

Harlequin's Gardens

Spring 2009 newsletter

www.harlequinsgardens.com

(303) 939-9403

Dear Friends and Fellow Gardeners,

Welcome to Spring, to Harlequin's Gardens, and to another year of enjoying the fruits and the simple pleasures of the garden—this year perhaps more from necessity than in recent years. But don't be led into the abyss by the media who love selling sensation and disaster. Remember that Nature and your garden do not know that the world is in an economic crisis. As long as the land receives plants, seed, water, nourishment and human care, the basic goodness of Nature will provide its harvest of beauty, food and environment.

You may already know that when you shop at Harlequin's Gardens, you will go home with strong and healthy plants that are adapted to Colorado conditions, along with the right advice to put those right plants in the right places. But everybody is thinking about money now, so let's talk money.

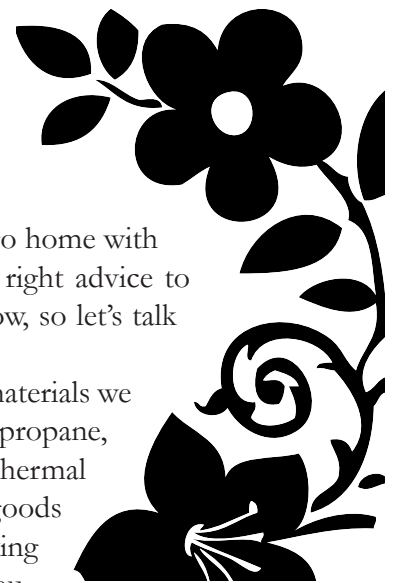
Our costs have gone up on many of the plants and products we buy and the materials we use in production, so we have to raise some prices a little, but we are not paying for propane, chemical fertilizers and huge shipping costs. Because we have invested in solar/geothermal greenhouses, because our methods are organic and because most of our plants and goods come from local sources, our prices are not tied to the price of petroleum. Growing plants ourselves also saves us money. So we can afford to pass those savings onto you.

And we are continuing to sell plants in small 2 ½" pots so you can have more plants for your money.

While we are not as cheap as Wal-Mart or Home Depot, investing in our plants will give you more success for the money, because our plants have a very high survival rate. Compare, and see for yourself. And some of the tools we carry may be more expensive than tools at other places, but our tools won't need replacing every two years, nor will you wear out your wrists and hands trying to cut or dig with steel that won't hold an edge. Modern marketing in a throw-away society has tried to convince us that the lowest price is the highest value, but our ancestors knew that real value comes from high quality that performs well for years and can be passed on to your children or friends. This makes sense even in hard times.

During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt challenged Americans to grow Victory Gardens and within one year a large percentage of our food was being grown in home gardens. This may be real Home Land Security. Wendell Berry and Wes Jackson recently wrote in a NY Times article: "For 50 or 60 years we have let ourselves believe that as long as we have money we will have food. That is a mistake. If we continue our offenses against the land and the labor by which we are fed, the food supply will decline, and we will have a problem far more complex than the failure of our paper economy."

And Michael Pollan in his book *In Defense of Food* wrote: "To the problem of being able to afford high-quality produce, the garden offers the most straightforward solution: The food you grow yourself is fresher than



We
see ecology and
economy going
hand in hand.

We will be offering dozens of exciting new plants this year: over 1,200 varieties of perennials, 200 varieties of sustainable roses on their own roots, and a great selection of successful shrubs and trees. Rock gardeners and lovers of natives and ornamental grasses will also be thrilled with plants you won't find elsewhere.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE SPECIALTY PLANTS WE HAVE PROPAGATED THIS YEAR

*Turf Moss: *Herniaria glabra** - tough green carpet 1"-2" high, fast spreading, xeric

Sedum populifolium - 10" deciduous, woody stemmed, white/pink flowers in July, carefree rock garden/border plant

Papaver somniferum - beautiful poppies including 'Lauren's Grape', 'Fringed Salmon', 'Red Ruby', 'Black Peony'

Marrubium rotundifolium - ornamental horehound with gray-green leaves with a silver edge, very xeric, 8"x24"

'Clear Gold' *Thyme* - beautiful golden leaves, 4" mound, 16" wide; low water; best on east side or part shade

Phacelia campanularia - vivid gentian blue, bell-shaped flowers, long-blooming, takes dry soil, self-sowing annual

Dianthus 'Tuscan Honeymoon' - grassy foliage, large pink flowers on top of 2' stems, long fall bloom, tough, xeric

Thymus baeticus - strong growing thyme, 4"-6" tall, 12"-16" wide, low water, good in walls, rock gardens, showy flowers

Reiter Thyme - Rich green 30" spreading, 2" high steppable ground cover; lavender flowers; for lawn, groundcover

'Gold Stream' *Thyme* - fabulous lemon fragrance, low creeping thyme, for between flagstones, edging; groundcover

'Ohme Garden' *Thyme* - very vigorous, weed smothering groundcover 3"x 30", mauve flowers, low water

'Tough As Nails': *Paronychia* - 1" high groundcover looks like thyme but more xeric, white bracts

any you can buy, and it costs you nothing but an hour or two of work a week plus the price of a few packets of seed." In response to the call for home-grown edibles, we have gone "all out". For the 2009 season, Eve has added dozens of new kinds and varieties to our already large offering of organic vegetable starts. (see complete list on the 'Edibles' page of our website) These choices are based on years of growing, testing and tasting veggies in her own garden. We've added more compact varieties for container growing, and we'll even have pre-planted container salad and herb gardens.

We will be carrying Abbondanza Farm's fabulous organic, locally grown and adapted vegetable seeds in addition to seeds from Botanical Interests, another great local company. And we'll have "seed" potatoes, onion seedlings, asparagus and rhubarb roots, and strawberries. We offer fruit trees and berry bushes that we select for superior disease-resistance, cold tolerance and great flavor.

