

# Village Garden Center

## & Landscape Service

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### *TRICYRTIS - THE TOAD LILY*

*If you can't grow orchids, try a Toad Lily*

This perennial plant is so easy to grow it's not even funny. It's very frost-hardy, and it's tough enough to grow in Zones 4 to 9 which means it can easily grow outdoors in the toughest winter climates. If you're not familiar with Tricyrtis also known somewhat unfairly as the Toad Lily, this is a plant you'll want in your garden.

#### Stunning Flowers

The very thick, waxy, and orchidlike flowers add a bit of the tropics to any garden, and are very attractive in their colorings and shapes which range from star, bell, or funnel-shaped set amidst dark green and attractive foliage.

#### Growing Requirements

Toad lilies like rich, well composted, moist soil and as long as they get part shade and are kept moist, they can grow in almost any climate.

Tricyrtis are great grown with hostas and ferns underneath trees in a woodland setting.

#### Growth Characteristics

Toad lilies grow to be 2 to 3 feet (.61 to 1 m) tall and as wide, so they are a good size for containers or smaller garden areas. Tricyrtis also make great cut flowers so you can have orchidlike flowers in floral arrangements which lends a bit of the exotic to your other more ordinary cut flowers.

#### Several Varieties Available

As Tricyrtis plants gain in popularity, all kinds of great new varieties are being developed with flowers ranging from delicate pink, maroon, purple, yellow, and white, some of which include:

'Raspberry'

'Moonlight Treasure'

'Imperial Banner'

'Seiryu'

'Taipei Silk'

Blooms in late Summer/fall and is hardy to USDA Zones 4-9



## SHASTA DAISIES

### HOW TO PLANT, GROW, AND CARE FOR SHASTA DAISIES

The cheerful shasta daisy is a classic perennial.

It looks similar to the familiar roadside daisy but has larger and more robust blooms. Here's how to grow shasta daisies in your garden!

Shasta daisies tend to bloom in clumps from 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide. They bear all-white daisy petals, yellow disk florets, and contrasting glossy, dark green leaves.

Like clockwork, shasta daisies return every spring or early summer and bloom until early fall. They are never invasive (like some consider roadside daisies to be) and they are terrific for cutting.



#### PLANTING

Grow in full sun.

Soil should be moderately fertile, not overly rich, and moist but well-drained.

Sow seeds in containers in a cold frame in autumn or spring. Divide perennials in early spring or late summer.

If you seed directly, expect blooms the following spring after one season's growth.

If purchasing a plant in a container, plant in spring.

Loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost.

Space plants 1 to 2 feet apart. Dig a hole twice the diameter of the container.

When placing plant in the hole, make sure the top of the root ball is level with the soil surface.

Fill around the root ball and firm the soil.

Water thoroughly.

Many of the taller plants need support/staking.

#### CARE

Water during the summer only if rainfall is less than 1 inch per week.

After the first killing frost, cut stems back to an inch or two above the soil line. (See local frost dates.)

Every spring, apply some compost and mulch to help control weeds.

Every 3 to 4 years, divide perennials again in early spring or late summer.

#### PESTS/DISEASES

Aphids, slugs, earwigs, chrysanthemum nematode, and leaf spots may be troublesome. However, daisies are generally low maintenance.

Daisies are one of the April birth flowers.

They are also said to symbolize innocence and hope.



## *Helianthus salicifolius 'First Light'* *Willowleaf sunflower or swamp sunflower*

An explosion of golden yellow flowers combined with a manageable height makes this a superior selection. Despite its name, this plant can be found literally blanketed in flowers in the late summer and into the fall when most other *Helianthus* are past.

Flowers form on upright, self-supporting stems but instead of the typical tall sunflower, *Helianthus 'First Light'* forms a nice, compact clump of fuzzy, linear leaves topping out just above 3 feet.

