a planter, then plant in a perennial garden before the ground freezes, mulch. Patty's Plants carries all of these to freshen up your garden or planters this fall.



Planting Hardy Bulbs for Beautiful Spring Color

These next two articles are from last September's newsletter, I thought is was important enough to put in again this year.

The first thing you must do before planting time starts, is to purchase bulbs that look healthy. They should be firm, not at all soft. You must also make sure the bulbs are hardy for your area. Then gather the supplies you need like a trowel, bulb planter, bulb food etc. After you have everything you need, you can start preparing the area you have chosen for your spring

flower garden. Make sure your area has good drainage. You can test a spot by digging a hole and pouring water into it. If the water drains well, it will be a good spot. You can fix your heavy soil by adding compost or a soil conditioner to the area. When your soil is ready there are a couple of options on planting. I like to plant in clusters or in large groups. The other option is planting individually around your other perennials. Follow the planting instructions for the correct depth of type of bulb you are planting.



Good time to start planting is mid-September to the first week of October.

Keeping Critters From Having Lunch In Your Garden

In the fall, you spend all day long digging and preparing your garden for what you hope will be a beautiful display of color in the spring. You find out that only half of what you planted came up. That's very disappointing to say the least.

Now, it's true weather could also be one of the culprits, but it's more likely it's those pesky furry critters. Deer, rabbits, gophers, mice, voles and squirrels just to name a few, are the ones having a gourmet meal with your newly planted bulbs. You can just hear them say, "Ahh! Smell that fresh dirt. I think someone has invited us to lunch."

Moles are sometimes blamed for most of the damage. After all they do dig the tunnels and push things around that are in their way. But really they are only looking for grubs. What is eating your bulbs from down under is most likely mice and voles. They just thank the mole for making the tunnels for them.

The best way to keep them away is to try to deter the mole so that they stop digging all those tunnels in the first place. One way to do this is to make sure your garden is free for weeds and debris. Another is to use rodent controls. There are many products out there that are safe to use around the garden.

Deer, rabbits and squirrels are the masters of the garden. They just look at you from their hiding places and laugh. They will dig up and eat almost anything that they find tasty.

Here are a few things you can try to keep them away:

1. Fencing is one solution that works but it may not be something you wish to use.
2. Using plants that deer don't like may help if you plant them around the plants they do. ([Go to list of : What Deer Don't Like at www.pattysplants.com](#))
3. Products, there are all kinds of smelly solutions that are natural to spray or sprinkle around the garden areas. One of my favorites is called **Deer Scram**. It is all natural containing things like; garlic, cloves, dried blood and more. It even works under snow for 100 days. So put it on this fall. I had a customer tell me about it first. I tried it and it worked. I didn't have to replant my lettuce or cole crops for the first time last spring. Of course, what works for one may not always work for another.
4. For squirrels, try setting up their own lunch area far away from your garden if possible. Serve them corn and peanuts.
5. Cover your bulbs with screening or chicken wire. The critter won't like digging in that. It can be disguised by using a mulch. Although you'll have to remove the screen in the spring so your bulbs can grow.
6. Try dog fur or human hair. If you don't have a dog, go to a dog groomer. They should be happy to give away fur. As well as the beauty shop giving you some fresh cut hair. These both work for awhile but the birds love it and will build their nests with it.
7. The last idea would be to plant bulbs that critters don't like. See list for : [Bulbs That Aren't Edible go to:](#)

www.pattysplants.com

Patty's Customer Recipe Page

Sun Shine Pickles

Submitted by Michelle Kolinski

2 heads dill in bottom of jar
 Slice pickles lengthways (put in jar)
 Boil:
 7 c. water
 2 c. white vinegar
 1/2 c. canning salt
 1/2 tbsp. mixed pickle spices
 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
 Boil for at least 3 Minutes.

Pour over pickles.
 Seal Container.
 Place in direct sun for at least 3 days.
 Put in the refrigerator.
Must be kept in refrigerator at all times.
 Enjoy!
 Thank you Shelly!



*Just like sun-tea.
 Easy to make.
 These are really
 crunchy & yummy!*

Ground Cherry Preserves

Submitted by Diane M. Murphy

4 c. of heaping ground cherries
 4 c. sugar
 3/4 c. water
 Boil for 3/4 of an hour .or more

Put in jars. Refrigerate.
 This will be very runny but it is delicious on toast
 Thank you Diane!

If you have a yummy recipe to submit, e-mail me at :
patty@pattyspattys.com

Patty's Veggie Casserole



Layer in 9" casserole bake-dish.
 Slice veggies, put in this order:
 Zucchini, Bell pepper, onion, tomato, sprinkle with parmesan cheese, add a layer of Swiss or cheddar cheese. Repeat one more time, but leave off the last layer of swiss and or cheddar until the last 15 minutes of baking.
 Bake at 350* for 1/2 hour to 45 mins. Don't for-

get to add the last layer of cheese. Sprinkle with more parmesan.

I add a little water in the bottom of the pan first. This can get very juicy depending on the kind of tomatoes used. My husband likes the broth it makes so we put it in soup bowls.

Season with any of your favorite spices and herbs. I use both cheeses. Yummy!

*Patty's Plants Organic & Natural Products
for Pesky Critters*

220 S. Janesville St.
Milton, WI
53563

Phone: 608-580-0066

Fax: 866-336-6720

Email: patty@pattysplants.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.PATTYSPLANTS.COM

Natural & Organic Garden Supply



Patty's Plants

Deer Scram slowly breaks down through biodegradation and remains naturally effective for up to 45 days (or more!) in summer and up to 100 days in winter.

Rabbit Scram is blended from selected organic and natural components, Rabbit Scram rabbit repellent is sniffed off the ground by foraging rabbits before they enter your gardens.

Mole Scram has been proven to quickly and effectively reduce and eliminate mole activity!

Get Away repels by odor and taste. Repels deer, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, dogs and cats. Spray around and on bird feeders to keep squirrels off of them.

Deer Pharm can be sprayed right on foliage and buds. Made with certified organic oils.

Also repels small mammals.

Plantskydd has granular, powder concentrate and ready to use spray. #1 most tested. Acts as a fertilizer too. Powder concentrate lasts up to 6 months over the winter on dormant plants. Keeps away: Deer, rabbits, voles, chipmunks, squirrels and opossum.

For more info on these products, contact Patty at: patty@pattysplants.com

Time to Bring in Your Houseplants

Your favorite houseplants have been outside in the garden or on the patio all summer long. Now you need to decide which ones you have space for and/or which are the most important to you. Tropical plants will suffer a setback when the night temperatures drop sharply at this time of year. Some may require a little maintenance.

Set up an area in the yard to get them ready to bring inside. You may need to prune them and



When night temps dip below 50*, it's time to bring your plants in.

check them for insects and diseases. Repot any that have outgrown their containers. Throw or give any away that are not as important to you. Return them indoors in time for them to re-adjust to their indoor environment before the heat is turned on. There will be some leaf loss or the browning of leaf edges on a few of your plants. They are just letting you know they are trying to get used to the lower light levels and lower humidity indoors.

To read more about bringing in your plants for the winter, cleaning and repotting them go to:

www.pattysplants.com and click to:

September 07 Newsletter