



Spring Retail Hours:

April:
Open daily Monday through Saturday, Sundays by chance, depending on the weather.
Call first to be sure:
330-425-2500

Regular hours begin May 1.
Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm
Saturday: 8am-6pm
Sunday: 9am-5 pm

Road Trip

Each year, the designation of an All-America Selection is awarded to new and improved varieties of plants and flowers. Independent AAS judges determine the winners by judging and scoring the entries on criteria such as pest tolerance, novel color, length of flowering, and overall performance. These plants must be grown in trial sites where evaluation and scoring is determined. AAS Display Gardens grow the winners for public appreciation. If you haven't visited any of these display gardens, we highly recommend it. It can make a terrific day trip, and it's an opportunity to take notes for future plantings in your own beds and containers. Here's a list of some display gardens that are nearby:

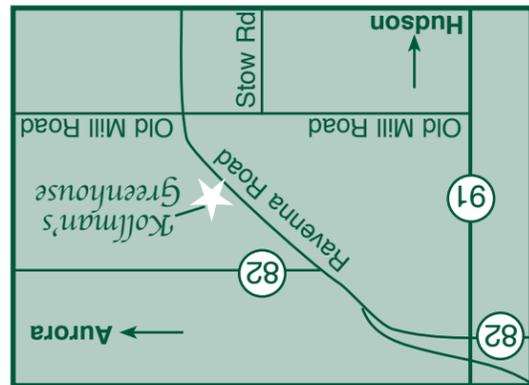
Rockefeller Park Greenhouse Gardens
Cleveland, Ohio
Kingwood Center
Mansfield, Ohio
Ohio State University
ATI
Wooster, Ohio

Toledo Botanical Garden
Toledo, Ohio
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan
Mill Creek MetroParks
Fellows Riverside Gardens
Youngstown, Ohio 44509

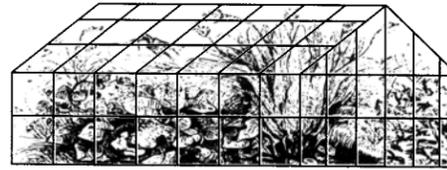
And here are the 2006 winners for your viewing pleasure:

- Ornamental Pepper "**Black Pearl**" black leaves, black, shiny peppers
 - Salvia "**Evolution**" violet in color, drought-tolerant
 - Zinnia "**Zowie! Yellow Flame**" semi-tall, novel bi-color pattern
 - Dianthus F-1 "**Supra Purple**" early, prolific bloomer
- Nicotiana F-1 "**Perfume Deep Purple**" fragrant, 2- inch flowers, 20 in. tall
 - Diascia F-1 "**Diamonte Coral Rose**" long-blooming, cascading plants
 - Viola F-1 "**Skippy LX Red-Gold**" pansy-sized flowers, ruby-red petals

Open for business from Easter through Spring.
Summer, Fall and Christmas, selling seasonal plants; flowers grown in our very own greenhouses; decorative fall items and fresh, holiday wreaths and greens.
Check us out on the web!
www.kollmans.com



8913 Ravenna Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
330-425-2500



Our Business is Growing



Spring 2006

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Kollman's Greenhouse 3rd Annual Drawing

Don't forget to enter this year's drawing for a whimsical piece of concrete statuary. It's a sweet-faced bunny with crooked ears, perched behind a head of cabbage, which also serves as a planter filled with Kollman's favorite colorful annuals. Retail value: \$65.00

"The garden is growth and change and that means loss as well as constant new treasures to make up for a few disasters." - Mary Sarton



Your Hobby Is My Livelihood. There, I said it. It makes me feel good because my experience is that most consumers don't look at my business that way. They don't relate any changes in their day to day lives to changes related to "just" their hobby (gardening), such as available plant material or pricing. But change is relative and relevant. And just as the above quote explains, there has been great change in our industry this year.

This is a good year to ask the question, "Do you know what it takes to bring all the plants and flowers, from seeds or seedlings, to a mature status for selling to the consumer?" In a word, time- approximately 4-5 long, cold winter months. We can also answer that question in another word.....HEAT. Plants cannot grow without it. Sun generates heat in the greenhouse, and only during daylight hours, and only on clear and cloudless days (which are few and far between in northeast Ohio). More often than not, it is not enough heat, given the low air temperatures. Therefore, we resort to heating the greenhouses using an alternative method: gas-fired boilers and gas-fired heaters. The key word here is GAS.

