

Ferguson's Garden Club



We've been preparing for months, and May is finally here — the busiest and most exciting time of year at the garden center! Spring planting is in full swing, and we love the fast-paced energy this season brings. Even more, we love seeing so many familiar faces walk through our doors as the whole area comes alive again. Our greenhouses are bursting with color, and we're ready for the wonderful, whirlwind days ahead.

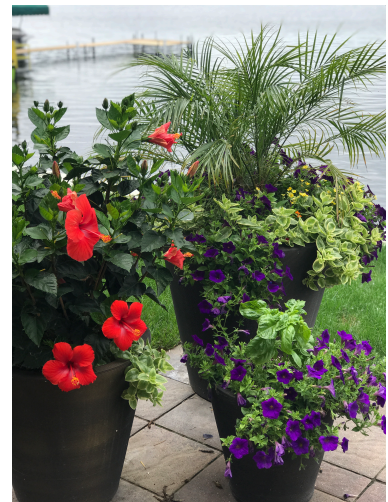
As the days grow warmer and longer, you'll start to notice your perennials waking up. But don't worry if some are slower than others! Plants like hardy hibiscus, weigela, ornamental grasses, and certain hydrangeas can take until June to fully leaf out. It's totally normal — a little patience goes a long way. If you're unsure, try gently tugging on the plant to check for strong roots, or scratch the bark on trees and shrubs to look for green underneath. And of course, if June rolls around and you're still unsure, we're always happy to help!

Container Gardening

Growing annuals in planters is a fun and easy way to add vibrant color to your outdoor spaces all season long. For a stunning arrangement, use the "thriller, filler, spiller" method: choose a tall, eye-catching plant as your thriller, surround it with mounded

filler plants, and finish with trailing spillers that cascade over the edges. With the right combination and regular care, your planters will be overflowing with beauty from spring through fall. For best results we suggest using Fertilome Blooming and Rooting once a week.

Growing vegetables in pots is a great way to enjoy fresh produce, even with limited space. Containers let you control soil quality and moisture more easily. Tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, herbs, and even root vegetables like carrots can thrive in pots with proper sunlight and care. Just choose a container with good drainage, use high-quality potting mix, and water consistently to keep your plants healthy and happy



Shade Gardening

Gardening in the shade presents its own set of challenges—but also many unique rewards. It's funny how we often long for what we don't have. Those with shady yards may dream of more sunlight, while I find myself eagerly awaiting the day my young trees mature enough to provide the cool, dappled shade that allows more delicate plants to thrive. Right now, much of my yard is exposed to intense sun, limiting my options for shade-loving varieties.

It's important to recognize that not all shade is created equal. Dense shade from buildings or structures differs greatly from the filtered light beneath trees. Plants labeled for "full shade" typically thrive with fewer than four hours of sun per day, ideally in the early morning or late afternoon, rather than the harsh midday sun. Those suited for "partial shade" usually need two to four hours of direct light daily.

To garden successfully in shade, keep a few key principles in mind:

1. **Improve the soil** by adding compost or organic matter to enhance fertility and drainage.
2. **Water consistently**, as many shade-loving plants prefer evenly moist conditions.

3. Use mulch

 to retain soil moisture, regulate temperature, and suppress weeds.

Although no single perennial will bloom all season long, you can create a vibrant, colorful garden by incorporating a mix of plants. Annuals like **begonias**, **impatiens**, **torenia**, **lobelia**, **browallia**, and **fuchsia** bring long-lasting color. Foliage-focused plants such as **coleus** and **caladium** provide striking hues and patterns. For structure and year-round interest, consider shrubs like **smooth hydrangea** ('Annabelle' and 'Flowerfull'), **rhododendron**, **boxwood**, **yew**, **viburnum**, and **serviceberry**.

For dense shade, perennials such as **hosta**, **astilbe**, **bleeding heart**, **heuchera**, **ferns**, **cranesbill geranium**, **pulmonaria**, **brunnera**, **ligularia**, and **aralia** perform beautifully, offering a range of textures and seasonal interest.

What I love most about shade gardening is the opportunity to craft a calming tapestry of color, form, and texture. It takes time and patience to find the right plant combinations, and sometimes a bit of trial and error as you move things around to their perfect spots. But that process—that connection to the soil, to nature—is what makes gardening so fulfilling.

Our Favorite Annuals

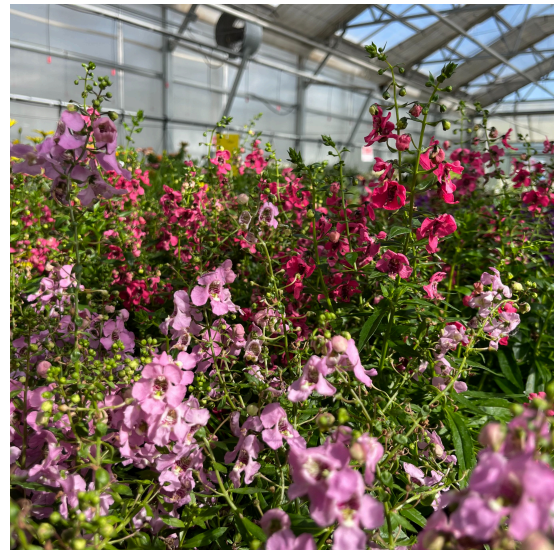
Angelonia

Angelonia is a heat-loving annual that thrives in full sun and blooms all season long! It comes in many different colors including a new variety that is black. It is a great low-maintenance annual that will add vertical interest!