And to make your gardening efforts even more successful and productive, we've engaged experts from our community to join us in offering valuable, fun classes in growing plants from seed, extending the food-gardening season through fall and winter, growing great vegetable gardens in the mountains, growing edibles in containers etc etc. (see our listing of classes). We've brought in the best gardening books too, both classic and new.

This year we are expanding our Soil Food Café. We will have several kinds of organic fertilizers (both alfalfa-based and manure-based) organic manure, organic mushroom compost and those great clay-busters, composted cotton burrs and expanded shale. More and more, we are carrying local mulches and composts and bagging them ourselves in refillable bags. This saves landfilling, shipping expenses and global-warming pollution. It provides income for local businesses and local labor, and it often costs less than amendments coming from California or Canada.

We see ecology and economy going hand in hand. The price of oil will rise again and chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides made from oil will become more and more expensive. The cost of water is also on the rise. So local, organic and xeriscape are increasingly more economical. And we believe that feeding

the soil is more economical than either chemical or organic pest control. And speaking of ecology:

In February, Mikl was honored with the 2009 PaceSetter Award for the Environment. Great thanks to everyone who supported Mikl's nomination.

This year we will be **opening for the season on Wednesday April 1st.** And **remember: Now WE ARE OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK, 9-5, and Thursdays 9-6,** and only **closed Mondays.**

This year's **May Day Celebration** will begin on **Friday May 1** when the **Plant Sale** begins (including a special members-only section) It will continue Sat, Sun, Tues, Wed and Thursday May 7th. On **Saturday May 2** from **11-11:30** the **Maroon Bells Morris Dancers** will perform their lively, colorful ancient May Day dances, and at **1pm** be charmed by the harmonies of **Senior Moments Barbershop Quartet.**

Then on **Sunday May 3** refreshments will be served and at **10:30 Kurt Reber** will serenade us with his guitar and at **1pm** jig and reel to the **Boulder Irish Session Band.**

Great Thanks to all of you who became Members last year. The membership fund helps to maintain our growing demonstration gardens, buy engraved plant labels, and supports our development as a community educational resource. **See new benefits,** under Membership.

Our staff, our display gardens, and reference library are at your service, so please come out to visit us and try our Colorado-adapted plants. We think you will enjoy both the visit and the success of our plants.

Check out our hours below. April through September, we are **open every day except Monday.** And in October we're open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only.

We accept payment in cash or check, but **no credit cards, please.**

Sincerely,
Mikl Brawner
Eve Reshetnik-Brawner



APRIL through SEPTEMBER
Tuesday - Sunday: 9 to 5
Thursday: 9 to 6

OCTOBER
Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 9 to 5

The Harlequin Effect & Membership

At Harlequin's we are not only expanding our facilities to make money, we are expanding to test and demonstrate plants and to educate ourselves and you, our friends and clients. This would not be easy for a large company and it is difficult for us, but we are persevering. However, planting, weeding and watering display gardens is expensive and time-consuming. And adding new gardens like the Ornamental Grasses Garden and the All Natives Garden is expensive.

So it occurred to me that if we used the "Harlequin Effect" to raise money, we could all get our benefits more quickly, without us going into huge debt. This story about Harlequin explains how this could work:

When Harlequin was young, he was invited to join his friends at the masked Carnival. But his mother was very poor and could not afford a costume for him. His friends were very disappointed that he could not come with them, but one of the mothers had a good idea. She gave Harlequin the scraps that were left over from making her son's costume, and when the other mothers did the same, he had enough cloth. His mother sewed all the pieces together into the colorful patchwork that became his signature costume, and he was able to join his friends at the Carnival.

All along, Harlequin's Gardens has depended on recycled materials, trades, word-of-mouth promotion, generosity, kindness, passion, service and other non-corporate building blocks to create our success. So the idea to finance our educational gardens and plant literature is MEMBERSHIP. Here is our expanding current offer: Members will give us \$20 for a one year membership and in direct return will receive these benefits 1) **During the May Day Sale, members will get first pick of the unusual and specialty plants Mikl and Eve have propagated**, which are often in short supply, for only \$2.25 each. The following week these plants will be available to everyone at the regular prices of \$3, \$3.50, and \$4. 2) **During the May Day Sale, members will get 10% off all roses** (except quart size). 3) **Members can begin the Fall Sale one week earlier:** Regular sale begins Sept.1, **member's sale begins Aug 25.** 4) **members will get a 25% discount on books all year.** 5) If desired, members will be informed by email of **special offers and plant availability.**

If you do not become a member, you will continue to get the same excellent plants and the same personal help in selecting the best plants for your particular situation. However if you do become a member, your \$20 will go to a good cause, creating botanic garden-like demonstration areas and educational materials not only for yourself, but for the community. If you like what we've been doing so far, help us to do it better.

You can become a member anytime you are at the nursery, or mail a check for \$20 to Harlequin's Gardens, 4795 N.26th St. Boulder, CO. 80301. We will put you in our Membership Rolodex.

Last year's membership donations paid for hundreds of new labels in our demonstration gardens, and helped to pay for weeding, watering and planting in our gardens.

