

Trevose



Horticultural Society

Our 100th Year
www.trevosegardeners.org

APRIL 2023
NEWSLETTER



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 18
7 PM

BENSALEM SENIOR CENTER
"BEHIND THE SCENES
IN A THEME PARK"

PLANT SWAP/SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 20
11:30 AM
225 FRONT STREET
FEASTERVILLE, PA

Guest speaker, Heather Day, will share her experiences designing and planting Sesame Place's public gardens. She will discuss planting and maintaining their floral displays and vegetable gardens as well as producing their in-house composting and other aspects of the park's landscaping.



After majoring in Greenhouse, Flower Show and Landscaping in high school, Day received her Associates Degree in Environmental Science at BCCC. Following her employment at Sesame Place while attending college, Day worked in the horticulture department for eight years learning more about horticulture through a variety of experiences.

All meetings are open to the public; \$5 donation to observe. For further information, please contact 856/866-9163, browse our website www.trevosegardeners.org or follow us on Facebook.

Arranged by Cookie Woodson
Edited by Marie Cartwright

You are cordially invited to attend our Annual Plant Sale and Swap scheduled for May 20 at 11:30 AM. Cookie Woodson, THS vice-president, will be hosting the plant sale at her home at 225 Front Street, Feasterville, PA. Whether you are selling, swapping or just coming to socialize, it will be great to get out and say hello to fellow THS members.



Popular sellers are vegetables, house plants, and unique plants. In past years, tomato plants and pepper plants have always sold well. All of us have a few overgrown house plants that could be divided and brought to our plant sale. Please be sure that the plants you are bringing are rooted!

Please label and price all plants. All plants must be in clean pots. Include any useful information. Try to use the Horticultural names and common plant names. Bring boxes and plastic trays to carry home your swaps or purchases. All unsold plants and packaging materials must be removed by the person who brought them!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HELLO SPRING!

Spring has finally arrived and THS is gearing up for its annual Plant Sale on May 20 at Cookie's home starting at 11:30. It's a great way to pick up annuals and perennials from fellow THS members. Rosanne Payson (Ways and Means) is looking for flower pots so she can transplant specimens for the plant sale and our upcoming flower show August 18-19. You can bring your extra plastic or terra cotta pots to our next meeting on April 18. I know that Rosanne will appreciate any and all donations.



Just a reminder that we feature a Little Show every month! All are welcome! Ruth Dorn has entry cards for your specimens if you need them. Your Spring bulbs will be in full bloom this month so why not bring them to the next meeting? We want to see your tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, muscari, pussy willow and forsythia! Please use their botanical names, if possible. Let's fill the Senior Center with the colors and scents of Spring!

We will be taking orders for the NGC Vision of Beauty Calendars this month. Please see Lenis with your \$10 for a copy! It's full of great NGC designs. The calendar is a great source for ideas when creating a design. The calendar will arrive in September after the District XI Annual Meeting.

I'm happy to say that we have received several scholarship applications this year. Jim Kates and his committee will be reading over the applications and making their recommendations. Stay tuned for their results.

Don't forget Earth Day on April 22!

Enjoy your day!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our April 18 meeting!
Hope your taxes are done!

Happy Gardening!
Karen



Calendar for 2023

April 18
May 23
June 20
July 18
August 8
September 19
October 17
November 14
December 12

2023 Board Meetings

April ?
July 13
September 7

2023 THS Events

May 20
Annual Plant Sale

August 18-19
Annual Flower Show
"Rooted In History"

Fire Prevention
October 7 (tentative date)

2022 THS OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

OFFICERS

President - Karen Wychock
Vice-President - Karen "Cookie" Woodson
Treasurer - Lenis Van Aken
Recording Secretary
Aurea Almazan, General Meetings
Lenis Van Aken, Executive Meetings
Corresponding Secretary - Karen Wychock
Members at Large (4)
Choony Choi, Rae Glasgow and ???

