

Harlequin's Gardens

Spring 2008 newsletter

www.harlequinsgardens.com

(303) 939-9403

Dear Friends and Fellow Gardeners,

Welcome to Spring, to another opportunity to care for Life on Earth, and to Harlequin's Gardens.

On our planet a wonderful evolution is happening amidst all the horrors: David Korten calls it "The Great Turning", Michael Franti calls it "The Dawning of Our Time", and Paul Hawken calls it "the fastest growing social movement in history." All over the world more than one hundred million humans are answering the call to save Planet Earth, and to build a world directed by Community rather than by special interests. This movement is a response to the need to save our earth for future generations, and to a changing view of how we relate to Nature and to each other. Cooperation is becoming recognized as a more mature environmental, social and political attitude than competition.

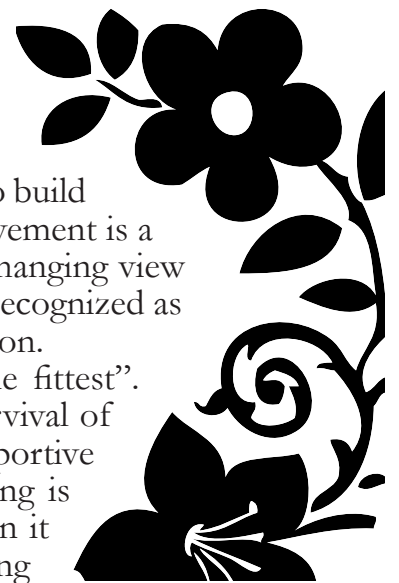
Darwin was misinterpreted when he referred to "survival of the fittest". What he meant was not survival of the biggest and the baddest, but survival of those that both fit into their environment and that fit into mutually supportive relationships with their neighbors. In fat times and in lean times, sharing is always how Nature has prospered. Even the lion does not kill more than it needs. We can learn from Nature's example of conservation, nutrient sharing and recycling. Of course gardeners are on the leading edge of this movement, sharing plants, seeds, stories, ideas and garden tours. But we have all been misled by the petroleum industry about how to provide nutrition and manage pests.

Harlequin's Gardens has been cultivating sustainability for 16 years. We are an organic nursery that neither uses nor sells pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Our large selection of plants focuses on natives, xeriscape and other Colorado-adapted plants, including over 200 varieties of sustainable roses. And we know that success in sustainable landscaping depends on proper guidance, so we have a knowledgeable staff to assist you, numerous display gardens to teach you by example, and specially selected amendments and other products to help keep your gardens healthy. So when you

shop at Harlequin's Gardens, you are supporting conservation of water and energy, poison-free gardening, and increasing populations of beautiful, strong plants, natives, birds, beneficial insects and butterflies. See our educational website www.harlequinsgardens.com for more on sustainability and plant ideas.

One of the most fundamental ideas about growing plants sustainably is that **vital plants come from vital soil**. Not only do the microorganisms in the soil support the nutrition of plants and, vital to Colorado clay, soil tilth and porosity; but, amazingly, **soil life has twice the capacity to capture carbon as life above ground**. This fact makes the support of soil life very valuable in reducing



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HERE ARE A FEW OF THE
SPECIALTY PLANTS WE
HAVE PROPAGATED THIS
YEAR

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

"Seafoam"- yellow variegated form

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

Eriogonum umb. 'Kannah Creek' - wonderful selection of native Sulfur Flower, mahogany winter foliage, long bloom

Phlox sub. 'Boothman's Variety' - tough creeping phlox, beautiful flowers are lavender with black and gold eye

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

Dianthus simulans - pettable mounds 6" high of tight foliage 12"-24" wide, few white flowers, low water, long lived

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

Penstemon pseudospectabilis - 3' high spikes of hot pink flowers, gray foliage turns purple red in fall, takes heat/drought

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

Veronica prostrata 'Dick's Wine' - purple pink flowers, evergreen ground cover, low water, 2"x24"; very nice

'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, lawn substitute?, white bracts

greenhouse gases and global warming. So for all these good reasons we are continuing to find good soil amendments and mulches for our Soil Food Café. Look for descriptions in this newsletter and on our website under Products.

