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- Echinacea ‘Cheyenne Spirit’
- Euphorbia ‘Diamond Delight’
- Impatiens ‘Big Bounce Series’
- Petunia ‘Easy Wave Velour’
- Petunia ‘Supertunia Black Cherry’

In addition, Cuphea ‘Vermillionaire’ and Canna ‘Cannova’ made “Best of Show” at several trials.

So, don’t just take my word for it, other growers think these are great varieties to use!

### HOURS

**March 16 to April 4**
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(Open the last three Sundays in April, the first two Sundays in May.)

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NEW IN THE BUILDING

Please, Please, Please look at all the new merchandise in the store. I was a little (o.k. maybe a lot) out of control when I went to the shows this past summer. I just couldn’t resist the stuff, so I hope you can’t resist it either!!!!!

Where to begin? I just came back from a show & resisted ordering from a booth until the 3rd day & my resistance wore down(I was trying to be good). If you are a chicken/rooster fan, you’ll want to come early to see the huge metal birds we have …only one of each style, so don’t delay. They also had some very cool sunflower items – a trellis & gazing globe flower. There is a metal pig, a parrot (a la Jimmy Buffet), and so much more.

I also have some great rain chains, bell wind chimes(some that match the fairy style I got in late last year), and some wonderful hanging metal artwork. There are wonderful wind spinners from 3 or 4 different sources, including bicycle, cars and tractor shapes.

One of the lines, called Subtle Verse includes magnets and signs that you will really have to see to appreciate. The artistic photos taken by this husband wife duo are complemented with an appropriate verse. You will want some for yourself as well as several others for gifts. I know I want them all!

A spur of the moment order were some unique tomato supports that “grow” with the plants and store over the winter in a small bundle. We finally able to get Monty’s Joy Juice back in stock…that is a “grow” with the plants and store over the winter in a small bundle.

We have some unique ceramic pots with a real vintage look mimicking canning jars and dairy containers. There are also outdoor paintings(sun and weather resistant) with a canvas look. We have several styles and the ability to order more from a catalog. We ordered “Peace Poles” a very decorative post to accent your garden.

Of course we didn’t forget fairy gardeners. There are some wonderful fairy homes with attached patios. We finally got the Koi pond back in stock, and lots of other wonderful additions.

We have several mosaic gazing globes along with our sturdy stainless steel, a solar light you can put inside your glass globes to make them light up at night, and a lot of solar and glow in the dark items too.

We found a really unique group of Greeting cards that are assembled at a handicap workshop in California. The sayings are just so unique; you won’t be able to resist them!

Silverware….you’ll be amazed at the creative ways “Forked Up” makes yard ornaments with forks and spoons and knives!

I can just guarantee the building will be overflowing this spring! I can’t mention everything! Spend some time looking at all the great new items!

At Hasting Plants, LLC we price our perennials with blue tags and our annuals with white tags. We hope this helps prevent any confusion.

LATE NIGHT AT THE GREENHOUSE

Be sure to join us for our 8th annual “Late Night at the Greenhouse” on the third Friday night in May. If there is some major weather event, it is good to call and confirm that everything is still on. We will have ‘Late Night’ on May 15, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. As always, we will string lights in the greenhouses and outside to make a “festive” atmosphere. Plants will be discounted. We will have lots of refreshments for you to enjoy, and “Clif the Drifter” will be providing musical entertainment. Bring a lawn chair and a flashlight and come sit for a spell to enjoy the evening. Door Prizes will be drawn throughout the evening with a Grand Prize Drawing at 11:00. You must be present to win for all drawings.

NEW ROSE SELECTIONS FOR 2015

There are several new roses this year, ‘Anna’s Promise’ is a golden tan with a copper reverse Grandiflora named for Anna in Downtown Abbey (my favorite TV show)! ‘Doris Day’ is a yellow Floribunda rose with nice fragrance. ‘Neil Diamond’ is a flashy pink and white striped Hybrid Tea. ‘Above All’ is a salmon-orange Climber, and “Top of the World” is an orange and yellow Miniature Climber.

