

# English Gardens hosts Garden Party weekend

English Gardens is kicking off National Garden Month with a weekend Garden Party, April 6-6 at all five metro Detroit locations.

Free gardening and landscape seminars are offered at the event, including garden columnist Nancy Sterling and Janet Macunovich, television gardening expert Jim Wilson and Ashton Ritchie from Scotts Co. Each program lasts about one hour. Seminars are planned from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday at all five English Gardens stores.

Topics and presenters include a container gardening demonstration by Jim Wilson. Learn the secrets of a successful container garden, including selecting plants, proper planting and care on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in Eastpointe, 1 p.m. in Dearborn Heights, 4 p.m. in West Bloomfield, and Sunday at 11 a.m. in Clinton Township, 3 p.m. in Royal Oak.

Janet Macunovich, gardening columnist, will discuss perennial combinations and design. Macunovich will share her favorite perennial varieties for Michigan and provide useful information for combining perennials in your garden. Sessions are Saturday: 9:30 a.m. in Clinton Township, 1 p.m. in Royal Oak, and 4 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and on Sunday 11 a.m. in Eastpointe, and 3 p.m. in West Bloomfield.

Scotts spokesman Ashton Ritchie will discuss lawn care how to get your lawn back into shape for the spring and summer months. Ritchie will provide expert advice and answer questions relating to lawn care and gardening basics on Saturday, 9:30 a.m. in Dearborn Heights, 1 p.m. in West Bloomfield, and 4 p.m. in Clinton Township.

At What's New in Annuals: Winning Color Combinations by Four Star Greenhouses, you'll have an opportunity to see the new annual varieties for 2003 and learn which work best together for that winning color combination on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in West Bloomfield and 4 p.m. in Royal Oak and Sunday at 1 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and Eastpointe, and at 3 p.m. in Clinton Township.

The Michigan Gardener's Guide book signing will feature garden writer Marty Figley on Saturday at 11 a.m. Royal Oak, and 2:30 p.m. Dearborn Heights. Gardening columnist Nancy Sterling will discuss growing perfect tomatoes at 1 p.m. Sunday in Royal Oak.

Green with Envy? How to obtain the landscape others

# Zone maps help guide for gardening

It's always a pleasure to hear from you folks. I want to remind you that if I don't return your calls soon (I'm usually at the office on Thursdays), please call again.



**Garden Spot**  
**Marty Figley**

Recently a reader expressed an interest in learning more about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's hardiness zones so often mentioned in garden books.

It's quite a simple thing, although often plants do well outside the parameters of the given zone.

The zones are climatic regions defined by their annual average minimum temperature, and the plant's hardiness is most often judged by a measure of the coldest temperatures in which the plant is likely to do well.

All zone maps don't look the same because they have been revised several times over the years. Newer maps have been subdivided into "a" and "b" sections from Zones 1 to 10, with a portion of the "a" Zones being an average of 5 degrees cooler than the "b" portion.

Also, Zone 11 has been added for very warm climates.

A chart showing the range of average annual minimum temperatures for each zone will guide.

If the map is in black and white, you will notice a different "texture" for each region that corresponds to the zones. Look at our Zone 5, with average annual minimum temperatures from minus-20 degrees to minus-10 degrees, and our Zone 6, which has average



There are many new products to keep gardens growing and healthy.

annual minimum temperatures from minus-10 degrees to zero degrees.

If the map is in color, it will be very easy to distinguish the different zones.

Some plants, depending on where they are placed in the landscape, such as a sheltered area, can survive in a colder temperature than the zone indicates. On the other hand, if a plant is on a hilltop in a Zone 4 area, it may not survive because that hilltop temperature probably has a Zone 3 situation.

Plants don't know where the lines are, and neither do we, but the zone maps are good guides.

That's what makes gardening such a challenge. Our gardens have microclimates and all kinds of weather that affect the plants, so we can't just rely on the zone chart alone.

It's fun to experiment and see what happens. Now we have the new Heat Zone map to learn about.

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Last, but certainly not least: You can buy cut flowers that have been completely organically grown by certified organic agencies accredited by the USDA's new National Organic Standards Program, which went into effect Oct. 21, 2002.

The primary goal of organic agriculture is to optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, plants, animals and people," said Dave Smith, president and co-founder of Organic Bouquet.

Find these special flowers at Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2041 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

## NEW PRODUCTS

Here are some new products to look for in garden centers

## HOME AND GARDEN CALENDAR

**Frank H. Boos Gallery**  
An auction is scheduled at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Frank H. Boos Gallery, 420 Enterprise Court, presenting a collection of fine paintings, including one by Peter Blume. Also gold, silver, diamonds, opal and southwestern jewelry; sterling silver, silver plate, glassware and pottery; a collection of antique metal toys and antique furniture and Native American items will be presented.

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meeting one by Peter Blume. Also gold, silver, diamonds, opal and southwestern jewelry; sterling silver, silver plate, glassware and pottery; a collection of antique metal toys and antique furniture and Native American items will be presented.

**Metropolitan Rose Society**  
The Metropolitan Rose Society will

meet 7:15 p.m. Friday, April 4, at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center, 3500 Maris, east of Crooks and north of 13 Mile. Admission is free. Call (248) 689-9529 for information.

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