The Harlequin Effect: "Eating with the fullest pleasure--pleasure, that is, that does not depend on ignorance--is perhaps the profoundest enactment of our connection with the world. In this pleasure we experience and celebrate our dependence and our gratitude, for we are living from mystery, from creatures we did not make and powers we cannot comprehend." Wendell Berry

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Tanacetum densum - Partridge Feather, 6"x36" xeric groundcover, silvery leaves, yellow flowers, very xeric

Paxistima canbyi - beautiful evergreen foliage, 8"-18" high sub shrub, xeric in pt.shade/shade; a real gem; Plant Select

Mirabilis multiflora - gorgeous pm-blooming perennial Four O'Clock, rosy-purple trumpets, 18"x48"; very xeric

Allium caeruleum - gorgeous sky blue balls on 12"onion stalks

Allium cyaneum - 6"tufts, cobalt-blue flowers, rock gard

Alyssum markgraffii - dense panicles of soft yellow flowers on 12" mounds, long bloom, low water

Origanum 'Norton's Gold' - wonderful gold-foliaged oregano; 10"x16"; low water; part shade OK or best

Teucrium cossonii - Harlequin's Exclusive: we found this very silver form of germander; 8"x14"; purplish-pink flowers

Papaver triniifolium - lacy blue rosette, soft orange single poppies on thin stems; low water, tough biennial, reseeds

Glaucium acutidentatum - 30"x36"; bold, blue foliage; rich orange poppies with black basal spots; xeric; self-sows

Dracocephalum nutans - long-blooming biennial, indigo spikes of flowers; showy, long-lasting bronzy bracts, sun, xeric

Euonymus sp. - Manhattan type evergreen shrub, Found in Boulder parking lot island, no water many years, 4'x4'

ALSO AVAILABLE IN 2009

Origanum 'Amethyst Falls' - long-blooming amethyst flowers from chartreuse hop-like cones, 8"x24", deer resistant

Gaillardia 'Oranges and Lemons' - showy orange/yellow flowers, 18"x 18" high, low water, very long blooming

Geranium cantabrigiense - excellent spreading groundcover; 6"x 24"-36", pink flowers, weed-smothering, dry shade

Geranium c. 'St. Ola' - wine buds open to lovely white flowers, 8"x24", good in dry shade or sun, tough

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Geranium 'Harlequin's Select' - very vigorous form of *G. sanguineum*, 10" high, magenta flowers, low water, tough

'Hall's Honeysuckle' - super fragrant white flowers turn yellow on vigorous 10'-15'vine; not invasive here

'Magnifica' Honeysuckle - bright red 2" flowers on 10'-15'vine; blooms longer with water/fertilizer; hummingbirds

Clematis: extensive selection of species and large-flowered hybrids, many colors; including...

Clematis ligusticifolia - Native; masses of white flowers, ornamental fluffy seed heads, low water, climbs 8'-12'

Echinacea: *'Sundown'*, *'Twilight'*, *'Harvest Moon'*, *'Rubinstern'*, *'Cygnet White'*, *E. purpurea*, *E.tennesseensis*

Giant Sacaton-Sporobolus wrightii - very ornamental native clump grass, 4'-7', very low water, Plant Select

Salvia pachyphylla - silver aromatic foliage, blue and mauve flowers all summer, 3', xeric

Asclepias tuberosa - showy orange flowers attracts butterflies, xeric native of Great Plains

Sedum 'Purple Emperor' - dusty red flowers July-Sept., striking, dark purple-red foliage, 15"

Penstemon pinifolius - scarlet-orange trumpet flowers attract hummingbirds, 10"-16" tall, truly evergreen, low water

Euonymus for. *'Coloratus'* - remarkable broadleaf evergreen vine/groundcover/hedge, xeric, tough, sun/shade

Agave parryi - the hardest, most reliable Agave here, 12"+; broad, bold spiny foliage, very sculptural, very xeric



Roses

We have 220 varieties of cold-hardy, Sustainable Roses on their own roots.

<i>Abraham Darby</i>	Very fragrant salmon pink big flowers, good repeat, 5'x5' Austin rose
<i>John Davis</i>	Beautiful, soft pink flowers repeat, short climber/shrub; Canadian hardy
<i>Darlow's Enigma</i>	Fabulous, fragrant, small, single white flowers, repeat; 8' rambler
<i>Complicata</i>	Old Gallica, huge single bright pink flowers, climber/shrub 6'-8', very tough
<i>Climbing American Beauty</i>	Lovely, fragrant pink flowers in spring, climber/shrub 10'+
<i>William Baffin</i>	8' shrub or climber, to zone 2, or 9000'; strawberry pink flowers, repeats
<i>Rose de Rescht</i>	4' compact, very fragrant, very double purple red flowers, repeats well
<i>Reine des Violettes</i>	Purple-pink double fragrant flowers, 5'; nearly thornless, some repeat
<i>The Alexandra Rose</i>	Single flowers coppery pink/yellow, good repeat, 5', healthy, hardy
<i>Royal Bonica</i>	Double, deep rose flowers in small clusters, 3'; repeats well, healthy foliage
<i>New Dawn</i>	Vigorous, hardy climber to 12'; semi-double soft pink flowers, repeats, shade OK
<i>Seafoam</i>	3'x4' drought tolerant shrub/short climber; small white double blooms; tough
<i>Morden Sunrise</i>	Beautiful warm orange blend, Canadian shrub 3'; zone 3; disease resist.
<i>Victorian Memory</i>	Very tall, hardy climber to 15', medium pink, fragrant, repeats cherry red flowers in abundance, 3'x3', zone 3; excellent repeat bloom
<i>Banshee</i>	Tough found rose, very fragrant double pink blooms spring; 10'; great screen

"If you want to be understood, practice kindness and mercy. Kindness is seldom mistaken for anything else. Small kindnesses reverberate a long time in people's hearts." Garrison Keillor

Native Shrubs

We have one of the best selections of native shrubs in Colorado.