Of course we have the whole family of Knock Out and Home Run Roses available as well as many other beautiful colors in traditional roses.

TIMELINE

Just a few dates that hold true most every season:

We open each year around March 15 – give or take a few days depending on weather.

Onion Slips come in the first week of April

Newsletter mailed around 2nd week of April

Extended opening hours 2nd or 3rd week of April

Sweet Potato slips come in first week of May

Late Night is the third Friday night in May

“Specials” (Mixed Pots) are ready close to Mother’s Day

End of Season Sale starts around Memorial Day
I could list every single flower that I grow here and tell you why you should grow it, but I’ll have to try to limit myself so we can fit it all in the newsletter!

I think my very favorite annual this past year has been the ‘Big’ Begonias. They are just like the regular wax leaf begonias that we sell in packs, but these are much larger and showier. They perform well in full sun to full shade. I planted them at my house and church this past season, and they were gorgeous (at least until my new puppy Ginger and Diane’s dog Duke finally demolished them at home). Of course, the Wave and Vegetative Petunias give them a run for the money in flower power all summer. We have some new Easy Wave Petunia varieties with a darker throat called ‘Red Velour’, and ‘Burgundy Velour’ (as well as the AAS ‘Tidal Wave Red Velour’). There are some wonderful Vegetative varieties. By request, we grew a few ‘Pretty Much Picasso’, and we have Cha Ching Cherry, Indian Summer, and many other great performing varieties. With water and fertilizer, petunias give you a lot of bang for your money!

I was blown away this summer at a field trial of some Impatiens called Big Bounce. They were growing in full sun to full shade and looking gorgeous! They are covered in blooms like the regular impatians we sell in packs, but are resistant to the threat of Downy Mildew. Sold in 4” pots, each plant will cover an area equal to a 4 pack of regular impatians. They get their name since they bounce back when wilted.

One of my favorite groups of plants (you should know ALL plants are my favorites), are the specialty Begonias, both Rex and Fancy Leaved varieties and Non Stop/ Tuberous types.

We have some new Rex Begonias called Jurassic that grow huge. In the Tuberous Begonia types we have our normal varieties plus ‘Arcadia’ and ‘Bliss’ varieties that I saw looking great in a field trial last summer.

At that same field trial, I found a great Canna ‘Cannova Yellow’, a new Zinnia, ‘Up roar Rose’ with great color and showiness, a Plumed Cockscomb, or Celosia ‘Arrabona Red’ that was outstanding, and a bronze leafed Hibiscus ‘Mahogany Splendor’ that gave great contrast to the surrounding plants. We also found a new Salvia similar to the popular Victoria Blue called ‘Fairy Queen’ that has the same pretty blue flowers with a spattering of white that gives a wonderful effect.

There is a new series of Lantana called ‘Lucky’ that we really liked. They are more compact than the tall varieties, but a little larger than the ‘Bandana’ varieties we grow.

We also have two varieties of Aristolochia/Dutchman’s Pipe this year, one is tropical and bears huge unique flowers, the other is a perennial vine that will grow in shade…it is also a host for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly!

We have Canna ‘Australia’ (TA) which is tall with burgundy foliage…very striking.

As always we have a huge selection of succulents, both tender and hardy…some very cool and unusual foliage! These make great carefree planters – mix a lot of varieties together, they’ll practically take care of themselves.
HASTING PLANTS AND LIFESTYLE TOURS
In 2015, Lifestyle Tours and Collette are offering tours that are sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society and will really focus on gardens. The tour I am hosting is “Gardens and Villas of the Italian Lakes” It travels through northern Italy and includes the lake district south of Switzerland. If you are interested in this year’s tour, contact Lifestyle Tours directly at tracylifestyletours@gmail.com to see if there are spaces available. This is probably the last year for me to host a trip for a while, so if you want to join me, do it now!