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

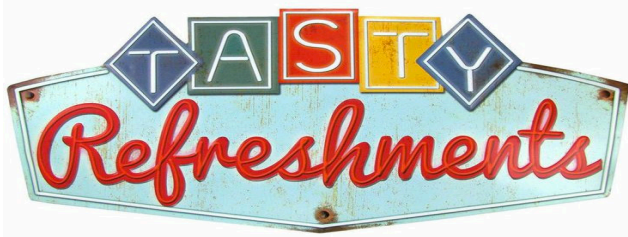
Adviser, Betty Sykes

District XI Representative

Karen Wychock

Flower Show Chair - Karen Wychock
Membership - Ruth Kurtz
Membership List - Marie Cartwright
Greeters - Choony Choi, Rae Glasgow
Historian - Lynn Kay
Little Show - Ruth Dorn and Ron Cliggett
Little Show Judges - Ruth Aumann,
Choony Choi and Rae Glasgow
Publicity - Marie Cartwright
Scholarship - Jim Kates
Awards - Unfilled
Ways and Means - Rosanne Payson
Picnic - Sally Irons, Rae Glasgow
Spotlight - Phyllis Ford





Refreshments anyone?

As a member of the Trevoise Horticultural Society, everyone is expected to volunteer for refreshments once a year. Please sign up at one of our upcoming monthly meetings.

April 18

Lori Mueller, Diana Raudenbush, Karen Wychock

May 16

Dee Crawford, Alice Szarek, Choony Choi

June 20

Linda East, Liz Arnold, Carolyn Shaun

July 18

Lynn Contino

August 8

Lisa Contino
Ruth Dorn

September 19

Phyllis Ashcraft, Phyllis Dietz, Phyllis Ford

October 17

Ruth Kurtz, Dick Longcoy, Betty Sykes

November 14

Arleen Patton, Ruth Gabel, Ron Cliggett

December 12

Holiday Party! Everyone brings!

**DISTRICT XI/GCFP
2023
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



April 2023

April 13-15 Flower Show School Number III
Doubletree Hotel, Plymouth Meeting

April 21-23

GCFP Annual Convention, Monroeville, PA

Sunday, April 23rd

1:00 to 3:30PM, Old York Road Garden Club
Open House at the Richard Wall House, Wall Park
Drive, Elkins Park for a Herb Garden Plant Sale

May 2023

Sunday, May 7th 10 AM to 3 PM

The Outdoor Gardeners will be offering pre-planted hypertufas and annual baskets and an extensive range of perennials for purchase at Chestnut Hill Day on Germantown Ave. Proceeds fund their outreach and educational programs for the year.

Saturday, May 13, 9AM to 1 PM

Swedesford Garden Club will hold their annual fund raiser plant sale at the North Wales Library, 233 Swartley St, North Wales, PA.

Saturday, May 13th 9AM to 3PM

Gardeners of the Crooked Billet will have their Plant and Book Sale at Hatboro's Union Library, 243 S. York Road, Hatboro, PA.

May 18th District Meeting, Giant in Willow Grove

(Note change of venue) 9 a.m.

Registration and social time, meeting and program at 10 a.m.

Program "Busting Garden Myths" by Jane Klotz





Trevoze Horticultural Society
Rooted In History

Standard Flower Show
August 18-19, 2023

The Trevoze Horticultural Society is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Trevoze is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. Our most ambitious endeavor is the staging of our annual Standard Flower Show which will take place on August 18 and 19, 2023. This year's theme is "Rooted in History." Funds generated from this event help to support annual scholarships awarded to deserving tristate area college students who are majoring in horticulture related studies.

To help defray the cost of our show, we are asking for donations from our members and from area businesses to create 15-20 beautiful gift baskets. Would you please consider donating a gift certificate or item for our baskets? We would greatly appreciate any and all donations. Please phone Karen Wychock (chairperson) at 215-460-8853 if you are able to help support our show. You can also mail a gift certificate to her directly at 108 Lyric Way, Warrington, PA 18976.

If you are interested in taking out an ad in our flower show schedule you can do so. A full page ad runs \$100. A half-page ad runs \$55. A business card runs for \$35. Please contact Alice Szarek at 215-357-8789 if you have any questions.

Thank you for considering our request to make a donation toward our flower show. We hope to see you at this year's show, "Rooted In History!"