- Ribes odoratum 'Crandall'* Clove Currant; 4'-6', yellow fragrant flowers, large fruit clusters
- Mabonia haematocarpa* Desert Holly; bluish evergreen leaves, yellow flowers, red fruit, 6'
- Cercocarpus ledifolius* Fabulous broadleaf evergreen 10'-20' high, light gray bark, very xeric
- Cercocarpus intricatus* Dwarf evergreen only 5' high, very xeric, slow-growing, good bonsai
- Rhus glabra cismontana* Rocky Mt. Sumac-3'-6' spreading, red fruit; red fall color, xeric
- Tall Blue Rabbitbrush* 4'-6' high and wide, showy yellow flowers Aug-Sept; xeric
- Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush* 2'x2' blue-green foliage, smothered in yellow flowers, xeric gem
- Fernbush (Chamaebatiaria)* 4'-6', ferny leaves; clusters of small white flowers, xeric
- Arizona Cypress* 20'-25' columnar evergreen tree, beautiful, not scratchy, xeric
- Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent'* 'Regent'-selection 4'-6' with better fruit; white flowers, red fall color
- Acer glabrum* Rocky Mt. Maple-10'-15' upright form, light gray bark, yellow fall color
- Amorpha canescens* Lead Plant; 2'-3' shrub; purple spikes in summer; xeric
- Artemisia tridentata* Big Sage-3'-10', gray very aromatic foliage, evergreen, very xeric
- Artemisia filifolia* Sand Sage, silvery fine-leafed shrub, 4', very xeric, good with grasses
- Prunus besseyi ('Pawnee Buttes')* Sand Cherry (Dwarf Sand Cherry) white flowers
- Apache Plume (Fallugia)* 5'x5' shrub, white rose-like flowers, pinky plume seed heads, xeric
- Forestiera neomexicana* New Mexican Privet-8'-15', light bark, blue berries, xeric
- Hesperaloe parviflora* Evergreen clump, arching blades, tall spike of reddish flowers, xeric
- Philadelphus lewisii* Philadelphus lewisii-6' fine textured shrub, white very fragrant flowers, shade tol., xeric
- Yucca harrimaniae* Doll House Yucca, 12"-15" blades, cream-green flowers, xeric

ORGANIC VEGETABLE
STARTS (WE WILL HAVE
MORE VARIETIES THAN WE
CAN LIST HERE)

Tomatoes - New for 09:

Kellogg's Breakfast - 85 days, heirloom, indeter.; big, meaty, bright golden-orange, rich flavor

Black Krim - 70-80 days; ½ lb striking dark, delicious, intense flavor; Russian heirloom
Gardener's Delight-68 days, OP; sweet 1" deep red cherry tomato; productive; indeterminate

Purple Calabash - 75 days, heirloom wide, ribbed, purplish fruit; rich, complex flavor

Tomatoes - Old Favorites:

Taxi - OP (Open Pollinated) 65 days, best early yellow, high yields, mild non-acid fruit; 2'x2' plant

Amish Paste - 85 days, very meaty, rich flavor intensifies in sauces, indeterminate, heirloom

Sungold - F1 hybrid, 65 day, orange-gold 1 ¼" fruits, sweet and plentiful, fresh or dried

Lemon Boy - hybrid 75 day; lovely lemon yellow, good mild flavor, good producer, beautiful

Pruden's Purple - OP (Heirloom) 72 day, large, dark pink, wonderful flavor, indeterminate

Siletz - OP 70 day, earliest big tomato, excellent flavor, disease resistant, determinate

Rutger's - OP (Heirloom) popular for rich flavor, productivity, wilt, crack & drought resist

Super Lakotah - OP 75 day heirloom; juicy old-fashioned flavor; OK in cool weather

Cherokee Purple - 77 days, heirloom, delicious deep pink fruits are 3"-4"; indeterminate

Big Beef - 75 day hybrid, very productive, large fruits, good-tasting, disease-resistant

Glacier - OP 56 day, best ultra-early variety with rich tomato flavor, 2" fruits

Other Tomatoes: *Thessaloniki, Opalka, Tumbler, Mexico Midget, Peacevine, Stupice, etc...*

"There are two great times to plant trees: the first was 20 years ago — the other is now."

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Peppers - New for 09:

Alma Paprika - 70-80 days; heirloom, ripens red, sweet, productive, fresh/dried; warm

Peacework - 65 days, OP, sweet, full-flavored, red bell; early; Organic Seed Partnership

Jimmy Nardello's - 76 days, heirloom, 8" long, sweet red frying pepper, heavy yields

Peppers - Old Favorites:

Purple Cayenne - OP 70 days, masses of beautiful 3" narrow purple, hot peppers, 2' plant

King of the North - OP 70 days, large sweet bells turn red, prolific yields in cooler climate

Early Jalapeno - OP 75 days, 3"x1" fruits, very hot, early

New Mexico #6 - very mild chili, best used green, all purpose, delicious

Espanola Improved - medium hot chili, for short growing season, red, productive

Gypsy - great bell pepper flavor, long, yellow, very productive, cool temperature tolerant

Foiled You - 65 day hybrid; Jalapeno flavor, No Heat, productive, 3 1/2" long; turns red

Other peppers: *Chimayo, Ancho, Red Cheese, Quadrato d' Asti Rosso*

Eggplant

Dusky - hybrid 80 day, 8" long fruit, early maturing, v. productive, disease resist

Ichiban - 57 day, big yields, slim fruits, never bitter, likes heat

Prosperosa - OP 65 days, large round deep violet, prolific, delicious Italian heirloom

Pingtung Long - 58 days, long, slender light purple 11" fruits, vigorous, sweet flavor

Diamond - 78 days, OP; slender dark 12oz, mild fruits; prolific; cold-adapted; Ukraine

Broccoli

Umpqua - OP 65 days, big heads, lots of side buds, excellent quality

Soil Amendments

Come visit our new Soil Food Cafe for soil amendments available at Harlequin's Gardens.