### *Helianthus salicifolius 'First Light' Growing and Maintenance Tips*

Prefers average, well-drained soils. Grows best with added moisture but can tolerate drought. Allow stalks and seed heads to remain for winter interest and for food for birds. Divide clumps in spring or fall every 3 to 4 years. Any seeds produced by this cultivar will reportedly be sterile.

### *Willowleaf sunflower Interesting Notes*

Hundreds of golden-yellow flowers with dark brown eyes form in midfall on upright, self-supporting plants. Narrow elongated foliage. Stunning explosion of color for fall gardens. More manageable plant height than other Sunflowers. Birds enjoy the seeds. Better Homes and Gardens magazine proclaimed 'First Light' the surprise star of the fall season in their test garden.



*Helianthus salicifolius 'First Light'* was introduced in 2002 by Must Have Perennials™. Unlike its parent, which grows eight-feet tall and has a loose and open habit, 'First Light' is a fireplug of a plant reaching only three feet in height. As the common name suggests, the foliage of the willowleaf sunflower is narrow, linear and tightly arranged on a strongly pyramidal plant.

After most annuals and perennials have faded, 'First Light' explodes into bloom in late September and early October engulfing the plant with three-inch sunflower-like flowers. The golden-yellow ray flowers surround a chocolate-brown central eye and persist for several weeks. When in flower, the plant resembles a small Christmas tree aglow with bright yellow lights.

The showy flowers attract butterflies and if allowed to remain on the plant, seed heads add winter interest and a source of food for birds. Maintenance is minimal throughout the growing season; however, after three years plants benefit from division.



Height  
3-4 Feet

Spread  
2-3 Feet

Bloom Color  
Yellow

USDA Hardiness Zone 5-9a

*Boltonia asteroides 'Snowbank'*  
*False aster or white doll's daisy*

Zillions of lacy white daisies top long stems of fine-textured silver blue foliage in late summer and early fall. An undemanding native plant that is surprisingly tolerant of drought and flood.

Height  
4-5 Feet

Spread  
3 Feet

Bloom Color  
White

USDA Hardiness Zone 4-8

*False aster Interesting Notes*

'Snowbank' is a cultivar of about 3-4' tall and does not require staking when grown in full sun. In partial shade however, plants will not be as compact and require support. The simple leaves are blue green, and the top half of the plant is blanketed by clear white daisies with yellow centers. In the garden, flowering begins in early August and continues well into September. Although plants perform best in deep, moist, organic soils, plants can tolerate two severe droughts with only occasional watering. 'Snowbank' associates well with other late summer and fall bloomers such as *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, *Sedum x 'Autumn Joy'*, *Eupatorium purpureum* and *Lespedeza thunbergii*.

*Boltonia asteroides 'Snowbank' Growing and Maintenance Tips*

Although it will certainly tolerate periods of drought, *Boltonia* prefers average to moist soil and will withstand periodic wet feet. Full sun is essential for maintaining an upright stature. Cut back in early to mid summer to achieve a less lanky habit.



Season of Interest (Flowering)

- Late Summer
- Fall

Attributes

- Native to North America
- Moist Sun
- Meadow

## *Anemone hupehensis* *Japanese Anemone*

Few plants can send up a succession of flowers from August until late October and look elegant at every stage, whether tight bud, long-lasting flower or neatly spherical seed head.

But the Japanese anemone manages it perfectly!

Japanese anemones can colonise large areas and become almost thuggish, rapidly reappearing if you try to eradicate them.

But, despite their robust and long-lived qualities, they can also be difficult to establish because they dislike disturbance. When buying, go for well-grown, larger specimens and plant them in rich friable soil in semi-shade. If conditions are not ideal, they creep towards cooler soil, then romp away.

### *How to propagate*

Well-established plants are best left untouched, but if you do want to increase them, lift the offshoots from the main plant just as they emerge in late spring and pot them up in a soil-based compost, preferably in plastic pots to keep the roots cool.

These can be planted out in mid-summer. Root cuttings can also be taken in early winter: lay sections of root out flat on the surface then cover these with compost.