St. Ephrem Catholic Church
5400 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, PA 19020
August 18-19, 2023
Friday 4-8 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 4:30 PM

ADMISSION IS FREE

Over 135 classes of Horticulture, competitive Floral Designs, a Junior Division, Educational Exhibits, Garden Market and Bake Sale!

Trevoze Horticultural Society
2023 NGC Small Standard Flower Show

THS



ROOTED IN HISTORY

Friday, August 18
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday, August 19
10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
ADMISSION FREE

St. Ephrem Catholic Church
5400 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, PA 19020

Over 135 classes of Horticulture, Competitive Floral
Designs, a Junior Division, Educational Exhibits,
Garden Market and Bake Sale!

You're invited to celebrate Trevoze Horticultural Society's 100th Birthday on August 18-19, 2023. Our show, entitled "Rooted In History," will once again take place at St. Ephrem Church on Bensalem, PA.

In 1923, Mr. Jay V. Hare, Secretary of the Reading Railroad, persuaded a number of his friends and associates to join him in putting on a flower show in the village of Trevoze where he had his home. At that time, Lower Bucks County was real countryside with wide vistas of rolling green acres. In these surroundings, Jay Hare found his avocation in the pursuit of horticulture, as did his neighbors; Mr. Garrett V. Clark, an executive with the Buchanan Printing Company of Philadelphia, and Mr. Charles S. Randall, an outstanding grower of dahlias and other flowers. For the next 18 years these three men led the fledgling Trevoze Horticultural Society in Pennsylvania. We now find ourselves celebrating our 100th birthday! What an amazing accomplishment. Whether you have been a THS member for many years, or a member for a few months, we are happy to have you as a participating member of the Trevoze Horticultural Society.

As usual, we need your help in making this another great flower show! Please consider volunteering your time to the

show in a way that fits your interests and time. Can you help set up the show? Can you donate a gift basket? Can you volunteer to clerk the show? Can you act as a hostess/host? We have a job for everyone!

Gift Baskets: Ruth Kurtz is once again chairing the gift baskets. We all love "end of the season sales" so please keep your eyes open for all of those great buys. We have people of different ages and people with different interests attending our show. We are asking you to put together a themed basket with approximately \$50 worth of items and bring it to the show. If you have an individual item or want to make a cash donation toward a basket, please bring them to the meeting. If you have any questions or want to discuss an idea, please call Ruth Kurtz at 215-674-9720 or email her at rek302@gmail.com.



Donation Letters: In trying to complete our gift baskets, we ask local businesses for donations. Donations may be in the form of gift cards to local garden centers, building supply stores, restaurants, etc. A letter of introduction is already written for you and available from Karen Wychock at all meetings.

Market Place/Food Table: As usual we need homemade food items such as cakes, cookies, candy, jams and jellies! Visitors love homemade goodies! Our "white elephant" table can also use donations. Rummage through your closets, attic and garage for any unwanted garden pots, hand tools, garden decorations, books and jewelry! Please see Ruth Dorn with any questions.

Plant Table: Our visitors are always lined up for one of Choony Choi's great floral designs! She can always use vases, potted plants, and cut flowers/greens from our gardens.

Hospitality: As always, we need greeters! Our visitors need a warm welcome from one of our members. A smile goes a long way when someone is not quite sure of their surroundings. Won't you help in donating an hour of your time? If available, please contact Phyllis Dietz at 215-676-1375.

Clerks: Have you ever dreamt of following the judges around our show? If so, your dream has come true! Simply let Karen know that you would like to be a clerk at this year's show! No experience necessary!

Challenge Seeds: You can pick up the challenge seeds at our monthly meeting. These seeds are available for any member who would like to try to grow them and enter the specimens in our August Show. Challenge seeds this year include a flower: Zinia (Purple Prince), a vegetable: Squash (White Bush Scallop) and an herb: Dill. (Compatto Dwarf).

Please welcome Ginny, Marge and Janice to THS!

