

GARDEN WALKS AND TOURS

Rochester Hills
The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoesen Farm and the Women's National Farm and Garden Association will host a Garden Walk 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, June 19. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 the day of the event. For an additional \$15, lunch will be available at the Paint Creek Cider Mill in Goodison 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at the museum, on Van Hoesen Road off Tenken, 1 mile east of Rochester Road. They also may be bought by telephone with a credit card, or by check made payable to the City of Rochester Hills and mailed to 1005 Van Hoesen Road, Rochester Hills 48306. The featured gardens were chosen to inspire and delight visitors with what grows in the back yards of residential areas. For more information, contact the museum by calling (248) 856-6663 or e-mail rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org, or visit its Web site at www.rochesterhills.org/museum.htm.

Lathrup Village
The Lathrup Village Home & Garden Tour will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 21. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of the tour. Seniors are offered a discounted entry price of \$3. Ticket vouchers will be available after June 1 at the Lathrup Village City Offices, 27400 Southfield Road, three blocks north of I-496, between I-12 and I-20. This year's tour is the eighth event co-sponsored by the Lathrup Village Historical Society and the Village Gardeners. It is an opportunity to view the interiors of five of Lathrup's most interesting homes and visit four beautiful private gardens on a self-guided tour. The newly expanded Children's Garden and historic Community Congregational Church will also be

part of the tour. Proceeds support beautification projects throughout Lathrup Village. A Garden Boutique will offer plants, garden statuary, unusual garden accessories and original art from local artists. It will be at the garage in the park adjacent to the Municipal Building on Southfield Road. The Young Astronauts will operate a Garden Cafe, selling refreshments as a fund-raiser. Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority volunteers will staff display tables during the day with information on tree and flower selection, composting, garden maintenance and lawn care. Master gardener volunteers will be in each of the gardens and in the boutique to answer questions and assist guests. Call Pat Gore at (248) 559-0488 or Robert Reeves at (248) 559-5410 for tickets or tour information.

Livonia
The 14th annual Garden Walk presented by the Friends for the Development of Greenmead (Livonia's Historical Village) will take place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 28. Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 the day of the event. They may be bought from committee members or at any of the three Livonia public libraries, the Civic Center Library Gift Shop, Greenmead, and the Department of Community Resources on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall. The Civic Center Library and Livonia City Hall are at Five Mile and Farmington Road. Greenmead is at Eight Mile and Newburgh. Seven lovely gardens and yards of homes throughout Livonia will be open for viewing. All proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of Greenmead. Call (734) 466-2540 or (734) 425-4855 for information.

These new plants add 'wow' to garden

Have you found a "WOW" plant at your favorite garden center this year? There are some very interesting ones now available that you might like to consider. Here are a few I found at some area nurseries.

Linda at Bordy's Nursery, 8500 Dixie Highway in Clarkston, said, "Three new plants are the biggest sellers."

One of them is quite interesting. It is the short, 6- to 8-inch Fiber Optic Grass with flowers on the end that are similar to fiber optic Christmas trees. The grass has the effect of having sparklers. This mounding grass is bright green and would do well in the front of a border.

Two other interesting grasses for the border are Purple Majesty Millet and Bunny Tails.

Linda says customers think unusual and fun, and want to try something new. (Call (248) 625-9100.)

Marty Flieley

DOGWOOD, VEGETABLES

Beth S. Liskiewicz of Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills, is excited about three new varieties of dogwood trees.

Chinese dogwood, *Cornus Kousa* "Radiant Rose," grows to 25 feet high with a spread of 15 feet. It has an arcing habit and is very prolific, with huge pink flowers. When the leaves begin to show in the spring, they are tinged with red; in the fall they are brilliant red.

"It's a great tree," Beth said. *Cornus Florida* has subtle, variegated golden-green foliage and red flowers, and turns very red in the fall. "Cherokee Daybreak" grows 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide, and has variegated cream and green foliage with cream flowers. Both are resistant to leaf scorch.

A maple tree that is good to replace an ash tree has a dense, upright habit. "A good urban tree," it grows 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide. In the fall it turns yellow, orange and red. It is also disease-resistant.

The nursery carries 400 dogwood trees. (Call (248) 479-2925.)

I spoke to Dave Smith at Cyle Smith and Sons Greenhouses, 8000 N. Newburgh in Westland, and he told me vegetables were big sellers, especially their very early varieties of tomatoes such as Early Girl, Beefmaster and Brandy (an heirloom) in gallon pots. This allows customers to have ripe tomatoes by the middle of June.

"The plants are blooming and ready to go," Dave said. "Customers also buy smaller plants so they can have tomatoes all season long."

This business has been a family affair for 166 years! (Call (734) 425-1434.)



This striking plant, 'Echim fatosum,' was grown by Goldner Walsh Nursery Inc.

Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac, tried something new last March. He planted seeds of *Echim fatosum*, which grew all summer in the hot sun. The containers were moved to a cool greenhouse for the winter and they began flowering about the last week of March this year.

There are two varieties: an annual, "Tower of Jerusalem," which is pink; and a tender perennial, "Pride of Madeira," which is blue and a shrubby plant 3 to 6 feet high.

"It's quite dramatic," Slezinski said. "They will spend the summer again in the cool house; they need some light. Because it's so new we don't know if they'll rebloom." (Call (248) 332-6430.)

ROSES

I spoke to Lili at Wiegand's Nursery and Garden Center, 47625 Romeo Plank Road in Macomb.

"With ash tree decline maples are making a comeback for great shade and street trees, not that they ever went out of style," she said.

She also pointed out some exciting roses from Jackson & Perkins. They are 2nd Edition, "Habitat for Humanity," an orange-apricot grandiflora; "Flirtatious," a cream, pink and yellow floribunda that has a fruity fragrance; and "Tigris," another grandiflora with purple and white stripes, an unusual rose with a strong fragrance. (Call (586) 286-3655.)

Wouldn't it be fun to visit all the nurseries and see what other "WOW" plants we could find?

GoodgardenWords node - a place on a stem where leaves or branches are attached internode - the section of stem between two adjacent nodes

Marty Flieley 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.

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