This is a parent to many of the popular hybrid Japanese Anemone. The branching stems of poppy-like flowers are superb for cutting. Plants form a medium-tall mound of ferny green leaves, with single or semi-double white to pink blossoms in late summer and fall. Useful in the sunny border, or in part shade among Hostas and ferns. In a suitable, moist site this will spread to form a solid patch. Good low-maintenance perennial. In colder regions this should be mulched well for the first winter. Easily divided in early spring.

*Care:* Moist, fertile, humusy soil in sun or partial shade. May need support.

*History* *A. hupehensis* is native to central China, though it has been naturalised in Japan for hundreds of years.

The species was first named and described in *Flora Japonica* (1784), by Carl Thunberg.

Thunberg had collected dried specimens while working as a doctor for the Dutch East Indies Company. In 1844, Robert Fortune brought the plant to England from China, where he found it often planted about graves



## *Hardy Chrysanthemum 'Clara Curtis'*

A truly hardy, perennial mum, 'Clara Curtis' will return year after year to bloom with soft pink daisy flowers in the fall.

Common name: 'Clara Curtis' mum

Botanical name: *Chrysanthemum rubellum* 'Clara Curtis' syn. *Dendranthema* 'Clara Curtis' or 'Country Girl'

Flowers: This mum's flowers are daisy-like, with light pink petals surrounding a yellow eye. 'Clara Curtis' mum begins blooming in mid- or late summer and continues through the fall.

Habit: Herbaceous perennial 18 to 24 inches tall and 18 inches wide.

Season: Fall, for flowers.

Cultivation: Grow 'Clara Curtis' mum in full sun to part shade, in rich, moist but well-drained soil. Pinch back the stems every two weeks from spring to midsummer to make the plant bushier. Deadhead the summer flowers to promote fresh bloom for fall. Full sun makes this mum more compact and floriferous. May slowly spread by underground stems, but not aggressively. USDA Zones 4–9.



## *Chrysanthemum 'Mei-kyo'*

Fall Chrysanthemum  
USDA Zone: 5-9

An old and reliable selection of Mum, that has stood the test of time. Plants form a bushy mound of light green leaves, bearing loose sprays of large, deep rose double pompon daisies, each with a yellow eye. Pinching in June will help to keep plants bushy and compact. Attractive to butterflies.

Divide every 2 to 3 years in spring to prevent plants from becoming old and woody.

Adapts well to growing in tubs and mixed containers.

Excellent for cutting.

Plant Uses & Characteristics  
Accent: Good Texture/Form  
Attracts Butterflies  
Border  
Containers  
Cut Flower  
Massed



*Emerald Spire®  
Flowering Crabapple Malus x adstringens  
'Jefgreen'*

There are technically only a few trees that come close to the small tree category for utility planting these days, maturing at less than 15 feet tall. There are even fewer that are narrow and this short.

The new Emerald Spire® crabapple, *Malus x adstringens* 'Jefgreen' fits the bill. Maturing at no more than 15 feet tall and 6 feet wide, this is truly a small tree. It has shown remarkable winter hardiness and solid disease resistance as far north as Manitoba for over 10 years, making it a zone 2 plant.

The Emerald Spire® crabapple has a very strong central leader with tight upright lateral limbs. Notice that it has many spurs but only a few that develop into limbs. It could be grown with low branches as a hedge or accent columnar tree, or limbed up to develop a very narrow short street tree. The literature says they are slow growing.

Spring flower color is fuchsia turning to white, followed by typical dark green to almost purple crabapple leaves. Leaves turn golden yellow in the fall and drop quickly, a good feature for easy clean-up

The fruit is dark red, up to one inch diameter, and could be plentiful.

Early November fruit is already falling and rotting. Given the small canopy, the fruit drop should be concentrated and short term.

Like any crabapple, they don't like wet feet and do best in full sun.

This form is also said to have a wide pH tolerance and to be highly tolerant of urban pollution.

Emerald Spire Flowering Crab is recommended for the following landscape applications;

Accent  
Vertical Accent  
General Garden Use

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH.