Virginia (Ginny) Levin
5925 Mt. vernon Circle
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-620-2622
glevin@592@comcast.net

**MEM-
BER
-SHIP**

Marge Colosimo
792 Newbury Court
Southampton, PA 18966
267-567-2680
margecolosimo@verizon.net

Janice Malloy
594 South Mt. Vernon Circle
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-244-1999
jemalloymt@hotmail.com

To those who celebrate...



2024 VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

A Flower Arrangement and Engagement Calendar
created by
the National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Please fill out the form below and return it to Lenis
Van Aken with your \$10.

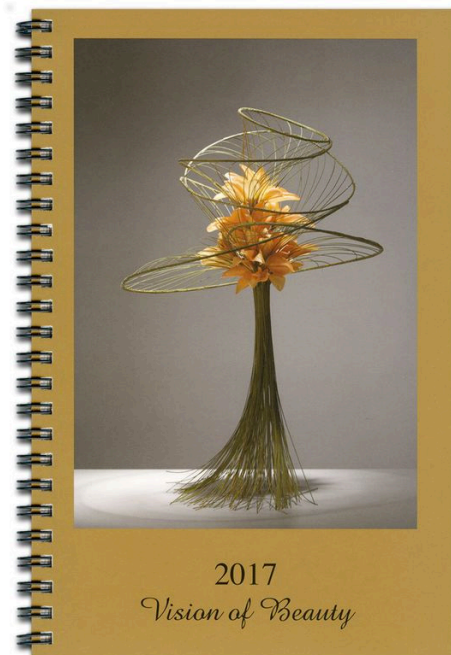
Deadline for ordering is May 16, 2023.

Vision of Beauty Calendars \$5.00 (Checks made out to THS)

NAME: _____

Number of Copies: _____

TOTAL: _____



Trevose Horticultural Society
Garden Party
Plant Sale



Saturday, May 20
11:30-2:30 PM
225 Front Street
Feasterville, PA
Rain or Shine!

Annuals, perennials, houseplants and vegetables

Membership Dues
Your 2023-24 dues are now due.

Send your check to:

Lenis VanAken
68 Murray Road
Holland, PA 18966-1740



Membership cards will be available at our next meeting for those whose dues payment is received prior to the meeting.

THS 2023-24 MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENT

_____ Individual (\$30) _____ Family (\$40)

Name: _____ Birth Date (Month/Day): _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Please note any change in information from last year)

PLEASE WRITE YOUR CHECK OUT TO TREVOSE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (THS)
ENCLOSE THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK

SPONSOR REQUEST FORM FOR FLOWER SHOW BOOK

In order to insure that you are included in the Sponsorship of our 2023 Standard Flower Show, we ask that you support the show by being a sponsor, or memorializing a dear friend or relative or in celebration of an event by returning the completed form below along with your donation to:

Lenis VanAken
68 Murray Road
Holland, PA 18966-1740

PLEASE INCLUDE ME AS A SPONSOR IN THE 2023 THS FLOWER SHOW BOOK
(RETURN BY APRIL 18, 2023)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

SPONSOR'S NAME IF DIFFERENT: _____

“IN MEMORY OF” or “IN CELEBRATION OF” (SPECIFY EVENT: ANNIVERSARY, ETC.)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____



BIRTH MONTH FLOWERS AND THEIR MEANINGS

Long before email, texting, instant messages or even phone calls, people used flowers to communicate. The language of flowers — also known as floriography — was popular in the 18th and 19th century. While we now have more ways to communicate, the messages told with flowers are as meaningful today as ever. Each birth month flower has a unique meaning, and is sure to make the recipient feel extra special.



April's birth flowers are the daisy and the sweet pea. The daisy symbolizes purity, true love and innocence. There are five common types of daisies with petals ranging in color from white to pink, around a bold yellow center. In Old English, people called daisies the “day’s eye,” since the petals closed around the yellow center at night and reopened during the day. Daisies are great flowers to show your undying love.

Sweet peas symbolize blissful pleasure. Sweet peas are known for their sweet fragrance, and are a great way to make your home smell like spring!

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING THS MEMBERS:

April 8 Amethyst Bush
April 24 Karen Wychock
April 30 Lenis Van Aken





GARDEN CHATTER

YOUR APRIL "TO DO" LIST

Plant pansies, snapdragons, dianthus and dusty miller for early-spring color.