Worm Compost Tea Enriches soil, prevents disease, supports & inoculates soil life, local source.

Yum Yum Mix 2-2-2 Vegan/Organic fertilizer for alkaline, nutrient-poor Western soils, feeds plants/microbes. Made from alfalfa, cottonseed meal, kelp meal, rock dust, green sand.

Composted Cotton Burrs Premium soil conditioner, loosening clay soils & increasing aeration. Unlike wood products, does not take nitrogen from the soil. Pesticide-free; adds beneficial bacteria & fungi. Also available with soil sulfur to acidify alkaline soils.

PlantersII A rock dust product containing over 30 trace minerals. Best when doing soil prep. or side-dress every 2 years. Great for rock gardens, cacti, natives and vegetables.

Menefee Humate 50 lb. bags, natural product; high concentration of trace minerals and humic acid for plant growth, development & uptake of vital nutrients. Gentle but effective.

Mushroom Compost From a local organic mushroom farm; dark, rich humus; great to feed the soil life, improve soil structure, aeration & save water. Claimed best mulch for roses.

Alpha One Locally made organic fertilizer for Colorado 7-2-2; alfalfa based with high organic matter content, high humic acid value, low pH, non-burning. Great for veggies. Vegan.

Soil Pep A semi-fine mulch of half-composted bark. A rose grower from Denver says "The most important thing in my garden culture is Soil Pep...it keeps my garden almost work free."

Organica Plant Growth Activator Microbial product supports growth & resistance to stresses like drought, heat and cold. Dependable viability.

Fine Woodchip Mulch Looks very good, less blowing, quicker to break down providing nutrition.

Age Old Organics Organic liquid and granular fertilizers for various purposes.



"To take part in the intricate and endlessly interesting processes of providing for our sustenance is the surest way to escape the culture of fast food and the values implicit in it: that food should be fast, cheap, and easy; that food is a product of industry, not nature; that food is fuel, and not a form of communion, with other people as well as with other species--with nature." Michael Pollan

Other Products Available at Harlequin's

- Pure Spray Green Horticultural Oil** THE best non-toxic pest management product I know; baby oil grade has no burning on leaves; smothers aphids, mites, sawflies; no harm to lady bugs, birds.
- Organica Cleaning Products** Non-toxic, biodegradable, safe around children, pets; no gloves; they use microorganisms; the glass cleaner works as well as Windex; the Spot Remover saved my favorite felt hat and my straw hat; the All Purpose works and has a nice smell; Drain Opener-no plumber \$.
- Soleo Organics Sunscreen** Zinc oxide UV protection; organic; no titanium dioxide, chemical UV absorbers, synthetic preservatives or artificial fragrances; good moisturizer, ideal for sensitive skin.
- Saylor Caps** A season extending device that is an improvement over "Wall-o-Water". These sturdy metal frames are covered with a water-filled lining, but they don't blow over, and their light transmission is excellent. They can be left on all season to keep the soil warm at night, which is very beneficial for tomatoes and peppers. In '07 we planted a tomato in a Saylor Cap on April 11, it was ripe on July 16.
- Green Cure** Non toxic cure for powdery mildew & blackspot, proved effective locally.
- Hydrosorce** A water absorbing polymer used as a soil amendment to help establish plants and save water; lasts 8 years in soil. OSHA says nonhazardous; Not OMRI Okd; Plant roots like it.
- Quench** Organic-based water-absorbing gel made from cornstarch. More costly than Hydrosorce but natural; effective for 3 years; said to release water to soil faster; has good value in helping to establish plants, reduce watering in containers; safe for veggie gardens.
- Mile-Hi Rose Feed** Formulated specifically for Colorado soils, mostly organic, contains 12 essential nutrients and trace minerals for roses, adds organic matter, supports microorganisms. We've been using this for six years at the Boulder-Dushanbe Tea House with great results.
- Mile-Hi Alfalfa Meal** Also great for roses and gardens; a natural plant-growth stimulant, producing healthier foliage, better vigor and more profuse flowering, ground not pellets.
- Bobbex Deer Repellent** Both a fertilizer and a repellent; many reports of success with this one, even in Evergreen, Colorado. Best to alternate with **Liquid Fence** which guarantees success. We will carry products for repelling deer, rabbits and voles.
- Plantskydd** Lasts twice as long as other repellants, for deer, elk, rabbits etc. 6 month dormant, 3 months in growth; rainfast in 24 hrs.
- TOOL PROFILE:** Made in Iowa of stainless steel; won't rust, cuts through hard ground easily; excellent for weeding or planting; several designs for different functions. By far the best trowel we have tried.
- Unbendable Garden Trowel**

"It is very likely that the Earth will experience a faster rate of climate change in the 21st Century than seen in the last 10,000 years." 2008 USDA report

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Nutri-Bud - 58 day OP; nutritious, large heads, many off-shoots; delicious mild flavor

De Cicco - 48 days; Italian heirloom; mild, compact, productive w/sideshoot; very early

Piracicaba - 56 days; half broccoli half broccoli raab; tender, productive, tasty raw/cooked

Cauliflower

Graffiti - delicious, ornamental brilliant purple heads raw & cooked, 80 days

Cabbage

Early Jersey Wakefield - OP 65days, early, compact, tender, crisp, good salad

Basil

Cinnamon - Eve's favorite for pesto, drying, purple stems, pink flowers, fragrant

Nufar Genovese - first fusarium resistant Basil, 24", large leaves, delicious Genovese flavor

Finissimo Verde a Palla - perfect 10" globes, very small fragrant leaves; window boxes

Holy Basil-Tulsi - very aromatic and spicy, for salad garnish, herbal tea and medicinally