## *Cupressus arizonica var. glabra 'Blue Ice'* *smooth Arizona cypress 'Blue Ice'*

Blue Ice Cypress trees (*Cupressus arizonica* 'Blue Ice') are ornamental conifers reaching 30 to 50 feet tall and spreading 15 to 20 feet wide. The reddish-purple bark flakes off to the touch. The stocky branches are covered with waxy blue-gray needles and round chocolate-colored cones. The silvery blue color of the leaves lasts year-round. With a bit of care, this tree will grow between 10 to 18 inches each year in USDA plant hardiness zones 6 to 9.

### *Location*

Plant the blue ice cypress tree in an area with full to partial sun and good draining soil. The best soil for this tree is sandy or gravelly, so amend the soil with pea-sized gravel if it is too firm. Transplant the small tree from a container or burlap-wrapped ball in the fall or early spring. Pick the location for the tree carefully since mature trees put down deep roots and do not survive transplanting well.

Some people find the scent of the blue ice cypress to be offensive like the scent of a skunk.

Do not plant the tree where the breeze brings the smell inside through open windows or doors.

### *Moisture*

Water the tree the first year or two until it puts on new growth. Pour water around the base until it saturates the soil to a depth of 10 inches. Dig a small hole with a hand trowel to check the depth. After the first couple of years, the blue ice cypress will only need watering during dry times.

### *Mulching*

Spread a 3-inch layer of wood chip or shredded bark mulch in a 24-inch wide circle around the tree trunk. The mulch needs to be kept 6 inches away from the trunk to discourage feeding on the tree by rodents. Replenish the mulch each spring by adding more mulch to build the layer up to the 3-inch mark.

### *Fertilizing*

Fertilizing the blue ice cypress only produces results while the tree is young. A specimen close to the mature size does not need the extra nutrients to stimulate growth. Apply fertilizer once in the middle of spring and then again near the end of summer. Use shrub and tree fertilizer to increase the growth rate. Follow the recommendations on the package.

### *Pruning*

Remove dead and storm-damaged branches with a pruning saw. Cut the dead branches back to the trunk. Do not severely trim the branches, but remove a little each year if you are trying to shape the tree. Keep the cuts clean and not jagged, which opens the tree up to disease.





## *Burgundy in the Landscape: The Best Things With Purple Leaves*

If you want your landscape to really pop out, include some plants that are the color burgundy or purple. These plants will make the otherwise common green plants next to them much more beautiful. Here are the best purple plants you can find.

### *Ajuga*

Ajuga is a great burgundy plant for the front of the garden. Ajuga will grow to fill in an area quite rapidly once established, growing in a low mat. At about 6-12 inches high, Ajuga will be perfect in front of other plantings that are taller in the back of your flower beds.

Another great thing about Ajuga is that it grows in shade. In fact, it prefers shade. This makes it a welcome colorful addition to the shady area under a big old tree or near the house where other sun loving plants won't flourish. It is also evergreen, so you won't have to wait for late Spring to see the pretty leaves on Ajuga. Ajuga grows in USDA hardiness zones 3-9.



### *Heuchera*

Heuchera, commonly called Coral Bells, are another very popular burgundy plant. Like the Ajuga, these will grow in quite a bit of shade, making them widely adaptable to areas of your landscape where you may not have enough color.

Heuchera are small perennials that have rather thick colorful leaves that will show their faces first thing in the Spring. They are essentially evergreen (or purple in this case) but in harsh climates the leaves will look weathered for a few weeks in Spring until the new growth comes out. Not to worry, though, they perk up very quickly.

Heuchera is an excellent choice for mass planting at the front of the bed. They will send all sorts of blooms out in late Spring or early Summer, although the blooms are small and dainty. The blooms are not the star here however - it's the foliage. Heuchera comes in all kinds of colors, but the most popular is Palace Purple with its classic burgundy color.

Heuchera grows in USDA hardiness zones 4-8.



*Barberry* is a shrub that comes as either as a standard sized shrub that can get 4-5 feet tall or as a dwarf shrub that stays only a couple of feet tall. A trio of barberry bushes in your landscape might just steal the show.