SOME TIPS FOR GROWING SUCCESS
It’s been a while since I have talked about potting soil, but if you are growing flowers in containers, the soil is very important. You can find some bargain potting soil out there, but keep in mind; you really do get what you pay for. One of my pet peeves is the “$2.00” a bag soil that is pure peat and turns into a concrete like substance after being watered a few times. If you find it hard to stick your finger into the pot, just think what the roots have to endure! Be sure to use a good quality potting soil that will stay loose throughout the season. We have had great success with our Fertilome Potting mixes for years. We also have Miracle Grow Soils and a new one this year called Black Gold. There are other good varieties around, just don’t get tricked into thinking you are saving money by buying cheap soil!

On that same subject, when planting into the ground, perennials benefit from additional organic matter being incorporated into the soil. Any soil benefits from organic matter – dry soils will hold more moisture and wet soils will be broken up and drain better. The Perennial Plant Association recommends adding 4 to 6 inches of organic matter – which is a lot! One of the best (and most inexpensive) sources of organic matter is a compost pile. If you want to purchase organic matter, Sphagnum Peat Moss is usually the most readily available source. We also carry some Cotton Burr Compost that is very good, it adds nutritional value as well.

I’ll quickly mention fertilizer. I am not very particular about any one brand of fertilizer, just find one you like and remember to use it! It is especially important for hanging baskets and containers that get watered frequently. Miracle Grow is readily available and easy to use. Monty’s Joy Juice is a great liquid fertilizer that is taken up by the leaves very readily. Osmocote is easy because it is a slow release that you apply once and forget. We have some neat watering cans that have a pump bottle of fertilizer concentrate attached, and all you need to do is add a couple of pumps each time you fill the container. I don’t care what brand you choose...just choose one and use it!

If you are planning only one visit to Hasting Plants this year due to distance, may we suggest you plan your visit between April 15 and May 15 for the best display and selection.

Hasting Plants has been dedicated to bringing you exceptional garden plants since 1982. We hope you feel we live up to our motto “We’re well worth the drive”
**ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS 2015**

The All-America Selection Committee outdid themselves this year with around 25 national and regional winners. The ones highlighted here are available at Hasting Plants this year.

This year, we are growing:

- **Dianthus ‘Jolt’** is a cross between species. It boasts bright Pink 4” showy flower heads on strong stems that perform well all summer long. 10-12” tall. Blooms late spring to frost. Great as a cut flower.

- **Petunia ‘Tidal Wave Red Velour’** This Tidal Wave boasts gorgeous, deep red velvety 2-2.5” blooms that don’t fade. With support, or planted closely, they will get up to 24” tall. A great addition to a great line of plants!

- **Salvia ‘Summer Jewel White’** joins with earlier winners – Summer Jewel Red and Pink. This compact salvia boasts pure white flowers that are a magnet for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Grows 10-24” tall. Thrives in sun.

- **Petunia ‘Trilogy Red’** bears stunningly rich, vibrant 2.5” red flowers. These compact plants are known for their dome-shaped habit sporting non-fading blooms. They grow 10-24” tall and spread 20-24”

- **Basil ‘Dolce Fresca’** This Basil is both edible and ornamental. Maintains a compact attractive shape. Use the leaves like any Genovese Basil. Grows 10-24” tall

- **Pak Choi ‘Bopak’** Great for oriental recipes, you can use the leaves like lettuce and the stalks like celery. Plant Pak Choi early in the spring for best results, although this variety also keeps nice flavor into the warmer weather. Pretty in pots or containers.

- **Pepper ‘Emerald Fire’** 2,500 scoville units, Jalapeno type with extra-large (3.3” x 1.2”) fruits. Compact plants with better disease resistance. High yielding.

- **Pepper ‘Flaming Fire’** Fresno pepper that grows well in this area. Ideal for making chili sauces. Brilliant red fruits are 3.75” x 1” Sweet and spicy with medium pungency.