Begonias

Begonias can be a very versatile choice to add gorgeous blooms to your planters. Some perform best in shade and some will thrive in the sun. They come in many different colors and foliage interest. They are low-maintenance and will bloom all season!

Ferns



Ferns are great for adding textured greenery to annual planters or hanging baskets. They add an elegant touch to any garden or patio. They prefer shade and need to be kept moist.

Hibiscus

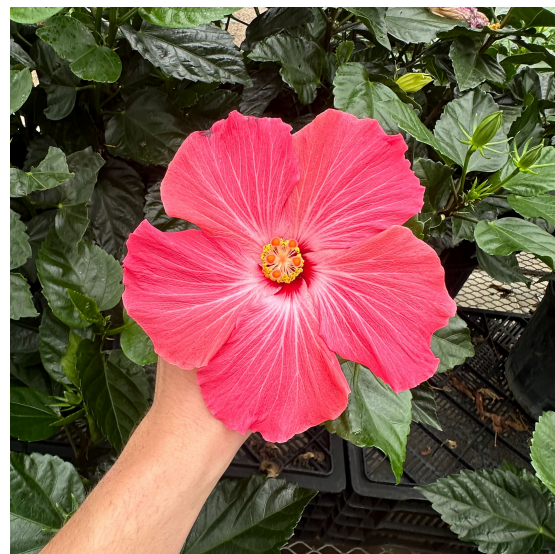
Tropical hibiscus make for great show-stoppers in any planter! They have beautiful large blooms that will keep blooming all season. They love the heat, but will appreciate regular watering and fertilizer.

Mezoo

Mezoo or Dorotheanthus is one of our favorite trailing annuals for the front of planters or hanging baskets. They have succulent like foliage and little pink flowers. They love the sun and heat and are even drought-tolerant.

Plumbago

Plumbago is known for its light and airy texture and beautiful sky-blue flowers. They bloom all season and love the heat. They also attract pollinators!



Critter Prevention

Few things are more frustrating than investing time and money into your garden, only to wake up to chewed flowers, nibbled leaves, and uprooted plants. While deer, rabbits, squirrels, and birds can be lovely to watch, they can also cause serious damage.

Start by choosing plants these pests tend to avoid—those with fuzzy leaves, strong scents, spines, or sharp points. Good options include boxwood, rhododendron, viburnum, allium, rudbeckia, echinacea, monarda, brunnera, pulmonaria, nepeta, astilbe, and grasses. For annuals, try marigolds, lavender, mint, or chives.

If that's not enough, rotate repellents like Liquid Fence or Repels All granules or sprays to keep pests guessing. Physical barriers also help—tall fencing for deer, or ground-anchored fencing for rabbits. Other deterrents include Milorganite, motion-activated lights or ultra-sonic devices, Irish Spring soap, fishing line, CDs, mothballs, bird netting, or reflective tape.

Stay persistent—every garden has its challenges, but there's always a solution!

How to Plant Perennials

Planting perennials and shrubs is a quick and easy way to add lasting beauty and value to your home and the environment.

1. Choose the right plant for the right place

- Consider sunlight, space, soil type, and desired color or texture.

2. Prepare the planting site

- Remove any grass, mulch, or rocks.
- If there's weed barrier fabric, cut an "X" large enough for the roots and fold the flaps under.

3. Dig the hole

- Make it about twice as wide as the pot, but no deeper.

4. Prepare the plant

- Remove it from the pot and loosen any circling roots.

5. Place the plant

- Set it in the hole so the top of the root ball is level with or slightly above the surrounding soil.

6. Backfill and firm the soil

- Use the soil you removed to fill in around the plant, gently pressing to remove air pockets.

7. Water thoroughly

- Use a Root Stimulator solution to help establish strong roots.

8. Mulch around the base

- Apply wood mulch to keep roots cool and moist, but leave an inch or two of space around the stem to prevent rot.

9. Water as needed

- Check under the mulch and water deeply when the soil feels dry. Avoid frequent, shallow watering.

Upcoming Events

Houseplant Happy Hour**May 29th 3-6pm**Houseplant & pottery sales,
giveaways, & treats.**Garden Club Gathering****May 31st 10am**Gather, learn, & share with like
minded people.**Annual Planter Class****June 7th 10am**Spring planter design class with
the option to make your own!**Houseplant Happy Hour****June 12th 3-6pm**Houseplant & pottery Sales,
giveaways, & treats**Planting Around your Home****June 19th 5:30pm**Beginners guide to planting
trees, shrubs, & perennials
around your home.**Garden Club Gathering****June 21st 10am**Gather, learn, & share with a
like minded people.**Cut Flower Walk & Talk****June 28th 10am**Learn about growing perennials &
shrubs that make great flower
arrangements.**BlumeJoy Pop Up****June 28th All Day**Grab some gorgeous locally grown
cut flowers from another great
local business.

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