The Crimson Pigmy barberry is one of the best, remaining neat and compact. The burgundy barberry will keep its rich purple color all season long, making it an outstanding companion plant for other plants with light green, yellow, or icy blue foliage. Crimson Pigmy barberry next to any type of Blue Spruce is amazing.

Barberry shrubs come in several colors from bright yellow to deep purple, and they all look great, but the burgundy colors that they offer cannot be beat in the landscape and should be on your list of plants to add to your landscape. Barberry shrubs grow in USDA hardiness zones 4-8.



### *Purple Fountain Grass*

Ornamental grasses are a fantastic addition to any landscape, but Purple Fountain is even better, offering nice purple color as well as the unique texture that only ornamental grasses can offer.

Purple Fountain Grass grows in neat clumps and sway in the breeze, offering a soothing look and feel to your yard. In Summer it is covered with the long, fuzzy blooms that make it look like water pouring from a fountain.

Purple Fountain Grass can get quite tall at 4-5 feet (with the blooms) but it is worth it if you have the space. For those in the northern climates, Purple Fountain Grass can be grown as an annual purchased from a nursery or started from seed indoors in late Winter. It will do fine in your landscape or in a pot on the patio. Purple Fountain Grass is be a perennial in USDA hardiness zones 8-11.



### *Prairifire Crab*

Let's get some height in our burgundy landscape now with the Prairifire Crab. This awesome small crabapple tree is disease resistant, making it a durable choice. The leaves will show signs of burgundy all season long, especially deep in Spring and Fall.

The fact that this tree gives us color in the landscape all season is great, but it is almost unbelievable in the Spring when the bloom season is here. Prairifire Crab will be literally covered with blooms, so much so that you will hardly be able to see the branches. Another bonus is the red fruit that this tree will hold throughout the winter months.

Prairifire is a good choice where a full size crabapple would be too big. It will slowly grow to 20 feet high and wide but that's going to take some time, so don't be afraid to plant perennials under it for a showy garden bed. Prairifire crab grows in USDA hardiness zone 4-8.



### *Companion Plants*

The best thing about burgundy or purple plants in your landscape is what you can put next to them to set them off. Don't just plant a burgundy plant all alone. While it will look good, you're missing a great opportunity to do something really special in your yard.

Try planting companion plants nearby that have unusually bright colors. The old standard green leaves will be fine, but if you want your garden to really pop you need something just a little different. Favorites to really show off your burgundy plants include such things as:

- Globe Blue Spruce
- Goldmound Spiraea
- Blue Fescue
- Colorado Blue Spruce
- yellow Sedum
- yellow Barberry
- white Birch
- Lime Ricky Heuchera

Basically, anything that is yellow, light green, white, or icy blue will do the trick.

# From the Garden of Eva

## Grilled Pork Chops with Apple-Bourbon Glaze

The key to success here is to brush the Apple-Bourbon Glaze on the chops during the last few minutes on the grill, turning and brushing often to create a layered, lacquered look. Garnish the chops with grilled halves of small apples brushed with the glaze.



### Ingredients

2 tablespoons dark brown sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt  
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon paprika  
4 (12-oz.) bone-in pork rib chops  
2 tablespoons olive oil

### How to Make It

#### Step 1

Stir together first 5 ingredients. Brush pork with olive oil, and rub both sides with sugar mixture. Place pork in a 9- x 13-inch baking dish; cover and chill 12 to 24 hours. Remove pork from refrigerator, and let stand at room temperature 30 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare glaze.

#### Step 2

Preheat grill to 350° to 400° (medium-high) heat. Grill chops, covered with grill lid, 6 to 8 minutes on each side or until almost done. Brush chops with glaze; turn and brush other side with glaze. Grill, covered with grill lid, 2 minutes.