- **Pepper ‘Pretty N Sweet’** Sweet, multicolored peppers on an ornamental plant. Attractive in gardens or in flower beds! 1 to 1.5” Orange, red and yellow fruits. Sweet mild flavor.

- **Tomato ‘Chef’s Choice Pink’** Very large yields of 12-14 oz. pink beefsteak tomatoes. Indeterminate, potato leafed plants with good disease resistance.

**2015 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR**

Geranium ‘Biokovo’

Biokovo blooms in late spring with delightful masses of ¾” flowers with white petals that are tinged pink at the base and have darker pink stamens. The semi-evergreen foliage is aromatic with rounded leaves, which turn scarlet and orange in the fall and add additional interest to your garden.

Biokovo performs well in average soil, full sun to part shade and is deer and rabbit resistant.

This groundcover perennial reaches 6-10” high and will spread by runners. It is easy to grow and maintain the size. Best placement is in the front of the border or as a ground cover. USDA Zones 4 to 8

**VEGETABLES**

I have added a lot of new vegetable offerings this year, both in varieties and species. We are growing **Kale** for the first time since it has become such a popular health food, both a curly and straight leaf variety – ‘Black Knight’ and Blue Scotch’. We also have a couple of varieties of **Pak Choi** – ‘Bopak’ that is an All-America Selection – and ‘Mei Qing Choi’. There are a lot of new pepper offerings, ‘Gong Bao’, some that are listed in the AAS Selections, as well as ‘Trinidad Scorpion’ and ‘Carolina Reaper’ which are reputed to be the hottest peppers in the world. By request, we have a new Bell Pepper ‘Super Heavyweight’. We have a few new tomatoes, one called ‘Tasti-Lee’ which is determinate with high lycopenes, ‘Indigo Rose’ a purple cherry high in anthocyanin, ‘Mountain Spring’ and ‘Mountain Merit’.

One of the things I am trying (and doing myself – not buying in) – and this is risky to advertise since I don’t know if I’ll be successful or not – are **grafted tomatoes**. Tomatoes are grafted onto a hardy rootstock which increases plant health and yields. I will try to graft several varieties for you to try. They will only be sold in larger pots, and priced higher due to the labor and time involved. If this works, I would like your suggestions for varieties you would like to have grafted in future years. They won’t be ready until a little later in the planting season…maybe the first of May.

We also have several Figs since those were so popular last year, Kiwi fruit vines, and some blueberry plants.
PERENNIALS TO NOTE IN 2014

There are a ton of new perennial varieties I hope you’ll find enticing just like I did. I have a few plant heroes in my world, and one of them is Tony Avent, who runs one of the best mail order perennial nurseries in the country called Plant Delights. He operates a Botanical Garden at his nursery location, so has lots of experience growing and evaluating plants. He gave a couple of talks at the Perennial Plant conference this past summer and recommended perennials he has found to be outstanding. I went out of my way to try to find them to offer to you. Just know that if Tony recommends it, I want to try growing it! Plant offerings influenced by him will be marked with a (TA).

For all of you Fairy Garden Aficionados, we have some miniature hardy shrubs that you can make permanent fairy gardens in pots or in the ground. These would be great for outdoor railroads as well.

Viola ‘Silver Gem’ is one I saw in some perennial mixed containers this summer and it was very cool. The foliage is very attractive, so use it in the yard or a shady container as an annual.

Alstromeria ‘Inca Ice’ (‘Koice’) (TA) is bred for garden performance, it produces clusters of soft apricot pink and creamy yellow flowers that are great for cutting. Allium ‘Millenium’ (TA) is the best ornamental onion around…don’t let the name put you off, strappy glossy green leaves are topped with 2” rosy purple flowers.

Formosa Lily (TA) is grown from seed and flowers the first year. They are tall with white trumpet flowers, followed with a candelabra-like seed head. Aralia ‘Sun King’ (TA) boasts bright chartreuse foliage….a real show stopper for pasture shade.

