



# green thumb gazette

[www.harwellsgreenthumb.com](http://www.harwellsgreenthumb.com)

April/May 2011

## It's time to do a little diggin'!

April is a great time to plant! Planting this month gives your trees, shrubs, and bedding plants time to settle their roots before it gets hot enough for watering to be a chore, giving them a foundation to support abundant flowers and fruit. **ferti-lome** Root Stimulator as a final step at planting will also help enhance this critical root development. Although it seems we've had a good bit of rain already, remember that your plants cannot store water and they depend on you for the extra moisture they require to remain healthy and colorful. Fertilizing with **ferti-lome** Tree & Shrub Food will keep most trees, shrubs, and groundcovers performing their best, and if you have acid-loving plants such as Azaleas, Hollies, Gardenias, and Magnolias, **ferti-lome** Azalea/Evergreen Plus will keep them green while preventing such buggy problems as whiteflies and scale. You may plant fruiting trees, bushes, and vines now, and if you're thinking of trying summer vegetables this year, it's an excellent time to get them started. You may also plant summer flowering bulbs such as Lilies, Glads, and Dahlias now, and when night-time temps are staying in the sixties, the soil will be warm enough for Caladium bulbs to go in. You will want to apply **ferti-lome** Lawn Food + Iron some time during the first two weeks of April to help your grass stay gorgeously green, and April is also a good month to apply **ferti-lome** Systemic Insecticide Drench to any pest-prone plants to prevent insect damage later in the year. Let our helpful and knowledgeable staff provide you with all the plants, products, and advice you'll need for your yard to have the best curb appeal in the neighborhood this spring!



We can't "contain" our urge to plant a minute longer!

**Spring Hours**  
**Mon-Fri**  
**8:00-5:30**  
**and**  
**Saturdays**  
**8:00-5:00**

Time spent preparing the soil is never time wasted. It's boring and you're not going to notice it when you're done, but it's the most important thing you can do. Remove all the existing weeds and rocks, and the more attention you spend adding organic material, the better. And don't walk on it when you're done!

Roger Swain (The Victory Garden), *The Wall Street Journal*, April 9, 1999

**Super Spring Specials!!**  
**GTN Planting Mix-Three bushel bags for \$13.99!!**    **All**  
**Citrus Plants 10% off!!!**    **Prices good through April 30th**

## “Bed”time Stories....

It is certainly time to think about your bedding plants for summer. Even though your Pansies may still look good, you need to get your warm season color such as Begonias, Zinnias, and Impatiens planted sooner rather than later so they can get established before the weather really heats up. This allows them to form the proper root system to support all the flowers they'll be producing this season. Adding soil to your beds before you plant them will also help provide proper drainage and extra nutrients for your flowers, as well as replacing the soil that is lost when you pull up your winter color. We carry a complete line of soil amendments including our own **Green Thumb Nursery Planting Mix**, composted Cow Manure and Mushroom Compost, and Worm Castings, all of which will add organic matter to your beds that your plants will love. Be sure and work these additions in to the existing soil somewhat so you do not have two separate layers, as this can make it hard for the roots of the plants to take up the proper amount of water.



**Planting Mix Special!**  
**Bushel Bags of Green Thumb Nursery Planting Mix**  
**Regularly \$4.99 each, now 3 bags for \$13.99!**  
**Price good thru April 30th**

**Starter Vegetables in**  
**3.5" pots only .99 each!**  
**Huge selection available!**



## ...and Veggie Tales...

It is also a fantastic time to get a vegetable garden started! Temperatures have warmed up to the point that summer veggies such as Tomatoes, Sweet and Hot Peppers, Eggplant, and Squash will really take off, and we have an excellent selection of starter sized plants available now! Many of these are good candidates for container gardening, as well, so don't let a lack of acreage discourage you from growing your own crop. We've also got a complete line of the accessories you'll need for a successful harvest including Stakes, Tomato Cages, Ties and Supports, Bird Netting, Labels, Fertilizers, and Insecticides. We even have organic products for those of you who prefer to go that route. Let us show you how easy it is to achieve the satisfaction of feeding your family with food you've raised yourself!

## Feed your Azaleas and prevent pests, too!

Fertilize your Azaleas with **ferti-lome Azalea Evergreen Food with Systemic Insecticide** just as soon as they have finished blooming this spring. This will replenish the energy they have expended forming their flowers, and will also protect them from lacebugs, a common Azalea pest in our area. For other trees and shrubs you wish to encourage more growth on, we recommend feeding them with **ferti-lome Tree & Shrub Food** every four weeks now through the end of September. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much growth proper nutrition will produce!



## Yew've got to love it!

Our employee spotlight this month falls on Leslie Laird, who has been with Green Thumb for nineteen years, and who does a little bit of everything around the nursery including compose the newsletter you are reading! Her plant of choice is Podocarpus, or Japanese Yew. This handsome evergreen shrub is an upright grower that makes a wonderful screening shrub, and it is equally happy in full sun to moderate shade. It does not tolerate soggy soil, however, so if you have heavy clay soil that holds water, be sure to amend your bed when you plant with enough of our **Green Thumb Nursery Planting Mix** to ensure adequate drainage.

