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Johnston's Journal

Spring is Here!

"All the year round is spring, and all through life is youth; there is always something which may flower."

Karel Capek,
The Gardener's Year



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50% off

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True gardeners know that spring isn't just a season: it's a frame of mind. We here at Johnston's Greenhouse and Garden Centre have been busy nurturing little plants and seedlings since the end of February, so come on in and get a glimpse of spring (and summer, too!). Take some time to browse through the greenhouses and see what's on the grow for 2008.

If you don't know who we are, a short introduction is in order. Located in the south end of Peterborough, we are the only year-round, full-service greenhouse and garden centre in the city.

Annuals

We grow a vast array of annuals, including the flowers used in the floral displays that brighten downtown Peterborough in the summer. Justina and her crew sow and propagate the very best each season, and each

plant is painstakingly cultivated by hand to outperform the mass-produced plants found at big box stores.

Trees and Shrubs

We have a wide assortment of trees, shrubs, and vines, including some great (and hard to find) recent introductions. If you can't find what you're looking for, we do custom ordering. Give Darlene your wish list and she'll do her best to find the perfect specimen.

Perennials

We also have an expansive selection of the best perennials, from old-fashioned favourites to cutting-edge cultivars, hand-selected by Lisa, our resident perennials fanatic. What we don't grow ourselves we bring in from the best, most reputable suppliers. Check out our fantastic selection of premium Heritage perennials.

Landscape Design

We offer comprehensive design and landscape services as well. If you're looking for inspiration and some professional advice, just bring in a few pictures and we'll make some recommendations and help you select the most suitable plant material. Have a really big project in mind? No problem! Chris and his crew do all kinds of landscaping projects, from consultation and design to installation and maintenance. Check out pictures of some of their past projects at Johnston's web page.



Viola cornuta 'Etain'

New and Noteworthy Annuals: Two Tiny Gems Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' and Jewels of Opar (Talinum paniculatum)



Jewels of Opar

We'd like to call your attention to two fantastic annuals with tiny flowers that you might want to try in your gardens and containers this spring. The first is Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost.' We trialed this plant in containers last year and were delighted with the results. It is blooming now, even though the plants are still small, and it will bloom until frost. As the name suggests, the overall effect of the flowers is sparkling: each plant is covered

in tiny white delicate flowers all season, but the plant isn't delicate at all; in fact, it is easy to maintain, requiring minimal water and no deadheading. This is a great substitute for Lobelia, for either full sun or partial shade. At about a foot wide and 18 inches tall, it's the perfect choice to add some textural interest to your containers this year. Superb.

The second little jewel is also a great plant for containers.

Jewels of Opar has little pink flowers followed by glistening ruby berries that dance on the end of long, wiry stems. The tiny flowers are cute enough, but the real showstopper is the foliage. The leaves are a luminescent, ever-popular chartreuse. Like 'Diamond Frost,' this annual seems to be highly resistant to disease and insect problems. This is a unique plant (technically speaking, a succulent subshrub), growing 12-24" tall

Introducing the Perennial of the Year for 2008: Geranium 'Rozanne'



Geranium 'Rozanne'

Sometimes it's great fun to try something challenging and rare for the perennial border. And sometimes we just need something beautiful and easy. The Perennial of the Year for 2008 is Geranium 'Rozanne,' a Blooms of Bressingham introduction that has been a proven performer in gardens for the last couple of years. At 12-20" high and 18-24" wide,

this hardy Cranesbill Geranium has a nice mounding to semi-sprawling habit that enables it to weave together front and mid-border perennials. But what makes 'Rozanne' so special? This reliable, zone 4 perennial behaves like an annual! She's in continuous bloom from late spring until frost, with quite large, violet-blue flowers that work well

with either pinks and pastels or stronger, more intense complimentary colours. You can even use it as an everblooming, low maintenance groundcover. Try planting it with some repeat blooming yellow daylilies and a couple of tall ornamental grasses and you'll have a no-fuss border that looks fantastic from late spring until fall. What

'Golden Shadows' Pagoda Dogwood; Cornus Alternifolia 'W. Stackman'



Spring growth on
'Golden Shadows'

This variegated form of our native North American alternate-leaved dogwood has both stunning colour and glorious architecture. The leaves have wide yellow margins reminiscent of the most showy hostas. Add a distinctive horizontal branching habit and you have a

spectacular small tree that is beautiful in every season. This is a deciduous understory tree that requires part to full shade. At only 12-15' high and 10-12' wide, 'Golden Shadows' is the perfect tree for the shady garden. Did I mention that it is also fully hardy to zone 3?! The new growth is flushed

with pink and red tones in spring and is particularly striking. This plant seems to have exceptional vigour for a variegated plant, and it might be just the thing to brighten up a dark corner. Stunning!