We have Echinacea ‘Salsa Red’ (TA) with reddish orange blooms and flower power and ‘Hot Coral’ (TA) which starts out orange and fades to pink, as well as many other great varieties.

Baptisia ‘Blueberry Sundae’, Baptisia ‘Lemon Meringue’, and ‘Cherries Jubilee’ which opens red and ages to yellow, (all TA) are great spring blooming, shrub-like plants with beautiful spikes of color. They are native, drought and wet tolerant! We also have a new color Baptisia ‘Pink Truffles’ which is a light pink.

Phlox ‘Jeana’ (TA) is one of the longest flowering of the garden Phlox, and has small pink flowers that butterflies prefer 8 to 1 – zero mildew!

In grasses, we have Miscanthus ‘Oktoberfest’ which turns deep purple in the late summer and fall, with burgundy flowers. Panicum ‘Northwind’ which was the Perennial plant of the year last year, and Carex ‘Snow Cap’ (TA) a short sedge with nearly white foliage.

As always, I love Nepeta/Catmint, and we have some newer varieties that just get better and better. Look for ‘Junior Walker’ (TA) more compact than ‘Walker’s Low’, as well as ‘Purrssian Blue’ and ‘Cat’s Meow’ you can’t beat the blue flowers and ease of maintenance!

Agastache/Anise Hyssop is a great heat loving perennial that bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds like, and deer don’t! We have ‘Rosie Posie’ (TA) and ‘Peachie Keen’ (TA) which can tolerate summer rains better than others. We also have some seed grown starts of ‘Arizona Sandstone’, ‘Arizona Sun’ and ‘Arizona Sunset’ in pretty orange, yellow and peach shades.

A new Babies Breath ‘Summer Sparkles’ blooms all season and lasts well into the summer, blooming into early fall. It is also deer resistant.

There is a Sedum I have tried to find for years called ‘Thundercloud’ (TA) that has unusual foliage and performs well, a new variety in the Sparkler series ‘Jade Tuffet’, and the standard ‘Maestro’ which is Tony Avent’s favorite of all Sedums!

There are always new Heuchera/Coral Bells – this year we have ‘Bella Notte’ with purple foliage and great blooms, ‘Berry Timeless’, which blooms early summer until frost. The older flowers dry on the stalk and give a two tone appearance to the blooms. ‘Bronze Raisin’ has nearly black leaves and an abundance of pink flowers. ‘Fire Alarm’ has great red foliage, and ‘Grape Expectations’ is purple of course!

In Hosta we have ‘Royal Wedding’ which boasts large fragrant blooms. The growers suggest planting this one near your patio or window to enjoy the fragrance. The Hosta of the Year this year is ‘Victory’, which is a large specimen with variegated foliage. ‘Coast to Coast’ is a solid gold hosta with thick puckered leaves. As usual we have the huge ‘Empress Wu’ and ‘Sum and Substance’ and many more.

One of my favorites last year was Lily ‘Conca d Or’ which has huge “to die for” blooms of white with a yellow center. I also liked Japanese Iris ‘Lion King’ with white blooms edged purple, but they all flew out before I could snag one…maybe this year...

A new Gaura ‘Rosy Jane’ sports bicolor picotee blooms. The dark pink buds open to white blooms with hot pink margins.

We have some specialty Hellebores ‘Penny’s Pink’ and ‘Anna’s Red’ which Tony Avent claims are the finest ever hybridized. They have beautiful veining in the leaves…very nice!

We have a couple of new hardy Asters ‘Kickin Carmine Red’ and ‘Kickin Lilac Blue’ that are extremely floriferous, mildew and rust resistant.

We have several very pretty Hydrangeas including (if it shows up) ‘L.A. Dreamin’ which has purple, pink and blue multicolor blooms all at the same time with no special treatment.

There is a new Coreopsis ‘Mercury Rising’ with beautiful deep red blooms that is hardy to zone 5!(no ‘Limerock Ruby’ here ☺).

