National Garden Bureau names 2003 the year of the bean, poppy

f you're looking for a place to vaca-tion this spring, you might consider going to Washington, D.C. The National Garden Bureau is a sponsor of the Smithsonian's National

The National Garden Bureau is a sponsor of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History spring charles of Passion for Plants: Contemporary Art from the Shirley Sherwood Collection. Children and familles are invited to a Sunflower Fest 10 a.m. to + p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History,

National Museum of Natural History, which is on the Natural History which is on the Natural Holm of Natural History which is on the Natural Mail.

Many activities are being planned to involve children as well as adults. For more information about this museum and its programs, call Michele Urie at (202) 786-2950.

The NGB has named 2003 the Year of the Bean and the Year of the Poppy.

There are many varieties of beans, plants that are easy to grow and are a healthy staple in the kitchen.
Basically there are three types of beans: snap, green shelling, and dry shell.

shelf, Snap beans got their name from the sound they make when broken apart. Green shelling beans, such as limas,

are green seeds inside the pods fresh (or frozen). Dry beans are left on the vine to dry before being harvested and then shelled.

Beans are in the legume family (Leguminocae), as are peas and some flowers such as lupine, sweet pea, and aptisis. They fix nitrogen in the soil, which makes that nutrient readily available to plants.

Breeders are always looking for ways to improve beans, yet we still find some older kinds being offered. Some people prefer to grow bush beans, others pole leans.

Bush beans produce a lot of pods in a short time, but take up more garden space.

While rook beans take up less space.

space.
While pole beans take up less space

space.
While pole beans take up less space because they are grown on trelliess or teepees, they produce later in the season, and because of their longer stay in the garden, they are more susceptible to peats and disease.
Wait until the soil has warmed up and all danger of frost has passed before sowing, and soil and night temperatures remain at 55 degrees or higher. Lima beans want warmer soil (about 65 degrees), so may not do well here. You may wish to start them indoors.
Light, well-drained soil is preferred, with a pil of 6.0 to 6.8. Dig to a depth of 6 to 8 inches and incorporate organic matter into the soil.
When sowing the seed 1 to 1-1/2 inches deep, you may want to sprinkle an inoculant in the row to help increase the nitrogen-fixing ability and help the growth. Find inoculants

at garden centers and mail-order companies. Follow package directions for best results.

Beautiful poppies are popular in many gardens, and the profusion of colors will please most any gardener. The lecland poppy produces flowers up to 7 inches across above attractive blue-green, segmented foliage. The Shirley poppy bears single or double crepe paper-like blooms edged with white. Field, or Flanders, poppies sport single, crimson flowers that suit wildflower plantings perfectly. The NGB says that the poppy is probably the most popular wildflower in America.

These versatile wonders fit many garden situations. They combine well in the border garden with lamb's ears, cornilowers, larkspur, Shasta daisy, and veronice.

and veronica.

In a meadow, plant them with lupine, coreopsis, Indian blanket, black-cyed Susan and corn-

blanket, black-eyed Susan and corn-flower.

Shorter Iceland poppies look lovely at the front edge of a boarder, in the middle or toward the rear of per all beds, or in rock gardens.

Some poppies are annuals, others per



We look forward to summer when these popples bloom in our back garden

The Shirley poppy, a selection from the species, grows to 4 feet tall; its pastel blooms lack the blotch but have a narrow white or tinted edge on each petal.

Percental poppies include Alpine poppy P. alpinum, which grows 5 to 10 inches tall, and blooms late spring to summer with white, yellow, orange or red flowers.

Iceland poppy, P. nudicaule, grows to 2 feet tall, and blooms at the same time as the Alpine with many

same time as the Alpine with many colors of blooms.

Oriental poppy P. orientale grows 2

to 4 feet tall and also blooms when the others do. Usually the petals have a black blotch at the base. The foliage dies back after flowering but begins to regrow in the fall. All of the perannial poppies men-tioned are hardy in our zone. Follow seed package directions for best results.

Marty Floley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Bromellad society
The S.E.M. Bromeliad Society will present Tim's Jungle Adventures 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at Goldner Walsh Hursery, 559 Orchard Lake Food In

rontiac. Hursery owner Tim Travis will talk informally about his trips to the rain

The greenhouse provides a beautiful tropical setting, with ample

seating. The society will have a display of bromeliads. The event is free. Reservations aren't necessary. Call (248) 380-7359.

ing seminars I p.m. Saturdays at all five locations, including stores in West Bloomfield (phone (248) 851-7506). Royal Oak (phone (248) 280-9500) and Dearborn Heights (phone (313) 278-

Also.

Roses: The Tried, The True and Whal's

Roses: The Tried, The True and Whal's

Hew will be the lopic feb. 15. Start

planning your rose garden now.

Preview new verificies of roses, and

qet a healthy dose of growing advice

to get you started.

For the nearest English Gardens, call

6000 335-6040 or visit www english
qardens com.

Michigan Crichid Society

The Michigan Grichid Society will have
a general meeting 2-30 p.m. Sunday,

Feb. 16, at First Baptist Church, 300

Willits in Birmingham.

Antique gardens
Landscape historian and preservationist Scott Kunst, owner of Old
House Gardens in Ann Arbor, will talk
on Antique Gardens: American Home
Landscapes 1800-1940 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 19, at the Orion
Tomnship Public Library, 825 Jostyn
Road.
Admission is free, Sign up by cailing
1249, 693-3001.
A fast-paced presentation of colorful
sides will be featured in the discussion on historic landscapes, garden
restoration preservation, and uncovering landscape cellics.
The program will show how plants,
outdoor furnishings and the design of

American yards changed dramatically

american yards change dramatically through the years. It is an eye-opening primer on the Londscape relies; thail survive all around us, and will offer essential background for gardners wanting to restore a historic tandscape or enliv-en any garden with a touch of the nati.

en any garden with a succession past. CIM House Gardens is the country's only mell-inder source devoted to hell-loom Bower bulbs. Kunst also teaches graduale courses on historic leaches graduale courses on historic preservation Program at Eastern Michigan University. Winter botany the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens Adult Education

Program offers a variety of classes.
Call (734) 999 7001 for registration
and other information.
The schedule includes Northern
Winter Botany Tridary Sunday, feb. 21
52(595) 53(55) for members), a
weetend frip based at the UM
eurological Station near Peliston, 18
miles south of the Mackinac Bridge
School of Gardening
The McKinjan School of Gardening
Offers a variety of classes.
Register early, Seating is limited.
Some classes have pre-requiriets.
For more information, call (749) 4
GABELT or visit www.michigangordening.com.

Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Ponitac, south of Square Lake Road and east of Telegraph; Trees and Structs for Small Soaces (337.90), Monday, Feb. 17. and Landscape Design (527.50). Thursdays, Feb. 20 to April 3 Garden design. The Michigan School of Gardening presents specially classes and classes for the certificate of landscape and garden design at the Community House, 380.5. Bates in Birmingham, west of Woodbeard and south of

west of Woodward and south of Maple, For information or to register, call The Community House at (248)





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