Mrs. Burns Lemon Basil - N.Mexico heirloom, 30" vigorous with intense lemon scent

Thai - tall, bushy, perfumed with distinctive basil/licorice/anise; S.E. Asian cooking

GREAT VEGGIES FOR CONTAINERS/ SMALL GARDENS:

Gold Nugget Tomato - hybrid 60 days, compact, determinate, sweet golden cherry tomatoes

Silvery Fir Tree Tomato - 58 days; Russian heirloom tomato, 2"-3" red fruit, compact; determinate

Fairy Tale Eggplant - 50 day hybrid; sweet small fruits are white with violet/purple stripes

Baby Belle - Hyb. pepper 75 days; compact plants; sweet, mini-bells are red, orange, gold

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Also *Black Pearl Pepper, Hestia Scarlet Runner Bean, Salad Bush Cucumber*

MELONS:

Diva Cucumber - 58 days, hybrid. Sweet, crisp, seedless, no peeling, disease resistant.

Costata Romanesca Zucchini - 55 days, ranked best-tasting, heirloom, vigorous, Collective Farm Woman melon, 83day, heirloom, extra sweet, 10" round, white flesh.

Other melons: *Sweet Dakota Rose, Ha Ogen, Tigger, Noire des Carmes*

Lady Godiva pumpkin - 110 days, OP, grown for its nutritious 20% protein, shell-less seeds.

New England Pie pumpkin - 102 days, 4-6 lb stringless and rich pie pumpkins, prolific.

Burpee's Butterbush Winter Squash - 87 days, OP, delicious, nutty, small butternut, keeper.

Sunshine Winter Squash - 95 days, hybrid, Kabocha-type, sublime eating quality, productive.

OTHER FOOD:

Blood-veined Sorrel - striking foliage, red-veined, 12" for soups/salads

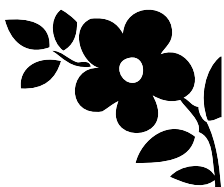
Rhubarb 'Glaskin's Perpetual' - slender, bright red stems, fine flavor, early long-lived.

Wild Parsley - great-tasting, self-sowing parsley; companion to roses; saved by one of our customers.

Golden Purslane - 50 days, exceptionally nutritious, high in Omega-3s, easy summer greens.

White Russian Kale - 60 days; OP; very productive; super cold-hardy, flat-leaf; nutritious.

Imperial Star Artichoke - 90-120 days, OP; annual; 6-8 chokes; vigorous, stately; light frost OK.



Local Food and Community

We believe there is wisdom in looking to our own community for the resources we need. We are offering more home-grown edibles this year than ever before. And we share with you some great people whom we think would be of valuable service to you in bringing health and beauty into your home.

Home-grown Fruit

One of our specialties is fruiting plants that are adapted to Colorado conditions. All the apples we carry are resistant to fireblight and good-tasting. And the cherries we sell are all proven successful in Colorado. Our grapes are the most hardy of any you will find and delicious fresh, in juice and a couple are good for wine. And we have currants, strawberries, raspberries, etc. See our June 14 class on home-grown fruits (pg 9).

Referrals

Kurt Reber: Music lessons; masters in music; talented performer: drums, base, guitar 303-579-8594

Lindsey Stirling: Art of nourishment with whole foods; diet; all kinds of health problems; Body Talk 303-582-4092

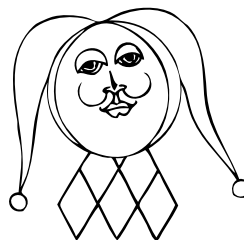
Great Outdoors Repair: On the road to Harlequin's, drop off your small engines for repair, quality for less; 303-449-5203

Matrix Gardens, Alison Peck: Trust her 25 years of experience in sustainable landscaping in Boulder 303-443-0284

Tom Rutherford: Garden design and installation; real xeriscape and rock work; knows his plants 720-334-1573

Eve's Prints

Eve Reshetnik-Brawner has been a botanical illustrator for many years. This art form requires an accuracy of detail and great control over the watercolor medium to create a life-like quality. Her work has appeared in local and national exhibits and in 2002, her illustration of Angel's Trumpet was purchased by the prestigious Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation for their permanent collection and was included in their 11th International Exhibit. Excellent prints of her paintings are available at very economical prices. These can be purchased matted or unmatted at Harlequin's Gardens.



A lot of people have asked us why we named the nursery "Harlequin's" Gardens? The answers are on our educational website www.HarlequinsGardens.com, under About Us.

Events and Garden Tours for 2009

- APRIL 1** April Fool's Day (Fools are Welcome) **Open for the Season: Tuesday thru Sunday, 9-5; Thursday 9-6**
- APRIL 18** Saturday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Rock Garden.** Mikl Brawner. 1 pm. Free.
- MAY 1-3** **Harlequin's Gardens Annual May Day Celebration & Plant Sale**
5-7 **Plant Sale Fri: Sat, Sun, Tues, Wed, Thurs.** On Saturday **May 2 from 11-11:30** the **Maroon Bells Morris Dancers** will bring us fertility and merriment, then at **1 pm** we will be charmed by the harmonies of **Senior Moments Barbershop Quartet**. On Sunday, from **10:30-12** guitarist and singer **Kurt Reber** will serenade us. Refreshments will be served, then hear the lively Boulder Irish Session Band at 12 noon and at 1pm.
- MAY 17** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Plant Select Garden with Eve Brawner.** 1 pm. Free.
- JUNE 14** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Rose Garden with Eve Brawner.** 1 pm. Free.
- JUNE 20** Saturday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Penstemon Garden with Mikl Brawner.** 1pm. Free.
- AUGUST 22** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: Native Shrubs with Mikl Brawner.** 1 pm. Free.
- AUGUST 25 - 30** **Members Fall Plant Sale**
- SEPTEMBER 1 - 6** Harlequin's **Annual Fall Plant Sale** for everyone begins. This sale continues every week in Sept (Closed Mondays).
- SEPTEMBER 6** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: Ornamental Grasses Garden with Eve Brawner.** 1 pm. Free.
- OCTOBER** Open only Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9-5. **The Sale continues...**
- OCTOBER 31** Last day of the season.