Yes folks, we too, are faced with the astronomical increases in the costs of heating.... our greenhouses, as well as our own homes. And in our industry, we face a double-whammy. The majority (approx. 60%) of our supplies are manufactured from plastic- flats, packs, pots, hanging baskets, and even the poly covering the houses. Plastic is a PETROLEUM- based product. Now we are faced with those same escalating increases in price of our supplies, as well as fuel. Even the cost of fertilizers has risen to all-time highs because of the ENERGY needed to produce what feeds our plants.

I could go on and on about increases in freight charges, fuel surcharges assessed by vendors, workers compensation premium increases, health insurance increases, the cost to operate a vehicle, increasing royalty fees on new plant varieties, and even marketing fees assessed by our vendors. While increasing our prices is a given in this inefficient energy era we live in, these increases cannot entirely offset our skyrocketing expenses. Rest assured we are diligent in adapting our business practices. We contract for utility service at the lowest rates available. We participate in every early-order discount program for supplies. We have eliminated crops requiring high temperatures for growth and are introducing crops whose growth thrives in cooler temperatures. We are honing our growing skills in lower temperatures. We are sticklers for adhering to a strict maintenance program for all our ranges to stay as efficient as possible. We have automated wherever possible.

The point I am trying to make is that our business is not exempt from the same problems you face. We are no different than you when it comes to the effects of cost of living increases as well as the cost of operating a business. As you shop for flowers this spring, please keep these comments in mind. I believe in educating the public to foster a better understanding and relationship between the consumer and the vendor- that's you and me. Your hobby is our livelihood, and we strive hard each year to satisfy your needs and interests with the best possible product at a fair price. And at the same time, we are committed to remaining a viable business with a bright and solid future.



What's The Buzz for 2006???

If it's new, and trial- tested in regional growing conditions, we like to try it. Here are some new varieties, and improved varieties, and oldies but goodies not carried for awhile.



Annuals

- Coleus "Kong Green"** - Newest in the Kong series
- "Go-Go" Begonias** - large, bright flowers on strong stems
- Penstemon** - magenta and apple blossom in larger showier blooms, longer bloom time
- Glechoma "String O Hearts"** Wonderful texture and dimension, ideal for combo pots
- Perilla Magilla Vanilla** - lots of white on this stand-alone specimen plant
- Nemesia "Serengeddy"** - yellows and reds, prolific bloomers in this new series

Perennials

- Hosta "Cherry Berry"** Unforgettable cherry red seed pods in fall
- Monarda "Coral Reef"** Extremely mildew-resistant
- Delphinium "Blue Moon"** Blooms true-blue all summer
- Daylily "Daring Deception"** Dusty pink, purple eye, yellow ruffled throat
- Dracocephalum "Blue Dragon"** Deep blue snapdragon flowers on mounding foliage
- Crocsmia "Voyager"** Bright yellow, mid-summer blooms

Herbs

- Basil "Pesto Perpetuo"**
- Oregano "Sicilian"**
- Lavender "Stoechas Kew Red"**
- Patchouli** - returning by popular demand from aging hippies. Breathe deep.



Sum Fun

Did you ever add up a bunch of fruits and plants you have cultivated from your gardens, and totaled them into a terrific recipe? Here is one of my favorites, utilizing many different plants from any vegetable and herb garden, or farmer's market, for that matter. The credit for this one goes to **Au Provence**, a fabulous restaurant from the '80's, and they shared this salad recipe in the Plain Dealer.

Bon Appetit

Tomato Vinaigrette Salad

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1 1/2 tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced | 1/2 teaspoon iodized salt |
| 1/2 cup diced onions | Fresh ground pepper |
| 1 cup vegetable oil | Mixed greens |
| 1/2 cup red wine vinegar | Sliced cucumber |
| 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil or | Sliced mushrooms |
| 1/2 teaspoon dried basil, crumbled | Grated Jarlsberg cheese |

In blender, combine tomatoes, onion, oil and vinegar; puree. Add basil, salt and pepper and mix. Makes 2 1/2 cups. On salad plates, layer greens, cucumber and mushroom slices. Spoon over tomato vinaigrette. Top with the grated cheese. Yum!