Plant new trees, shrubs and perennials and transplant/divide existing ones.

Plant any of the edibles that could have been planted in March. Or make a second planting of any of these for a staggered harvest.

If you under did it with bulbs, add instant spring color by planting blooming, potted bulb plants from the garden center. These are ideal for early-spring flower pots, too.

Start cutting back early bulbs, but only after the foliage has at least begun to yellow. Brown is better.

It's OK to snip off flower stalks as soon as the blooms fade.

From mid-month on (once soil has warmed a bit), mulch new beds and cultivate and top off mulch on beds that were mulched in previous years.

Direct-seed beets and carrots.

Immediately after blooming, prune early-spring-flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia, redbud, star magnolia, viburnum, cherry, pear and bridal wreath spirea. Evergreen hedges also can be sheared.

Early in the month, prune roses right before new growth gets going. Start your spraying and fertilizing program as soon as the roses leaf out.

De-thatch, aerate and/or rake lawn, if needed. Begin cutting as grass begins growing. After the first cut or two, move the height up to 2½ to 3 inches. Cut high all summer.

This is a great month to seed thin or dead patches in the

lawn. (Do NOT use crabgrass preventer if seeding new grass.) Use sod for quick spot patching.

Dig out or spot-spray weeds. Last chance to put crabgrass preventer on lawn (except for Dimension, which can go on in May).



Apply weed preventers such as Preen or corn gluten to shrub and perennial beds.

Late in the month, fertilize lawn. Also fertilize trees, shrubs and perennials if you didn't do it in March. This is a good time to do a soil test of your lawn and gardens if you haven't done it in a few years. This will tell you exact fertilizer needs.

Scout for pest problems and treat as needed.

Watch for aphids on roses, burning bush and many other ornamentals; tent caterpillars on fruit trees; weevils on pines and spruce; mites on spruce and psyllids on boxwoods.

Begin regular spraying program for fruit trees. Do not use insecticides on fruit trees when they're blooming to avoid killing pollinating bees.

Begin feeding outdoor fish as they come out of dormancy and come to the surface. Remove pond heater and reconnect pumps for fountains and waterfalls.

Resume feeding houseplants. Wait until mid-May, though, to begin moving them outside for summer.

Remember, still no digging the soil whenever it's soggy. Wait until it dries a bit.

George Weigel
<https://georgeweigel.net>

WHY ARE PALM BRANCHES USED ON PALM SUNDAY?

(www.learnreligions.com/palm-branches-bible-story-summary-701202)

By Jack Zavada

Updated on January 09, 2020

Palm branches are a part of Christian worship on Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, as it is sometimes called. This event commemorates Jesus Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, as foretold by the prophet Zechariah.



The Bible tells us that people cut branches from palm trees, laid them across Jesus' path and waved them in the air as he entered Jerusalem the week before his death. They greeted Jesus not as the spiritual Messiah who would take away the sins of the world, but as a potential political leader who would overthrow the Romans. They shouted "Hosanna [meaning "save now"]], blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

All four Gospels include the account of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem:

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him.

They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt." (John 12:12-15)

PALM BRANCHES IN ANCIENT TIMES

Date palm, (*Phoenix dactylifera*), tree of the palm family (*Arecaceae*) is cultivated for its sweet edible fruits. The date palm has been prized from remotest antiquity and may have originated in what is now Iraq. The fruit has been the staple food and chief source of wealth in the irrigable deserts of North Africa and the Middle East. Spanish missionaries carried the tree to the New World in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Date palms are grown in the Canary Islands, northern Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan, India, Mexico, and the U.S. state of California.