#### Step 3

Repeat process, without grill lid and turning chops every 10 seconds, until glaze thickens and chops are cooked through

### Apple-Bourbon Glaze

Ingredients

1 (12-oz.) can frozen apple juice concentrate, thawed  
1 cup bourbon  
3 tablespoons dark brown sugar  
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon dried crushed red pepper

### How to Make It

Stir together first 5 ingredients in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium, and simmer, stirring occasionally, 13 to 15 minutes or until mixture has thickened and is reduced to about 1 cup. Stir in red pepper.

## Apple Butter-Walnut Thumbprints

### Ingredients

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup toasted walnuts  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 1/4 cups powdered sugar  
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature  
1 large egg  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
Parchment paper  
1/2 cup Easy Apple Butter  
Caramel topping

### How to Make It

#### Step 1

Preheat oven to 350°. Pulse first 5 ingredients in a food processor 10 times or until nuts are ground.

#### Step 2

Beat powdered sugar and butter at high speed with a heavy-duty electric stand mixer 4 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla, and beat until combined. Add flour mixture, and beat at medium speed 30 seconds.

#### Step 3

Drop batter by level tablespoonfuls 1 to 2 inches apart on 3 parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Dip finger in cold water, and press into each cookie, forming an indentation. Fill each indentation with 1/2 tsp. apple butter. Dip finger in cold water, and tap down peaks in apple butter.

#### Step 4

Bake 2 baking sheets at 350° for 14 minutes, placing 1 baking sheet on middle oven rack and 1 sheet on lower oven rack. Rotate pans front to back, and top rack to bottom rack. Bake 4 more minutes or until edges begin to brown. Transfer baking sheets to wire racks, and cool completely (about 10 minutes). Repeat with remaining baking sheet. Drizzle caramel topping over cooled cookies.

## Easy Apple Butter

### Ingredients

3 pounds crisp and sweet apples, such as Gala, Honeycrisp, and Braeburn, peeled (about 8 apples)  
1 cup apple cider  
1 1/2 cups sugar, divided  
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

### How to Make It

#### Step 1

Cut apples into 1-inch pieces. Bring apples, cider, and 1/2 cup sugar to a rolling boil in a Dutch oven over high heat. Cover, leaving lid slightly ajar, and boil 20 minutes or until apples are tender and most of the liquid has evaporated; stir every 5 minutes.

#### Step 2

Process cooked apples and cooking liquid in a blender until smooth. Return mixture to Dutch oven. Stir in cinnamon, cloves, and remaining 1 cup sugar. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, and simmer, uncovered and stirring often, 15 minutes or until thickened. Cool about 45 minutes. Spoon into airtight containers, and refrigerate up to 2 months or freeze up to 6 months.



Use a wooden spoon to draw a line through the apple butter on the bottom of the pot; if the line holds for 5 seconds before the apple butter merges back together, it's finished cooking.

Hands-on 55 min.; Total 1 hour, 50 min.

#### Yield

Makes about 3 cups

*da Vinci Code of Flower Design by Michael Gaffney*  
*November 04, 2017*  
*11:00 AM - 2:30 PM*

*Virginia Horse Center*  
*Maury River Road*  
*Lexington, VA 24450*

Michael Gaffney, director of the American School of Flower Design with schools in 14 cities and Europe, will design for 90 minutes! With 25 years' experience, he has taught students and flower lovers how to create gorgeous floral arrangements every time with ease. Michael has been featured on ABC, CBS, NBC, the Today Show and the Hallmark Channel. A copy of his book *Design Star* and *Flower Power* will be available for signing after the event. Come see Michael do his "da Vinci Code of flower design " and demystify the art of floral arranging!

Presented by the Green Hills & Lexington Garden Clubs.

Tickets \$35.00 and are available at  
*Village Garden Center*

Lexington Garden Club  
Nancy Irons 540-463-5015  
nancyi@rockbridge.net

All checks should be made payable to: Green Hills Garden Club

Salad and Dessert Buffet Included

Limited seating No tickets sold at door.



# SALE

All Container Crape Myrtles buy one get one free!  
Must take two.

All Pottery, Statuary & Bird baths 30% off

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