A SAMPLING OF NATIVE PLANTS FROM BOULDER COUNTY SEED: PRESERVE OUR NATIVE GENE POOL!

Penstemon virens - 2"x6", short spikes of violet blue flowers; shiny, dark evergreen leaves

Gaillardia aristata - yellow and red pinwheel flowers all summer, 10"-16" high, very xeric

Linum lewisii - true native Blue Flax, light blue flowers, 8"-16" high, very xeric

Mentzelia decapetala - stunning large creamy flowers with ten petals, evening; 3'-4', xeric

Aster ericoides - Wreath Aster: 2' shrublet; clouds of white flowers in fall, very xeric

Achillea lanulosa - Native Yarrow: White flowers in clusters, aromatic leaves, xeric

Dwarf Blue Rabbitbrush - 2'x2' blue-green foliage, smothered in yellow flowers, xeric gem

Penstemon secundiflorus - bright lavender-pink flowers on 12" stems, bluish foliage, xeric

Lithospermum multiflorum - Puccoon, 12"-24", funnel-like soft yellow flowers, low water

Ratibida columnifera - Prairie Coneflower; yellow or red daisies all summer, low water



"It is very likely that the Earth will experience a faster rate of climate change in the 21st Century than seen in the last 10,000 years." 2008 USDA report

Classes for 2009

*We are offering classes with excellent teachers in the hopes that they will help your gardening to be more successful. We are charging \$10 for most classes to support our speakers and Harlequin's educational direction. It is best to **pre-register** for these classes both in case they fill up (limit 15 to 20 people per class) and in case too few people register and we have to cancel the class.*

- APRIL 4** Saturday. **Seed Starting 101 with Sandy Swegel.** Learn simple tricks for starting seeds on a budget under various conditions. Sandy says seeds WANT to grow; just give them the right opportunities. Sandy has a lot of experience. 1 pm. \$10.
- APRIL 18** Saturday. **Herbal Medicine Gardens with Claire Zimmerman.** Learn how to grow the most successful medicinal herbs for our area, how to harvest and store them, and basic medicine-making techniques. She has 10 years training in herbalism/ethnobotany. 1 pm. \$10.
- APRIL 25** Saturday. **Growing Veggies and Herbs in Containers.** Last year **Ellen Dart** grew \$900 worth of food and herbs in containers along her driveway. She will show the simple methods for success she has learned: baby greens, squash, peppers, tomatoes. 1 pm. \$10.
- MAY 9** Saturday. **Edible and Medicinal Weeds with Claire Zimmerman.** Learn to recognize and use our most common useful weeds. This will be a foraging, tasting class in the field (weather permitting). Her background is ethnobotany and herbalism. 10 am. \$10.
- MAY 9** Saturday. **Edible Landscaping with Alison Peck.** Learn how to grow fruits, nuts, vegetables, vines and herbs in your yard, beautifully. Learn which plants are the most successful and how to integrate them into your landscape. Alison has been studying and designing edible landscapes for 25 years; she owns Matrix Gardens landscaping. 1 pm. \$10.
- MAY 16** Saturday. **Practical Permaculture Design: Apartment to Backyard with Natalie Shrewsbury.** Learn the principles and practices of this ecological and holistic system as they apply soil building and plants for any size space. Bring photo of your space. 1 pm. \$10.
- MAY 31** Sunday. **Secrets of Veggie Gardening in the Mountains with Roland Evans.** Learn how to amend soils, choose the right varieties, simple plant protection strategies. Roland grows over 50 varieties of veggies at 7500'. Owner of Organic Bountea. 1-3:30 pm. \$10.
- JUNE 14** Sunday. **Home-grown Fruits with Mikl Brawner.** Apples, cherries, plums, currants, grapes, strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries, service berries (and more) produce good fruit in Colorado. Learn which varieties are disease resistant, good flavored and best adapted to CO. conditions. 1-2:30 pm. \$15.
- JUNE 21** Sunday. **Basics of Garden Maintenance with Claire Zimmerman.** Learn the techniques and timings for caring for your garden: weeding, dead-heading, mulching and moving. Claire owns Pixie Plots Gardening Company. 1 pm. \$10.
- JUNE 27** Saturday. **Mountain Gardening with Diane Badertscher.** Gardening above 6000' has its own challenges. There are certain plants and certain strategies that can improve your successes. Diane lives and gardens at 8000' and can help you in choosing the right plants and the right approaches. You will find her knowledge and experience valuable. 1 pm. \$10.
- JULY 12** Sunday. **Opportunities and Tricks of Xeriscape with Mikl Brawner.** There are advantages to gardening with less water, and tricks that will improve your success. Mikl's xeriscape experience of over 20 years has taught him tricks that will cost you a lot less than it cost him. 1-2:30 pm. \$15.
- JULY 19** Sunday. **Identifying and Attracting Beneficial Insects.** Don't kill your allies; feed them. Learn the good bugs and what will bring them to your garden. **Carol O'Meara** is Master Gardener Coordinator, CSU Co-op Extension. Carol is wise and fun. 1 pm. \$10.
- JULY 25** Saturday. **Four Season Gardening with Home Grown Salads November thru February.** Learn how to grow veggies thru the winter w/o extra heat & with low-tech solutions. Learn the secrets of micro-climate, cold frames and heat sinks. Eric has studied horticulture and has 20 years experience, gardening & experimenting. 1 pm. \$10.
- AUG 9 OR 16** Sundays. **Mikl Brawner** will give a talk and demonstration **"Pruning for Strength, Health and Beauty"**. Learn to train young trees, to restructure shrubs and trees broken by storms, to prune roses. Mikl has 30 years experience in pruning. 1 pm. \$10.
- AUG 29** Saturday. **Low-Tech Greenhouse Design and Operation with Mikl Brawner.** Mikl has been researching, building and using simple greenhouses for 17 years. This class will focus on 5 designs on site at the nursery. 1-2:30 pm. \$15.