Dates have a long shelf life, and many varieties, including the common deglet noor, are often sold dried and processed. The dried fruit is more than 50 percent sugar by weight and contains about 2 percent each of protein, fat, and mineral matter. Other types of dates, such as the medjool, are eaten as fresh produce and gradually shrink and wrinkle as they age.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The date palm grows about 23 meters (75 feet) tall. Its stem, strongly marked with the pruned stubs of old leaf bases, terminates in a crown of graceful, shining, pinnate leaves about 5 meters (16 feet) long. Floral spikes branch from the axis of leaves that emerged the previous year. Male and female flowers are borne on separate plants. Under cultivation the female flowers are artificially pollinated. The date is a one-seeded fruit, or drupe, usually oblong but varying much in shape, size, color, quality, and consistency of flesh, according to the conditions of culture and the variety. More than 1,000 dates may appear on a single bunch weighing 8 kg (18 pounds) or more.

The tree is propagated either from seeds or from suckers, offshoots that arise chiefly near the base of the stem in the early years of the life of the palm. Offshoots are used for commercial plantings. When offshoots are three to six years old and have formed roots of their own, they are removed and planted. Palms begin to bear fruit in 4 to 5 years and reach full bearing at 10 to 15 years, yielding 40 to 80 kg (90 to 180 pounds) or more each. Palms are known to live as long as 150 years, but their fruit production declines, and in commercial culture they are replaced at an earlier age.

USES

All parts of the date palm yield products of economic value. Its trunk furnishes timber; the midribs of the leaves supply material for crates and furniture; the leaflets, for basketry; the leaf bases, for fuel; the fruit stalks, for rope and fuel; the fiber, for cordage and packing material; and the seeds are sometimes ground and used as stock feed. Syrup, alcohol, vinegar, and a strong liquor are derived from the fruit. The sap is also used as a beverage, either fresh or fermented, but, because the method of extraction seriously injures the palm, only those trees that produce little fruit are used for sap. When a palm is cut down, the tender terminal bud is eaten as a salad.

Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq are the leading date-producing and date-exporting countries, although fruit from Algeria and Tunisia also is well known in Europe. California is the major American producer. The date palm is grown as an ornamental tree along the Mediterranean shores of Europe, and its leaves are used for the celebration of Palm Sunday among Christians and for the celebration of Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles) among Jews.

Date palms are majestic, tall trees that grow abundantly in the Holy Land. Their long and large leaves spread out from the top of a single trunk that can grow to more than 50 feet in height. In Bible times, the finest specimens grew at Jericho (which was known as the city of palm trees), Engedi, and along the banks of the Jordan.

In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness, well-being, grandeur, steadfastness, and victory. They were often depicted on coins and important buildings. King Solomon had palm branches carved into the walls and doors of the temple:

On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. (1 Kings 6:29)

Palm branches were regarded as tokens of joy and triumph and were customarily used on festive occasions (Leviticus 23:40, Nehemiah 8:15). Kings and conquerors were welcomed with palm branches being strewn before them and waved in the air. Victors of Grecian games returned to their homes triumphantly waving palm branches in their hands.

HELLEBORE

THE LENTEN ROSE



As their common names suggest, hellebores are cold season bloomers - either the earliest or the latest flowers of the year, depending on what zone you're in and whether you go by the calendar or the spring equinox. The Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*) may start anytime from November through January. The Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) gets going later in February or March. Both species have an unusually long season of bloom, typically six weeks or more.

Hellebores are usually planted from potted nursery specimens, even when purchased from online retailers. Hellebore seeds are available, but they are sold in seed packets that include a mix of colors. If you want a particular variety, you will need to purchase potted nursery starts because they have either been selected or hybridized for specific colors.

Hellebores are very easy to grow in shady conditions where most plants struggle, provided they have some shelter from harsh winter winds. The only real maintenance the plants require is a little cleanup of their fading leaves. If foliage is winter-worn, it can be cut back to basal growth in the spring, before flowering.

Hellebores prefer partial to full shade. They can handle spring sun, but plant them in a spot that will become shadier as trees and other plants flush out. They grow best in soil that is rich with organic matter and well-draining. If your soil is acidic, consider adding lime, as hellebores prefer neutral or even alkaline conditions. Although they like some moisture, hellebores should not be allowed to sit in wet soil for a prolonged time or they will rot. Once established, they can handle drier soil. Hardiness will vary with species, but you can find hellebore suitable for USDA zones 3 to 9—most are hardy as far north as zone 4 or 5. In colder climates, protect hellebores from harsh winter winds. Hellebores tolerate a wide range of humidity.