This year we will be **opening for the season on Tuesday April 1st**. (That's **April Fool's Day**; what might happen? Only those who show will know.) And remember: Now **WE ARE OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK, 9-5, and Thursdays 9-6, and only closed Mondays**.

We invite you to come out not just to buy plants, but to visit our display gardens through the seasons, to learn and to enjoy. Feel free, as some people do, to bring your visiting friends and relatives for an outing, or to take one of our free tours. Our efforts, combined with our membership support, are creating this "seeing is understanding" educational program. Each year it is getting a little better. This year there's a new All Natives garden.

And naturally, in our enthusiasm for soil life, we have not forgotten plant life. This year we will be offering dozens of exciting new selections, 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 ornamental grasses and natives will also be thrilled with plants you won't find elsewhere. We ran out of veggies so fast last year we are doubling our offering this year. Our organic vegetable starts of many heirloom and superior varieties are carefully selected by Eve for flavor and adaptability to our short season with cool nights. The home-food lovers will also love our fruits and berries which are disease resistant, cold tolerant and good tasting. We have many hard-to-find varieties.

In addition, we will be hosting many excellent classes to improve your success with gardening in Colorado. See the listing of Classes and Events.

We are very fortunate to have a great staff this year who will be available to help you select the best plants for your particular garden needs. The more prepared you come with information about the sun exposure,

soil qualities, water availability and other plants doing well in the same area, the better we can help you. In addition, Eve and Mikl will be available at certain times for private consultations at your garden or at the nursery. Call for details.

We are also sending **2 Harlequin's cards** this year in hopes that you will give them to 2 friends or neighbors. Your recommendations have gotten us where we are now, and we would appreciate your help so that we can become economically sustainable.

This year's May Day Celebration will begin on Tuesday April 29 when the Plant Sale begins (including a special members-only section) which continues thru Sunday. On Saturday May 3 at 10:30 Kurt Reber will serenade us with his guitar, and at 12:30 Jeffrey Rodgers will entertain us with the hammered dulcimer. Then on Sunday May 4 (the last day of the sale) refreshments will be served and at 11 the Maroon Bells Morris Dancers will perform their lively, colorful ancient May Day dances, at 12 jig and reel to the Boulder Irish Session Band, and at 1pm come and be charmed by the Renaissance and Baroque music of La Belle Musique.

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.

Our staff, 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.

Be sure to check out our hours below. We're open late on Thursdays, so be sure to stop by after work.

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 now the new idea to finance our educational gardens and plant literature is MEMBERSHIP. This idea needs development, but here is our 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.2, member's sale begins Aug 26.

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 for making a new Ornamental Grasses Garden and an All Natives Garden. Also membership money helped to pay for weeding, watering and planting in our gardens. This year, free to members, will be the results of our 21 year test of very drought tolerant plants for Colorado; ask for it at the desk.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!!!

The Harlequin Effect: According to the EPA, "If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with an Energy Star-qualified Compact Florescent, it would prevent enough pollution to equal removing one million cars from the road."

MORE GREAT SELECTIONS AVAILABLE IN 2008

Helianthemum 'Dazzler' - Real red flowered Sunrose, 6"x18", green foliage, tough, drought tolerant, rock garden, self-seeds

Iberis sp. 'Dedal Dag' - wonderful Persian Candytuft; purple buds, white flowers, 4"-6" high, 24" wide, xeric, evergreen, tough

Jasmine Dianthus: D. petraeus noeanus - grassy mound, 6"x24", filagree white flowers, summer; rich perfume, drought tolerant

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

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

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

'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'