Staff

We are very proud of our staff, so to help you to get to know us and to know the best times to come out for our specialists, here are our portraits. This year we are pleased to welcome three new people to our staff.

Elaine Walker is a landscape architect with an emphasis in ecological practices. Her recent work has focused on native and drought tolerant plantings. She has helped clients enhance their outdoor living spaces.

Elaine works Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Deb Svoboda is a Master Gardener, and has years of experience with her own xeriscape garden. She has grown a lot of plants from Harlequin's Gardens and has enjoyed taking classes from Lauren Springer Ogden. Deb works Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Linda Taylor specializes in heirloom roses. A gardener for thirty years, she started and operated her own rose nursery in Montana. She knows the tough and hardy varieties. She is currently developing a private practice in horticultural therapy. Linda works Sundays in May and June.

Roses are one of our primary specialties and **Sharron Zaun** is one of our most knowledgeable people in that area, especially for the David Austin roses. Besides growing 90 roses in her own garden, Sharron has 3000 square feet of growing area to test perennials and shrubs. To say she has a master's degree in botany and 25 years gardening experience in Boulder doesn't describe her passion for working with plants and people. She has been with us for 14 years (can that be possible?) Sharron works Tuesdays and Fridays.

Diane Badertscher earned a degree in horticulture with honors, and has qualified as a Certified Colorado Nursery Professional. She specializes in trees and shrubs, especially the natives. Her 10 years of experience gardening at 8,000' is very valuable to mountain gardeners. Diane works Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat.

Christina Thomas has been gardening in Boulder for 25 years with particular experience in herbs, Mediterranean plants, xeriscape and vegetables. She has worked as an editor for "Conservation Biology", for articles and books on climate change, natural sciences and the environment. She works Wednesdays and Fridays.

Matt Patrick is trained as a CSU Master Gardener and has operated his own landscape business for the past three years. He was raised farming tobacco in Kentucky. He has worked for the Boulder County AIDS Project, Boulder Human Relations Comm., & Foothills United Way. Matt works Sundays.

Engrid Winslow has degree in Urban Horticulture and has taken Master Gardener training, and has experience with gardening at her home and professionally. Engrid works Saturdays in May and June.

Claire Zimmerman will be maintaining our display gardens this year. She has studied herbs and has her own landscape planting and maintenance business. We are glad to trust our gardens' care to her.

Eve Reshetnik-Brawner thinks the Garden of Eden must be in her blood as she has always had a passion for gardening and for studying, growing and drawing plants. She has a degree in landscape architecture and over ten years of experience in that field. She has a special love and knowledge of roses, fragrant flowers, ornamental grasses, clematis and vegetables. Eve, with Mikl, designed the rose garden at the Boulder Dushanbe Tea House. In her "spare" time she is a botanical illustrator, artist and musician. Eve works Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, and is available for garden consultations.

Mikl Brawner got his initial training along the creeks and woods of eastern Iowa. Then he studied biology at the University of Iowa, but the further education he sought to become an ecologist and naturalist was not available, so he went to India with the Peace Corps. Back in America, he managed a small organic apple orchard, and started a tree care business. Studying plants, researching alternatives to pesticides, and developing a xeriscape garden led him from the tree tops to a plant nursery. Now the evolving Harlequin's Gardens is his life-work, helping the gardening community to bring nature into their personal lives and homes using sustainable plants, materials and methods. Mikl works Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, and is available for consultations. Mikl was honored with the 2009 PaceSetter Award for the Environment.

Also working at Harlequin's Gardens is **Kurt Reber**, our production manager. And we're delighted to have occasional help from: **Marty Crigler**, **Natalie Shrewsbury**, **Carol Gerlitz**, **Juanita Hakala**, **Marilyn Kakudo**, **Heather Stone** and **Zachary Smith**.

**APRIL through SEPTEMBER**

Tuesday - Sunday: 9 to 5
Thursday: 9 to 6

OCTOBER

Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 9 to 5

Landscape Consultations

Eve and Mikl are available for consultations. We can help you to:

- 1) Clarify the use of the space
- 2) Identify site opportunities and limitations
- 3) Evaluate health and value of existing landscape
- 4) Identify microclimates
- 5) Make rough sketches on the spot
- 6) Make plant and design recommendations for specific areas.
- 7) Help to xeriscape and save water
- 8) Identify, evaluate and make recommendations for tree care

Consultations can be at your property, or shorter, less expensive private consultations can take place at the nursery. Mikl is available Wednesdays 10-6, Fridays, or other times by appointment. Eve's hours may be more flexible.

Call to Schedule: (303) 939-9403.

NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL:

Would you like to receive our newsletters by email? As the cost of printing and postage has gone up and as our forests continue to come down, we are hoping some of you will like to receive our mailings by email. Please go to our website at www.harlequingardens.com and click on the Subscribe link in the left margin of the home page, enter your name and addresses and press submit. Or leave your information at the front desk at Harlequin's Gardens any day except Monday.

And please remember: if your email changes, re-subscribe to remain on our mailing list..