



Welcome to Hamlen's Second
Spring Newsletter 2002!

We hope to see many of our customers at the Garden Center happily shopping for their spring annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs.

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Hamlen's Helping Hand



Hamlen's Garden Center
157 St. Albans Road
Swanton, Vermont

New Stuff for 2002

NEW STORE ITEMS

Reel Easy by GardenTech: 50 feet of hose contained in an easy carry case. You can use it to water hanging baskets and patio plants, or your garden. Easy to carry around because it only weighs 8 lbs. Complete case with hose, reel and spray nozzle. Take out as much hose as you need. Easy to wind back up.

Schultz Orchid Mix: 8 dry qt. Bag contains Fir bark and charcoal. Excellent mix for orchids and other epiphytic plants (plants that grow on other plants but are not taking nourishment from it). Orchid mix provides consistent aeration for roots and retains moisture. Comes in a handy reclosable bag with helpful orchid tips and repotting instructions to guide you through the process.

Laguna Pond Skimmer: A durable pond skimmer with telescopic handle to easily reach within your pond. Soft netting and rounded corners make it ideal for getting into all the grooves of your pond without damaging the liner. The whole unit is collapsible for easy storage.

NEW TREES

Bali Cherry - This is a hardy cherry discovered in Edmonton, Alberta. The fruiting buds are hardy to -43°F. The one-inch fruit ripens in August and is considered to taste between a sweet and sour cherry, similar to Mesabi cherry. It is self-fertile so it will not need another cherry to pollinate.

Patten Pear - Has been added to the pear collection and is a very good pollinator for Summercrisp, Parker, Luscious and Gourmet Pear. Patten's fruit is very tender and juicy.

Mango Tango Potentilla

This is a tidy, compact, rounded Potentilla with striking bicolor flowers. Shades of orange and red radiate from the center of the flower petal over a base color of deep yellow. It is extremely cold hardy and reaches a height of about 2 feet.



Grape Honeysuckle

This is a hardy twining vine with blue-green leaves. When grape honeysuckle is planted in full sun, it becomes covered with yellow tubular whirls of flowers that progress to profuse clusters of scarlet red berries. Another honeysuckle is needed for cross-pollination.



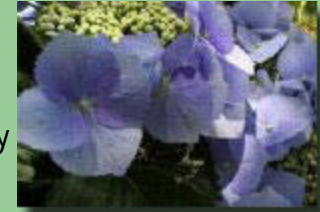
Wine & Roses Weigela

It has dark burgundy-purple foliage which really sets off the rosy-pink colored flowers. This exciting plant does well in zone 4 (-30°F) and reaches a height and spread of 4-5 feet.



Hydrangea macrophylla 'Dooley'

This plant is marginally hardy Zone 5 (-20°F). In a protected area and with an acid soil, it will give you large rich blue flowers on lateral buds up and down the stem.



Kyushu Hydrangea

This plant originated on a Japanese island. It is a zone 4 (-30°F) plant that gets 6-8 feet tall and wide. It has elegant, large, open, airy white flowers that bloom in August and September. The flowers turn pink in late August. Another interesting characteristic of the plant is its glossy green foliage.



NEW PERENNIALS

Eupatorium rugosum 'Chocolate'

Late summer bloomer grown for its foliage. The dark maroon to bronze foliage accents the creamy white flowers. An exceptional plant that grows well in full sun to partial shade and reaches heights of 4-5'. Eupatorium is best used as an accent plant or along the back border.



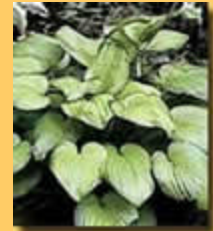
Zauschneria (Hardy *Fuschia*)

This rapidly spreading groundcover is hardy to Zone 3. Requires well drained soil and is extremely drought tolerant. The tube-like orange-scarlet flowers appear from mid to late summer. The flower shape and color make it an excellent plant for attracting hummingbirds. Can grow in both full sun and shade.



Hosta 'Guacamole'

Deep veined hosta with large round chartreuse leaves. The irregular dark green edge intensifies in color with age and light. Large fragrant lavender flowers bloom through August. Grows 54" wide and 24" tall. Great foliage plant for shade/part shade.



NEW ANNUALS

Torenia 'Amethyst'

This is a vigorous creeping and trailing annual. Great for mixed baskets and window boxes, or just on its own. The ruby-pink flowers bloom all season long with very little maintenance. It branches out well without any pinching and the snapdragon-like blooms are self-cleaning. Torenia thrives in partial shade and heat.



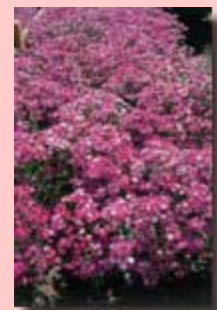
Lysimachia con. 'Outback Sunset'

This is a very attractive annual with its beautiful yellow foliage with green in the center. Blooms clusters of golden flowers throughout spring and summer. Very useful in mixed containers or as a groundcover. 'Outback Sunset' grows to 10" tall and has a trailing habit. Its a quick and easy grower in full sun.



Dianthus 'Cinnamon Red Hots'

Slightly fragrant scarlet flowers and long narrow foliage look great in mixed containers. Compact habit makes 'Cinnamon Red Hots' ideal for window boxes with a height of only 12-15". Grows best in full sun to part shade.



There's No Place Like Home

When the events of September 11th took place we were all horrified. Our way of life was threatened and has in many ways changed. As emotions swept over us we began to realize things might be different. We found ourselves asking the question, why does anybody hate us?



One area in our lives that hasn't changed is our homes. Our homes provide shelter and stability. They provide a respite from the rest of the world with their tranquillity and peace. Call it cocooning or whatever name you want to give it, we all appreciate our sense of home.

Lately with the uncertainty of the stock market people have found their homes an excellent investment. Your home not only yields a much greater return than stocks, certificates of deposit, money markets, and IRA's but you enjoy the investment you make in your home now.

One of the highest returns you can realize from investing in your home is through landscaping. Realtors have found anyone selling their home with nice landscaping can realize on an average a 15% return on their landscaping investment. Not only is their house worth 15% more, but it has a much more inviting feeling making it easier to sell. Our homes can give us the security, stability, and investment opportunity we sometimes search elsewhere for.

As Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* experienced -- home... there is no place like it.

Binocular Bob



This year the garden center is on the lookout for binocular Bob. Bob thinks he is a bird watcher, but will watch anything that comes within his view. Bob's job at the garden center is to offer you specials each week on our plants and products. So when you come out to the garden center, be on the lookout for Bob because with the specials he's offering, you might say Bob is looking out for you.

Top 10 "Brown Thumb" Mistakes

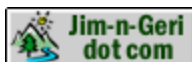
Thought you might like to see the top ten mistakes made by people who claim they can't grow anything. However, if you recognize some of these, don't feel bad -- we all have practiced brown thumb mistakes at least once in our lives.



1. Plant it & forget it.
 2. Black soil is beautiful.
 3. When watering plants more is better.
 4. Plants need to be fed????
 5. Any plant grows anywhere.
 6. Dwarf plants stay dwarf.
 7. Plants planted near a house foundation won't grow.
 8. If a plant does not have leaves or needles for one growing season it is not dead.
 9. My weedwacker won't harm my plants.
 10. Lots of bark mulch around my plants must be good.
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