



Bear Creek Press

'Slipping into summer's simmer'

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2004

Sneering at the Heat

As summer progresses and the afternoons start feeling like the inside of a BBQ grill, our attention turns to our perennial friends who don't know how to wilt. These heat-lovers will tolerate sun, wind, humidity, scorching temperatures and won't need to be slathered with sun screen every morning. So, let's turn up the heat and peruse the Bear's list of Top Ten Heat-Loving Plants.

Aquatics. Water is not an issue with pond and bog plants, so just sit back and watch them grow. Iris, rushes, floaters, creepers and spreaders will highlight the pond without taxing your time.

Sedums and Sempervivums. Hens and chicks are heat and sun lovers by nature. These spreading plants make great groundcovers for hot sites and sandy soils.

Cannas. Big, bold and colorful, the canna will give any garden a tropical flare. The new, glossy red leaf 'Australia' is a standout in the mixed border.

Salvia. Both perennial and annual forms are available and all are heat tolerant, long blooming additions to the summer garden. New, hardy introductions like 'Black & Blue' provide months of color.

Herbs. Parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme and basil. Herbs are aromatic, deer-resistant and great to use as a garnish or in summer dishes. Need we say more? Yes! Try a few sprigs of rosemary on hot coals for an unique BBQ flavor.

Bamboo. A true heat-lover.

Both the shorter shade-tolerant species as well as the sun-loving timber bamboos enjoy heat and humidity. If space is an issue in your garden, most bamboos are well-suited to growing in a container.

Hibiscus. The hardy forms of hibiscus are stunning in the summer garden. Tolerant of heat and humidity, and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, hibiscus are covered with large flowers from early summer through fall. Newly introduced cultivars boast red leaves and larger flowers.

Ornamental Grass. Heat? Humidity? Deer? Summer storms? Nothing seems to stop the ornamental grasses from their summer show. With so many sizes, colors and textures to choose from, there is an ornamental grass to fit every garden.

Native Plants. These are the plants that were here before we were. The natives are well-adapted to local conditions, i.e., no soil and constantly shifting, extreme weather patterns. Try the long-lived yarrow or bee balm for a showy summer display.

Mexican Sage. Our all-time favorite fall bloomer, Mexican Sage, is a real head-turner in the late summer. This stately four-foot perennial has aromatic leaves that deter the deer, and flowers that practically glow in early September. Bump a mum and make room for Mexican Sage.

Nancy's New Clocks

If you have visited the Bear lately and wished you had sunglasses when you went inside, then you have seen Nancy's display of new clocks and thermometers.

Nancy Paddock has been quietly (and occasionally, not so quietly) developing unique creations in clay for many years. She has always used bright colors and original ornamentation to define her style. The playfulness of her pieces has been a constant theme.

The new batch is no exception — the distinct color glazes and hand-made designs are eye-popping. Geometric patterns and drawn glyphs further distinguish these fine pieces.

Take a moment to enjoy Nancy's new work on display — a place where fine art and whimsy share a fast, hot tango. And don't forget your sunglasses.

Bamboo

The way some people talk about bamboo in America, one would think that this important plant has been very naughty. "It's a weed! Uncontrollable! It will take over!". (People who talk this way at the Bear are typically hog-tied and ridden out of town on a bamboo rail.)

We worship bamboo at Bear Creek, since, after all, the roots of our roots lie in bamboo. Therefore, we propose a simple solution to improve the bamboo attitude: try growing bamboo in a container.

Most bamboos are forgiving plants and are well-suited to container culture. Many dwarf bamboos (did you know they even existed?) are perfectly sized for home use. Diminutive in stature and tough by nature, the shorter bamboos are quite happy in a shady garden spot or inside the house.

If you have the space, taller bamboo will grow well in containers also. Lean, green and graceful, bamboo will provide a texture and feel to the garden that no other plant can match. Try a boldly variegated form or a yellow-caned variety to really spice up your garden's sex appeal.

Procrastination Pays

All annuals are now on sale for 50%.

Annuals in flats, fancy annuals, flowering annuals, geraniums and mixed planters are all included in this terrific sale.

Get 'em while they last.

This specials are good through July 4. Celebrate your independence and the freedom to procrastinate by taking advantage of this summer sale.

Bear Creek Nursery

(479) 253-7466 • bamboos@cswnet.com
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Summer School

Put away your books, send the kids to Grandma and come join us for Summer School. Butterflies, natives, hypertufo and fall bloomers are a few of the topics that will be covered in our summer seminars. We'll keep the talk short and sweet and answer all your questions during these one-hour presentations. Bring a chair and a friend and we'll provide the air conditioning.

July 3. Gardening for the Butterflies

Our winged friends need help! This introduction to Butterfly Gardening will cover the basics of attracting butterflies to the garden. Learn the difference

between nectar plants and host plants from the butterfly's point of view.

July 17. Native Plants for the Ozark Garden

What is a native plant? And how can native plants benefit your garden? Join in a lively discussion on the definition of "Native Plants"! We'll show some garden-worthy natives and explain how to help them thrive in any yard.

July 31. Hypertufo Demonstration

Back by popular demand! An introduction to the tools and techniques used to make faux stone pots. We'll talk about the basics of mixing, forming and curing hypertufo pots.

August 14. Little Gardens: Planting A Hypertufo Container

So, you have made a cool hypertufo pot. Now what? Learn how to design and build a garden in a pot. We will demonstrate planting techniques and talk about appropriate plants. If you would like, bring your own pot to play with.

August 28. The Other Fall Bloomers: Perennials for the Autumn Garden

Mums may be the word for fall gardening — but what about all the other fall blooming perennials? Learn more about the other autumn flowering plants and how to add more color to the fall garden.

Classes begin at 10:00 am.

SPECIAL EVENTS and SUMMER SCHOOL

June 26 and 27	Customer Appreciation Weekend 20% off EVERYTHING
July 3	Gardening for the Butterflies
July 17	Native Plants for the Ozark Garden
July 31	Hypertufo Demonstration
August 14	Little Gardens: Planting a Hypertufo Container
August 28	The Other Fall Bloomers: Perennials for the Autumn Garden

*All events will take place at Bear Creek Nursery.
Call (479) 253-7466 for more details.*

Customer Appreciation Weekend

Stand up and be appreciated.

Everything **20% OFF**
Annuals **50% OFF**

June 26 and June 27



Bear Creek Nursery
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