TYPES OF HELLEBORE

Hellebore is not to be confused with false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*). There are many wonderful hellebore varieties, often sold in a mix of colors. More and more hybrids are being offered in single colors. Here are some favorites:

'Anna's Red': This plant has rich red-purple blooms and leaves that are veined with pink. It is suitable for zones 4 to 9.

'Winter Jewels Amber Gem': Unique golden blossoms are edged with pink. Grow this plant in zones 5 to 8.

'Phillip Ballard': This variety has dark blue, almost black flowers. It can be grown in zones 6 to 9.

'Citron': This plant has unusual primrose yellow blooms and is suitable for zones 6 to 9.

'Angel Glow': The cultivar has pale pink flowers that fade to green as they age. Grow it in zones 6 to 8.

'Wester Flisk': These plants have a red tinge to the stems and leaf stalks. Flowers are greenish, edged with red and purple. It is suitable for USDA zones 6 to 9.

PRUNING

The best time to prune hellebore is in late winter or early spring, when new growth begins to appear on your plant. The new growth should appear among the old leaves. When it does, cut away the old growth with sharp pruning shears. Cut the growth as close to the base as possible.

PROPAGATING HELLEBORE

Hellebores can be propagated by division. The best time to divide is in early spring before they flower. It is easiest to dig the entire plant and shake or wash off the soil so you can see where the buds are on the crown. Make sure each division has at least 2 buds. (*Helleborus foetidus* and *Helleborus argutifolius* do not divide well and are best started from seed.)

Most varieties will reseed, but hybrids may produce seeds that don't "come true" to the parent plant. Seeds may produce plants that resemble one of the parent species, not the hybrid. You can move the seedlings to another location in the garden once they are large enough to handle and have developed true leaves.

PUSSY WILLOW A VALUABLE NATIVE PLANT

THE AMERICAN PUSSY WILLOW IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW A NATIVE PLANT PROVIDES HABITAT AND SUPPORTS NATIVE WILDLIFE.

([EXTENSION.PSU.EDU/PUSSY-WILLOW-A-VALUABLE-NATIVE-PLANT](https://extension.psu.edu/pussy-willow-a-valuable-native-plant))



Several years ago, a friend stopped by my garden with one pussy willow twig in her hand. She told me to just stick it into some damp soil and it would grow. I picked a spot in a slightly damp area, and stuck it in. It quickly took root and leafed out, and my pussy willow bush was born. It produced catkins the very next year, and, for a while, I would cut them all off to bring inside. Eventually, I began to learn about the many values of native plants, and started reading about my pussy willow. I learned that it is an American Native whose botanical name is *Salix discolor*, hardy in zones 4-8.

It likes to grow in damp soil and will grow very deep taproots that take up a lot of water. For this reason, it is a great plant to include in a rain garden or any place that tends to stay wet after a heavy rain. Unlike many Pennsylvania native plants, it does not require acidic soil.

It is Dioecious (die A shus), meaning that male and female parts are found on different plants. The males have the larger, showier catkins, while the female catkins tend to be smaller and greenish. What most people think of as pussy willows are actually the flowering parts of the plant. Those fuzzy "fur coats" are keeping the reproductive parts of the plant warm. Some birds, especially hummingbirds, use that fuzzy softness to line their nests.

If you like to save the catkins for a spring decoration in the house, cut them before the pollen appears, and do not put them in water. They will dry, and stay nice for years. They are also nice to use in outdoor pots for accent and height with other spring flowers.



However, be sure to just take a few, and leave the rest if you enjoy seeing butterflies and songbirds in your garden. The fact that the pussy willow blooms so early makes it a very valuable food source for wildlife. The early March catkins provide one of the first-of-the-season nectar sources for pollinators. The insects, in turn, provide a smörgåsbord for songbirds. The birds, especially chickadees and goldfinches, flock to the bush looking for dinner. The insects provide much-needed protein.

You know you have a male plant when the catkins begin to look yellow. This is the pollen that is being held on the tips of the now-formed anthers. The willow cannot be pollinated by wind. It needs insect pollination, and the insects are quickly drawn to its strongly scented nectar. Now is when the bird watching entertainment begins!

