

Hamlen's Helping Hand

Welcome to Hamlen's Helping Hand!

This is our 2nd Spring newsletter of 2005.
We look forward to seeing you at the garden center.



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

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Easy Elegance Roses

These roses are a new generation of rose developed by Laos immigrant Ping Lim. In 1992 he was hired by Bailey Nurseries to be the Rose Research director. His desire was to breed roses that would change the way people think about them. Most people in the northcountry have trouble growing roses. There are several reasons for this. Hardiness or the ability of the rose to stand up to our winters is a big determinant as to whether the rose will live. A lot of roses are not hardy enough and people become discouraged the following year when all that remains are twigs. The other challenge is a lot of roses are plagued by disease problems.

Ping's rose breeding has resulted in a type of rose that is quite hardy to the northcountry without disease problems. He has achieved this by making five China expeditions looking for new rose species. Once the chosen roses are brought back to this country they are sprayed with disease spores to see which ones will show signs of disease. Any roses showing signs of disease are quickly eliminated from the program. What is left are roses that are hardy and free from disease.

The following are some of the hardy disease resistant Easy Elegance roses we will be carrying this spring:

Grandma's Blessing - Its dusty pink recurrent double blossoms combine well with perennials. Zone 4. (Picture not available.)



Macy's Pride - The buds start out as creamy yellow then open to a creamy white. Zone 4.

Funny Face - Each pink and white bloom is unique. The bush is compact and rounded in shape. Zone 4.



Hot Wonder - Flowers all season with pink fluorescent blooms and disease resistant foliage. Zone 4.

Sunrise Sunset - A groundcover rose with fuschia pink flowers that have an apricot yellow center. Zone 4.



My Hero - Satiny foliage with red blossoms that fade to deep pink. Zone 4.

Annuals and Perennials for 2005

Annuals 2005



Coleus 'Alabama Sunset'- Great new addition to the coleus family. With an average height of 2' it works great in containers or landscape plantings. Color changes depending on the sun. The more sun more bronze.

Brugmansia 'Frosty Pink'- Something new for the patio! These small trees look fabulous in a 3 to 5 gallon container. Place them some place where the evening fragrance of the large trumpet blooms can be enjoyed. Also very easy to overwinter in a garage or basement where the roots won't freeze.





Cuphea 'Variegated'- Bright orange, cigar-shaped flowers stand out nicely against the dark foliage. Plant grows to 15" and works well in a mixed planter.

Fuschia 'Billy Green'- A beautiful upright fuschia with large salmon-pink flowers. This free-flowering plant works well in containers or the garden.



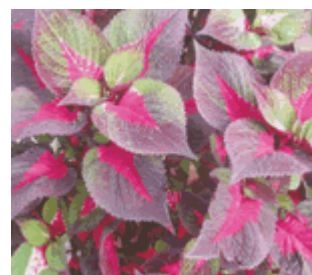
Mexican Flame Vine- A fast growing vine that is wonderful in a hanging basket. The bright glossy-green foliage offset the 2" red-orange flowers. A real favorite for butterflies.

Abutilon - Speckled green and yellow leaves add a nice splash of color to any mixed container or basket. Beautiful lantern-shaped flower add a lot of interest.



Passion Vine 'Caerulea'- Exotic 4" blooms have white petals and showy blue filaments. Can easily be kept as a houseplant in the winter if given enough light.

Perilla 'Magilla' - An exceptional foliage plant. Plants can reach up to 36". Loves the heat. Grow in full sun for the best color.





Sweet Potato Vine - (Blackie) An excellent foliage plant for contrast. This dark purple-black vine grows well as a groundcover or in containers. (Margarita) Chartreuse version of 'Blackie'. They look great together in a mixed basket.

Perennials 2005



Hemerocallis 'Edge of Darkness' - Fragrant 4" blooms with a striking yellow throat. Deep Purple ruffled edges make this a must have.

Hosta 'Paul's Glory' - An ever-changing hosta, leaves emerge yellow with bluish-green margins in spring. As the season progresses yellow fades to creamy white.



Echinacea purpurea 'Doppeldecker' - A double-decker! Great new coneflower with a layer of petals on top of the cone. Very attractive to butterflies.

Geranium mac. Variegatum - Something new and classic. Beautiful magenta-pink flowers above nicely variegated leaves. Great plant even when its not flowering.





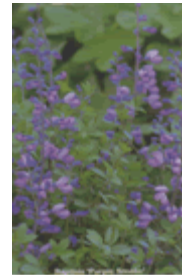
Helleborus orientalis (Lenten Rose) - Early spring blooms of varying shades of pink bring life to the garden after a long winter.

Brunnera 'Jack Frost' - Striking silver leaves with deep green veins brighten up any shady spot. Tiny blue forget-me-not like flowers are an added bonus in the spring.