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

Giant Sacaton-Sporobolus wrightii - very ornamental native clump grass, 4'-7', 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

-----Continued on page 4

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

Mirabilis multiflora - Desert Four O'clock-fabulous rosy-purple trumpets in afternoon; 18"x48"; xeric

Aethionema caespitosa - Really blue evergreen foliage 1"x4", pink flowers; cute rock garden/trough plant, xeric

Pennisetum 'Hameln' - perennial fountain grass, 2' tall; showy white, coppery seed heads, low-water

Papaver croceum - wonderful rich yellow poppies all summer, 2' tall, low water, tough and lovely

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, very sculptural

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 green 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, 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

Liatris punctata - Foothills Gayfeather, purple-pink flowers, 12"-16" tall, butterfly magnet

Roses

We have 230 varieties of cold-hardy, Sustainable Roses on their own roots.

- Dentelle de Bruges* Very fragrant, profuse small white double flowers; 5'x5' shrub, repeats
- Nuit de Young* Very dark red old Moss rose, very double, very fragrant, suckers, very tough
- William Baffin* 8' shrub or climber, to zone 2, or 9000'; strawberry pink flowers, repeats
- Rose de Rescht* 4' compact, very fragrant, very double purple red flowers, repeats well
- Darlow's Enigma* Fabulous, fragrant, small, single white flowers, repeat; 8' rambler
- Adelaide Hoodless* Semi-double red Canadian, 4'-5', tough, showy; glossy foliage
- Complicata* Old Gallica, huge single bright pink flowers, climber/shrub 6'-8', very tough
- Reine des Violettes* Purple-pink double fragrant flowers, 5'; nearly thornless, some repeat
- The Alexandra Rose* Single flowers coppery pink/yellow, good repeat, 5', healthy, hardy
- Ghislaine de Feligonde* Small double orange-yellow-cream rambler; few thorns; reblooms
- Coral Meidiland* Single, coral-pink flowers in clusters, 3', excellent repeat; glossy foliage
- Royal Bonica* Double, deep rose flowers in small clusters, 3'; repeats well, healthy foliage
- Metis* Double raspberry pink flowers, beautiful foliage- red in fall, blooms July, suckering
- New Dawn* Vigorous, hardy climber to 12'; semi-double soft pink flowers, repeats, shade OK
- John Cabot* Zone 3 Canadian climber to 10', orchid pink flowers, shade tolerant, repeats
- Paul's Himalayan Musk* Famous fragrant rambler; robust! small lavender
- Rosa glauca* Species rose; small mauve single flowers, stunning purple foliage; 6', red hips
- Rosa pulverulenta* Sweetly fragrant light pink double flowers, arching cnes, long repeat
- Sweet Chariot* A miniature 2 1/2', small double mauve-purple fragrant flowers, repeats

Harlequin's Gardens loves the coalition of many colors, the diversity of many species, and the cumulative effect of small acts of kindness and cooperation.

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 08:

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

Garden Peach - OP 71 days, small yellow/pink peach-shaped juicy fruit, prolific, indeterminate

Peacevine - OP 78 days, gazillions of sweet 1", nutritious fruits, rampant vine, indeterminate

Fargo Yellow Pear - OP 82 days, larger fruit, crack-resistant, sweet, "tastes like a tomato"

Tomatoes - Old Favorites:

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

Sungold - F1 hybrid, 65 day, orange-gold 1 1/4" 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

Northern Delight - OP 65 day, 24" determinate, mellow, sweet, bred for short season

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

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

-----Continued on page 6

Peppers - New for 08:

California Wonder - OP 65 days, large, sweet blocky peppers, no sun scald, ripens red

Purple Beauty - OP 71 days, early deep purple, thick-walled bells, prolific, compact plant

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

Mulato Isleno - OP 76 days, Poblano/Ancho, mild, flavorful, 3"x6", perfect for rellenos

Lantern - brilliant scarlet hanging bell-shaped hot peppers; pasta/ornament; from Italy

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

Peppers - Old Favorites:

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

Turino - 68 day hybrid, profuse, sweet, delicious, no heat; 6" long, deep red, great roasted

Holy Mole - 85 day hybrid; med-hot mole' pepper; nutty, tangy, delicious; 7" long; brown

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

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 heriloom

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.