FORSYTHIA FORSYTHIA FORSYTHIA



Often called a harbinger of spring, forsythia bursts into a vibrant display of bright yellow blooms before any of its foliage emerges. This creates stunning spots of golden color throughout landscapes, breaking up the drab snow-covered ground with a promise of what's to come. With newer varieties that offer smaller, more manageable sizes, every landscape should have a forsythia to break out of the late winter blahs.

Late winter always makes gardeners antsy for spring. You've had your first few warm days and the sun is finally shining, but the weather is still too unsure to begin much else other than starting seeds indoors. Forsythia relishes this season, as if it's just as antsy to get started as any gardener. This shrub bursts into bloom in late winter, often when the ground is still covered in a blanket of snow and little else is showing signs of life. With their rich golden blooms, in shades from pale yellow to rich gold, these plants stand out. The foliage of forsythia is nothing particularly noteworthy. A deep green in color, the serrated leaves act as a neutral backdrop for perennials and annuals. After a good growing season, you can usually see some deep purple fall color just before the leaves fall.

These spring-blooming knockouts are easy to grow and quite adaptable. Forsythias prefer well-drained, evenly moist soil, but they are pretty tolerant of many different soil types. They can also handle drought fairly well once established and can even get along just fine in clay soils. For the best blooms, make sure to plant your forsythias in full sun. These versatile shrubs can handle part shade, but you will generally have fewer blooms come spring. The chance of fall color is also diminished in more shade.

PRUNING FORSYTHIA

Forsythias have a graceful natural growth habit that can be ruined with improper pruning. Because most varieties on the market today are a hybrid of a weeping type and a more upright shrub, they tend to have a slightly weeping habit that some may perceive as messy. To fix this, people tend to shear their forsythias, which works fine, but as new growth comes, it tends to be even messier. Sheared forsythias will benefit from regular shaping to maintain a neat habit. This should be done right after blooming to prevent removing any future buds.

The best way to keep forsythias maintained and to conserve their original habit is by selectively pruning out old wood after blooming. Remove any branches that look old and woody at the base of the plant. This will encourage the plant to branch at the base, preventing any erratic new growth from cut stems. If plants are truly out of control or just messy, forsythias can be refreshed with a harsh rejuvenation pruning. This can be done by cutting back the entire shrub to just above ground level. Harsh pruning will encourage the whole plant to re-flush, and can also bring back their old habit if the shrubs had been pruned poorly in the past.



Please consider taking part in our Little Show each month! We always offer 2 design classes and several horticulture classes. It's a great way to practice for our Annual Flower Show. Ruth Dorn always has entry cards available for you to use.

TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR MONTHLY LITTLE SHOW!

APRIL LITTLE SHOW

DESIGN - 'SMALL BEGINNINGS'

1. Small design (minimum 8" high, not to exceed 12" high)
2. Anything Goes

HORTICULTURE

3. Daffodil, trumpet, 1 bloom
4. Daffodil, short cup, 1 bloom
5. Daffodil, any type, 1 bloom
6. Daffodil, 3 blooms, 3 varieties
7. Tulip, 1 bloom
8. Any other bulb in bloom
9. Flowering branch, 1 specimen
10. Any other flowering specimen, 3 stems
11. Any flowering pot up to 12", 1 specimen



MAY LITTLE SHOW

DESIGN - 'SINK OR SWIM'

1. Underwater Design
2. Anything Goes

HORTICULTURE

3. Cactus, 1 specimen, any size pot
4. Azalea, 1 spray
5. Rhododendron, 1 truss
(A truss is a cluster of flowers growing on one stem - not a branch!)
6. Flowering branch
7. Peony, 1 bloom
8. Spring flowering bulb, any type, 1 bloom or stem
9. Lily of the Valley, 3 stems
10. Iris, 1 stem or stalk
11. Perennial, other than listed above, 1 specimen
12. Collection of Spring flowering material from your garden, 3 or more varieties. Supply a list.
13. You decide! Anything Goes!