Sale Corner Specials

Don't forget to visit our fabulous SALE CORNER this spring. We have some pretty cool items on sale at a great discount. Great buys on containers this season, as well as miscellaneous pottery, doo dads and supplies.

Hardgood News

This year we are introducing a new line of Malaysian Stoneware. This pottery comes in four sizes and three styles- smooth sided, ribbed, or smooth with a medallion imprint. The colors are very soft- in light blue/aqua, soft green, and cappuccino for those who like neutrals. Saucers are also available for each size.

Glazed bird baths will be back by popular demand and in traditional styles. Also on display will be some hand painted bird-baths designed with lavender and bluebirds. Our usual replacement pedestals and tops will also be available in the traditional colors.

Another new line we are introducing is decorative concrete statuary produced in Killbuck, Ohio. We will have large and small sizes of your favorite animals- turtles, bunnies, frogs, pigs, birds, and toads. Also on the list are cherubs, ladies, gents, and other assorted whimsical pieces.

Also new this year are fiberglass urns. These are great because they do not crack in the cold weather and they are extremely durable. They stand 30" tall.

Fern stands in two sizes, planter bowls on pedestals depicting woodland ferns, illuminated garden stakes, garden lanterns, and garden gazers round out our new selections this season.



Drought Drive! Gardening in low-water conditions.



Let's face it, the summer months often bring us days and weeks without a good soaking rain. Sometimes it lasts so long that watering bans are put into effect in our communities. Choices have to be made, priorities must be set. Here are few basic gardening how-to's when faced with hot, dry, weather situations.

- Use soaker hoses instead of sprinklers, for deep watering
- Water plants in the morning
- Mulch as many beds as you can
- Prioritize and save the flowering plants that are hardiest
- Rescue your vulnerable trees and shrubs

Here's one for the "Did You Know" section that is, as always, gardening-related:

Did You Know?.....It has been said, that in the 1960's, the semi-known band named Iron Butterfly performed a song while drunk (can you believe that?) and botched some of the lyrics. They were supposed to sing, "In the garden of Eden, honey" but instead sang "In-A -Godda - Da-Vida-honey. They liked it so much, they kept those lyrics. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Here's another one- not as much fun, but none the less interesting.

Did You Know?.....For the 22nd consecutive year, Ohio leads the nation in the number of cities qualified as Tree Cities, with 231 participants. These cities must meet criteria in four different categories, including spending per capita on trees. Does your community qualify?

Timely Tips

Let's go over some gardening maintenance tips to get you through the next couple of months. Even though we know about these, for the most part, it never hurts to review. Write a reminder on your calendar if you are prone to forget!



April

1. Divide perennials once they've sent up significant foliage. Divide them if they are getting crowded, blooms have reduced, or there is a dead spot in the middle.
2. Plant bare-root trees, shrubs and roses.
3. Prune roses and evergreens
4. Prune flowering trees and shrubs after they are done flowering
5. Aerate your lawn and fertilize with weed and feed
6. Apply a pre-emergent weed killer to beds and borders to prevent weeds from germinating
7. Plant perennial fruits and vegetables- strawberries, rhubarb, raspberries, asparagus, potatoes

May

1. Plant container-grown shrubs and trees
2. Prep your flower beds and fill your containers with potting mix
3. Plant your favorite annuals, but watch out for late frosts
4. Plant vegetable & flower seeds but make sure your soil has warmed-up
5. Fertilize everything- beds, containers, roses, shrubs
6. Start staking tall plants in your beds
7. Tie down the foliage from your spring bulbs until it dies back completely

June

1. Begin deadheading your spent flowers
2. Remove yellowed bulb foliage as long as you can pull it off with no resistance
3. Dig up any spring bulbs that had poor or no blooms
4. Prune spring-blooming shrubs as long as they're done blooming
5. Continue to fertilize annuals
6. Check for insects and diseases and apply appropriate products to reduce risk
7. Arrange for someone to maintain your flowers while you are on vacation

Kollman's Koupon

BLACK SABLE SHREDDED MULCH

10 BAGS FOR \$40.00
Coupon must be presented at time of sale
Coupon expires 5/31/06