## Becoming an Herb-an farmer...

Urban farming is one of the fastest growing gardening trends, and if you've been considering growing edibles yourself, Herbs are a great way to get started. We have an outstanding variety of fresh Herbs in stock to choose from! No matter what your favorite dish is, you can enhance the look and flavor of any recipe by adding herbs. We carry multiple varieties of the basics such as Parsley, Rosemary, Basil, Thyme, and Mint, and we also have Oregano, Chives, and Marjoram, to name but a very few. We even stock some of the more uncommon Herbs such as Lemon Verbena, culinary Bay, and Lemongrass, and we also carry Scented Geraniums and Lavender for fragrance. Most Herbs, with the exception of Mint--which likes shade, will do their best with at least a half day's worth of sun, and they require good drainage. They are also easily grown in pots or other containers, and may be mixed with flowering plants or even veggies if you wish. **Join us each Saturday this month for beverage tastings featuring our different Herbs.**



### Add some "zest" to your landscape with Citrus!

All Citrus bushes are 10% off this month! We've got Lemons, Limes, Satsumas, Grapefruit, and Kumquats in stock, and we even have dwarf varieties of Lemon, Satsuma, and Navel Orange available! Pick a spot for it that gets at least a half day's worth of sun, and plan on bringing your citrus plant inside this winter to ensure its survival during freezes.



Meyer Lemon Photo courtesy Monrovia



### Easter is April 24th this year...

and we've got lots of cute holiday related items to dress up your tables! We have Bunnies galore in statuary and pots, and we also have the most adorable Lambs that would also be appropriate for Passover. If you're intending to plant Rye grass liners for your Easter baskets, you need to get them started no later than the week of April 4th to give them time to fill in sufficiently. We will have a selection of pre-planted liners available for sale, as well, if you find yourself caught short at the last minute. We also have Palms, Rabbit Foot Ferns, Crown of Thorns, and other appropriate plants to use.

### Just when you thought our Hydrangea selection couldn't get any more fabulous...

along comes "Little Lime"! This dwarf variety of the incredibly popular "Limelight" Panicle Hydrangea has all the great qualities of its big brother including the big greeny-white blossoms it produces, only on a more compact bush. Growing about three to five feet in height, it will be a great



Little Lime Hydrangea



Bombshell Hydrangea

addition to your mixed shrub border. We also have the even smaller growing "Bombshell" Panicle Hydrangea in stock. Featuring big, fluffy, white clusters of blooms, Bombshell grows to between one and a half to three feet tall, and like all the Panicle Hydrangeas, makes a great cutting flower, too. The Panicle Hydrangeas can tolerate a little more sun than their mophead cousins, but they do need good drainage, so amend your soil with **Green Thumb Nursery Planting Mix** to prevent root rot.

Little Lime photo courtesy Proven Winners, Bombshell photo courtesy BallHort

## Now's the time for your first feeding with Lawn Food plus Iron!

The first two weeks of April is the recommended window for Lawn Care Club members to apply the first application of **ferti-lome Lawn Food + Iron**. For those of you who are not yet in the club, we recommend this particular product for right now because the slow-release formula it contains will produce a healthy, deep green lawn without producing the excess leaf growth that can lead to fungal problems in your grass. If you are having trouble with broadleaf weeds such as dandelions or clover, you could substitute a treatment of **ferti-lome Weed Out** in the red bag instead to feed your lawn and kill the weeds at the same time. If you didn't get a pre-emergent out in February, we would also recommend applying **Hi-Yield Weed & Grass Stopper** to keep any more weed seeds from coming up. Club members, you may also pick up your bonus bags of insecticide now if you so desire so it will be on hand in May when it is the proper time for it to be applied.

You may spray weeds that are up with **ferti-lome Weed Free Zone** while nighttime temperatures are still cool, and Bermuda or Zoysia lawns may be sprayed with **ferti-lome Bermuda Grass Weeder** once evening temps are in the high 60's. Centipede or St. Augustine lawns, or any lawn with Nutgrass problems, may be sprayed with **Image**. We also recommend using **Hi-Yield Spreader Sticker** with any liquid weed killer you spray so that the chemical can cling to the leaf of the weed long enough to be properly absorbed.

For those of you who are dissatisfied with the condition of your lawn, consider joining our do-it-yourself **Green Thumb Nursery Lawn Care Club**. We can help you get a beautiful, weed-free yard for much less money than the commercial services charge, and for the average yard, it will take only a few minutes of your time every other month to apply the recommended products. You will also receive free insecticide as a bonus for joining, and club members are eligible for discounts on weed sprays, spreaders, and other lawn care products.



### APRIL LAWN CARE REMINDERS

TO FERTILIZE: **ferti-lome Lawn Food + Iron**

FOR BROADLEAF WEED PROBLEMS : **ferti-lome Weed Out Weed Killer & Lawn Fertilizer** in the red bag  
**ferti-lome Weed Free Zone** when nights are still cool

FOR GRASSY WEED PROBLEMS: **ferti-lome Bermuda Grass Weeder** for Bermuda or Zoysia lawns, or **Image** on Centipede or St. Augustine lawns

**Our customers may borrow one of our fertilizer spreaders for 24 hours, free of charge.**