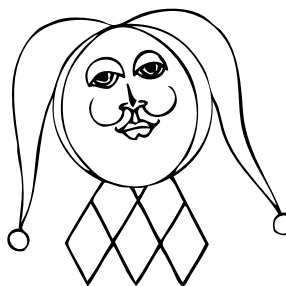
Menefee Humate 50 lb. bags, natural product; high concentration of trace minerals and humic acid for plant growth, development & uptake of vital nutrients. Gentle but effective.

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.

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.



Homes with automatic sprinkler systems use about twice as much water as those that irrigate with a hose and sprinkler. An irrigation controller is not efficient if you set it and forget it. Free Irrigation System inspections: Center for ReSource Conservation: 303-441-3278 x 17 or www.ConservationCenter.org.

Other Products Available at Harlequin's

- 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 \$.
- UV Natural Sunscreen** SPF 30 no titanium dioxide; no toxins; blocks 96%-98% UV for 4 hours. Mikl tested in '06 & '07 working outside all the time and liked it; no white face; no burn, #1 rated.
- Badger Sunscreen** SPF30 sunscreen rated #2 (out of 100s) for safety and effectiveness. Also uses Zinc oxide; less expensive. Bali Balm-soothing after too much sun. Quality ingredients, natural fragrances.
- 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 in July.
- 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.
- 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**

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

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

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

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

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

Aroma 1 - heavenly Genovese fragrance & flavor, slow to bolt, wilt-resistant, choice pesto

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

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

GREAT VEGGIES FOR CONTAINERS/ SMALL GARDENS:

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

Sweet Pickle - 65 day OP Sweet 2" peppers in dramatic colors, edible/ornamental; 12"-15"

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

Totem - Hyb. Tomato 75 days, upright plants 24"; 2 1/2" crimson fruit, prolific, good flavor

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

OTHER FOOD:

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

Classes and Events for 2008

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 to 20 people per class) and in case too few people register and we have to cancel the class. **45 minute free tours start at 1 pm.**