We also have some great Eucomis/Pineapple Lily plants that are carefree perennials with a spike bloom topped with a tuft of foliage that makes it look like a pineapple.

As always, I just have to stop naming plants, I could make this newsletter into a book. Come and look at all of our beauties this year…take a bunch home!
OUR EMPLOYEE FAMILY

Brenda Upshaw, Assistant Manager, 8 years, has a great knowledge of flowers. She does it all…transplant, move plants, water, clean, and work the register and keeps me from being too messy! She is tireless in getting the merchandise in the building priced and arranged.

Lydia Lurker, 13 years, is one of my main transplanters. She can do the tiny things no one else wants to tackle. She is also my vegetable expert!

Jo Ann Holbrook, 13 years, helps with transplanting and selling. She also loves plants and is great at helping you find those unique varieties.

Barb Enderson, 4 years, works the register during selling season. She loves to improve our merchandise displays when time allows.

Karen Woods, 3 years, helps transplant, runs the register and gets excited over all the new merchandise in the building each year.

Joe Anderson, 3 years, helps transplant, water and any other jobs we throw at him. He keeps my husband Mike from being the only man on the work force!

Diane Hastin Banks, 22(age & work years), is back as an “official” employee again this year! She is also attending USI in Nursing, so her work schedule will hinge around her classes.

All of my employees love plants, and you can tell it in the work they do. I couldn’t ask for a better crew.

And my family update:

Daniel Hastin, 27, is now gainfully employed with Digital Hill in Indianapolis Indiana as a Web Developer. He maintains my web page!

Husband Mike continues to run maintenance for me. He keeps my signs current and works to keep the soil display stocked and neat.

Many of you saw my new puppy, Ginger, when I posted her picture on Facebook. She has been a real joy and is doing a great job of filling Crystal’s shoes. We are celebrating her birthday with a coupon and a fun day at the greenhouse.

Socks & Pizzazz(the cats) hang around, but aren’t usually as visible as Tiger used to be.

Nancy thinks every year she’ll be more organized & prepared for spring to roll around…. but instead she is always playing catch-up. It’s a fun frenzied time that I love each year.

You – my customers – are the real heart & soul of this business. Without you and your support, your comments and the love you express for all our efforts, we wouldn’t be here to have all this fun each year. I appreciate each and every one of you!

2015 SEMINARS

Please sign up in advance for seminars. If there is not enough interest, we may cancel a class, and you would not be notified if you just show up.

A. KIDS PLANT A COLOR BOWL - Do you have a 1st through 4th grader that enjoys plants? We’ll have fun as they learn basic planting techniques and leave the class with a colorful bowl of plants that makes a great Mother’s Day gift! Class limited to 8, so sign up early. Saturday May 9, 9:00 a.m. Fee: $10.00

C. FAIRY GARDENING – Have you caught the latest craze in gardening? Come get inspiration, tips and great ideas as we demonstrate the steps in making your own fairy garden. You’ll find your imagination has no boundaries with this fun project! Saturday May 9, 10:00 a.m. or Saturday May 16, 10 a.m. Fee: $2.00 seminar only, -OR- $25.00 for seminar and to make a fairy garden with provided fairy and plants.

D. LATE NIGHT AT THE GREENHOUSE – No need to sign up for this one. Just plan on joining us for a night of music, fun, door prizes and plant discounts. Friday, May 15, 8 to 11 p.m.
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- Petunia 'Easy Wave Velour'
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NOTES FROM NANCY

TOP PERFORMERS

We are a seasonal greenhouse operation, specializing in annual and perennial flowers. We feel we have one of the best selections in the area and try to live up to our slogan that "We're well worth the drive". We do not handle trees and shrubs, or do design or installation work. This leaves us more time to grow and produce the best selection of herbaceous plants for you. We are open for business from the middle of March until the middle of June (we actually start working in the greenhouses in January every year). The season might vary according to the weather. We grow almost all of our plants, which we feel is a great bonus for you in variety and quality.

We are well worth the drive!

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Closed Sunday

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