Dictamnus albus (Gas Plant) - A classic for the garden. Thick, glossy, shrub-like foliage has strong citrus scent when crushed. Pink blooms appear in early summer. Plant gets its name from the oils released from seed pods which can be ignited on a calm summer evening.

Baptisia 'Purple Smoke' - A carefree perennial with gray-green foliage. Smoky leaves make a fantastic backdrop for the dusky-purple pea-like blooms.



Gallardia 'Summer kiss' - A great new addition to the blanket flowers. Soft apricot blooms with a hint of gold will reward you all summer if you keep the plant deadheaded.

Eremurus stenophyllus (Foxtail Lily) - An impressively tall spike flower. Comes in an array of colors from copper to pink. Tender perennial needs extra care in winter.



New Trees & Shrubs for 2005

New Roses for 2005!

Day Dream: 2005 All American Rose Selections (AARS) Winner. On this low growing, compact rose reaching 2' in height, the blossoms open wide and flat resembling pink buttons. The highly disease resistant foliage is deep green and glossy. This neat and diminutive shrub rose provides an excellent plant for many garden situations. Crown hardy to Zone 4.

Love & Peace: 2002 All American Rose Selections (AARS) Winner. This rose bears red buds that open to a blend of yellow edged with pink. The blooms mature to creamy yellow and pink. Love & Peace presents a compact, upright habit with dark green foliage very resistant to disease. Zone 5

Carefree Beauty: This ever blooming rose provides apple green foliage with pink flowers. Good disease resistance. Zone 4

Golden Showers: This yellow climbing rose provides continuous blooms spring –fall. Moderate fragrance provides a sweet licorice scent. (AARS 1957 Winner)

Robusta Rose: This recurrent blooming rose displays long, pointed buds opening to brilliant red single flowers with large wavy petals and golden yellow stamens. Flowers provide a fruity fragrance. This is a tall vigorous growing shrub with thorny canes of wine-red color complementing its dark green foliage. Foliage and flowers together make a striking floral display.

New Fruits for 2005:

Apple, Honeycrisp: Macoun X Honeygold cross enjoyed for crispness, flavor, and long storage of its apples. Apples have exceptionally crisp and juicy with sweet flavor and store in excellent condition for up to seven months. Developed in 1991. Ripens 9/25
Zone 4

Blueberries: (Bluecrop, Blueray and Bluejay in 4 or 3 gal containers)

Other Varieties of New Shrubs for 2005:

Boxwood:

Green Velvet: A low mounding, slow growing shrub with dark green leaves. Well suited for low hedges. Ht.4-5' Zone 4

Lilacs:

Avalanche: This showy lilac produces panicles of large, single white florets on a rounded to upright plant. Zone 3

French Hybrids: Large upright shrubs with dark green foliage. Their mid-May blooms are beautiful and fragrant. Ht. 8-15' Wth. 6-12' Zone 3

Ninebark:

Summer Wine: Ninebark is a useful plant as a mass border or screen. Grows in full sun or partial shade. Adapts to acid or alkaline soils and dry situations. Renew by cutting to the ground in late winter. Zone 2

Potentilla:

Abbotswood: This excellent plant for foundation plantings or low hedges is highly disease resistant. It flowers with pure white blooms from spring through fall. Zone 2

False Spirea:

Ash Leaf: Excellent shrub for borders, mass planting, groupings, or embankments, but not suitable for small gardens. Displays outstanding panicles of white flowers. Propagates readily with underground runners. Prefers moist well-drained soil, but pH adaptable. Zone 2

Spirea Pink Parasol:

Pink Parasol: Bluish-green foliage turns yellow, orange and red in fall. Beautiful, umbrella-like, pink blossoms cover this low-mounded shrub in June.

Tamarisk:

Summer Glow: This is one of the finest and hardiest of all Tamarix varieties. It is tolerant of most soils. Shows rosy flower spikes all summer with very interesting foliage a feathery silver-blue. Zone 2

Weigela:

Korean: Creamy white, slightly fragrant flowers turn to pink then red, giving the illusion of a plant bearing three differently colored flowers. An obscure variety, seldom found in the trade. Zone 4

Willow:

Corkscrew:

Yucca:

Gold Edge: This Yucca is a very hardy evergreen shrub. Its foliage does not fade. Flowering from July into August, it adapts to a variety of soils as long as soil is not excessively wet. Zone 3

Trees:**Crabapple:**

Brandywine: A fragrant crabapple with double pink flowers in spring and large yellow fruit in the fall. Zone 3

Magnolia:

Royal Star: This hardy Japanese Magnolia is among the most popular. Its pink buds open to double white fragrant flowers of 25-30 petals, 3-4 inches in diameter in April. An upright and densely branched tree, its dark green foliage turns bronze in the fall. Zone 4

Hamming It Up

A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Ahmal". The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan". Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you have seen Juan then you have seen Ahmal."

"The earth laughs in flowers."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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