- APRIL 1** April Fool's Day (Fools are Welcome) **Open for the Season: Tuesday thru Sunday, 9-5; Thursday 9-6**
- APRIL 19** Saturday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Rock Garden** 1pm. Free.
- APRIL 29 - 30 & MAY 1 - 4** **Harlequin's Gardens Annual May Day Celebration and Plant Sale**
Plant Sale Tues. thru Sunday; on **Saturday May 3** from 10:30-12 guitarist and singer **Kurt Reber** will serenade us, and 12:30-2 **Jeffrey Rodgers** will play various musics on the hammered dulcimer. On **Sunday May 4** at 11 the **Maroon Bells Morris Dancers** will bring us fertility and merriment; then hear the lively **Boulder Irish Session Band** at 12 noon and at 1 pm **La Belle Musique** will entertain us with renaissance and baroque music.
- MAY 10** Saturday. **Practical Permaculture Design with Natalie Shrewsbury**
Learn the principles and practices of Permaculture for xeriscape and vegetable gardens. 1pm. \$10.
- MAY 18** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Plant Select Garden** 1pm. Free.
- MAY 24** Saturday. **Blossoms and Butterflies.** Join Jean Morgan and Jan Chu to learn about Boulder County butterflies. Includes a tour of plants that butterflies love. 1 pm. Free.
- JUNE 8** 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. Register and pay at bouldersustainability.org. 1-3 pm. \$25.
- JUNE 15** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Rose Garden with Eve Brawner** 1 pm. Free.
- JUNE 28** Saturday. **Managing Insect Pests and Identifying Beneficial Insects**
Carol O'Meara Master Gardener Coordinator, CSU Co-op Extension teaches this class. Identification and knowing when to do nothing are the basis of organic care. Carol is wise and fun. 1 pm. \$10.
- JULY 12** Saturday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: The Penstemon Garden** 1pm. Free.
- JULY 13** Sunday. **Opportunities and Tricks of Xeriscape with Mikl Brawner** 1-3 pm. \$25.
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. Register and pay at bouldersustainability.org.
- JULY 19** Saturday. **Mountain Gardening with Diane Badertscher**
Gardening above 6000' has its own challenges. There are certain plants and certain strategies that can improve you 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 20 & 27** Two Sundays. **Hypertufa Trough-Making with Christina and Veronica Kertesz** These fine gardeners led this workshop in '06 with great success. Bring work clothes, gloves, and a container to use as a mold. July 20 we will cast the troughs; July 27 we will return to finish and plant them. The best container for wee rock garden plants! 9 am-12 noon. \$45 (materials).
- JULY 26** Saturday. **Bob Nold**-author and courageous gardener will speak on "**Low to No Water Gardens**" with a focus on penstemons; and will sign his new book. Bob has grown nearly everything; come to get some new ideas, new plant leads and his new book. 1 pm. \$10.
- AUG 3 OR 10** 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 24** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: Native Shrubs** 1 pm. Free.
- AUG 26 - 31** **Members Fall Plant Sale**
- SEPT 2-7** Harlequin's **Annual Fall Plant Sale** for everyone begins. This sale continues every week in Sept (Closed Mondays).
- SEPT 21** Sunday. **Harlequin Garden Tour: Grasses Garden** 1 pm. Free.
- OCTOBER** Open only Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9-5. **The Sale continues...**

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 two new people to our staff.

Sylvia Smith has a masters in Natural Science. She has extensive knowledge of native plants, and has gardened organically and done xeriscaping for years. She lives above 8000' and so knows high altitude gardening. She has been a field guide for Boulder Co. Parks and Open Space. Sylvia works Wednesday thru Sunday.

Katie Kalins knows and loves wild birds and is enthusiastic about creating gardens that provide bird and wildlife habitat. She also has extensive background in customer service and teaching. Katie works Tuesday thru Saturday.

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 13 years (can that be possible?) Sharron works Fridays.

Diane Badertscher is a Master Gardener and star graduate of the Front Range Horticulture program. She is very knowledgeable about plants, especially shrubs, and her experience with gardening in the mountains at 8000' for 10 years is very valuable for mountain gardeners. She works Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

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 Tuesdays & Saturdays.

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.

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 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 that being the sixties, he went to India with the Peace Corps. Back in America, he managed a small organic apple orchard, and started a tree care business which he has continued for 30 years. 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, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and is available for consultations.

Our staff also includes **Lynn Strosburg**, who maintained our demo gardens beautifully last year and will be doing that again this year. Lynn does garden maintenance professionally: 303-564-1188. Also returning to maintain our demo gardens is **Heather Stone**, an herbalist who worked at HG until she had twins. **Kurt Reber**, our production manager, has a Masters in Music, is a talented performer and is available for lessons at 303-579-8594. And we're delighted to have occasional help from former staff members: **Marty Crigler**, **Natalie Shrewsbury**, **Carol Gerlitz**, **Juanita Hakala**, **Marilyn Kakudo**, **Zachary Smith** and **Engrid Winslow**.

Not on our staff, but living in our little blue house are **Amy** and **Angie** who are Certified Massage Therapists. Proper massage can benefit gardeners by increasing circulation, relieving sore muscle and tension, decreasing joint stiffness and revitalizing energy. They are available by appointment: Amy at 720-273-2203; Angie at 303-885-8513.

**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 this year. 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 and Thursdays 4-7 pm by appointment. Other times may be possible. 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.harlequinsgardens.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.