

# The Colonial Master Gardener

PUBLICATION OF JCC/WMASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION &  
VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



**February 2013**



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MARGENE HARTSOUGH

What a delight to welcome 23 new Master Gardeners to our organization in January. Their enthusiasm and commitment to the organization is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with these new members over the coming years. Be sure to welcome them as you work together on projects during the year.

As we begin a new year, I would like to encourage you to place our monthly meetings on your agenda for attendance. Judy Cassone has scheduled great programs for the year which you do not want to miss. Remember attendance at these programs count for continuing education hours. Our organization needs your voice as well on a variety of issues. Attendance at monthly business meetings allows you the chance to stay abreast of how the organization is moving and to express your thoughts and ideas. Remember you only get as much out of an organization as you put in. This includes serving in leadership positions as well as working on the variety of projects.

We will be voting on the scholarship program at the February meeting. A lot of time, thought and effort has been given to developing guidelines. Thank you to those members who served on the scholarship committee and to

those members who provided suggestions. This has been a cooperative effort which makes for a strong program. Please review the application which will be voted upon at the meeting and be prepared to vote. As indicated previously we will not have any discussion prior to the vote as this occurred in October. The final document will be included in the meeting announcement to be sent the first of February.

Look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting. Happy gardening. Margene

## Monthly Meeting

The next meeting is February 7.  
Bill Williams,  
Topic: Gardening for Birds in the Historic  
Triangle

## FREE! TURF LOVE 'UNIVERSITY'

BY BARB FOLEY

SAT., March 9, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to noon  
James City County Recreation Center

*LEARN HOW TO HAVE A HEALTHY, GREEN LAWN  
AND LEARN ALL ABOUT RAIN GARDENS*

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED – (757) 564-2179  
(please leave name & phone number)

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in these activities, please contact Sandra Kee, Virginia Cooperative Extension, James City County Office, at 757-564-2170 or TDD (800) 828-1120 during business hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR HELP!

The nominating committee for 2013 has been selected and members are: Angela Cingale, Chair; Dave Sisson; Kari Abbott; Nancy Cassano; and Becky Sutton.

If you have names that you want to place in nomination, please contact a committee member and make your wishes known. If you want to volunteer, make that known as well. The committee will begin its work within the next few weeks and seeks your input. Don't be shy! Tell us who you want to see in leadership!

# The Colonial Master Gardener February 2013

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2012  
MG Board

**President:**  
Margene Hartsough

**VP Projects:**  
Debbie Griesinger

**VP Internal Ed:**  
Judy Casone

**VP Administration:**  
David Sisson

**Secretary:**  
Mary Ellen Edwards

**Treasurer:**  
Bob Winther

**VMGA Reps:**  
Marilyn Riddle and  
Angela Cingale

**Past President:**  
Linda Lucas

**Co-op Ext Rep:**  
Doris Heath  
564-2170

## INTERNAL EDUCATION

BY JUDY CASONE

Our speaker this month on February 7 is Bill Williams, who will present "Gardening for Birds in the Colonial Historic Triangle." Thanks to both Erin Halleran and Jeanne Millin who worked together to set this program up. Erin provided Bill's background, which is quite impressive, below.

Bill Williams retired from the Williamsburg-James City County Schools, where he served for 31 years as a teacher and K-12 Science and Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator. He is currently an Adjunct Faculty member of the School of Education at the College of William and Mary. He has conducted science and education workshops at the national, state, and local levels. Bill was a founder of the Williamsburg Bird Club and the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. Author of numerous publications in the field of ornithology, Bill is a past president of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. He is currently the Coastal Region editor for *Virginia Birds* and the Tidewater reviewer for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's eBird database. Bill founded the Kiptopeke Hawk Watch and served as its director from 1977 to 2002. From 1975 to 2005, he

directed the Virginia Barrier Islands Colonial Waterbirds Survey for the Virginia Coast Reserve of the Nature Conservancy. Bill currently serves on the board of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy, of which he was a founding member.

On a separate note, the Internal Education Committee meets about 4 or 5 times a year. We all contribute ideas and fill in the schedule (hopefully) six months in advance. The meetings last about an hour and the knowledge and contacts are impressive. This is my first time as IE Chair and it is hard keep up! Harriet Parsons made it all look so smooth. We can always use people with ideas. If you have a program you would like for us to present, let me know. We will be having another meeting soon and we would welcome new people and ideas. This is not a 'high hour' involvement but is an opportunity to help us improve our skills with education. Please contact me if you are interested.

The MG Board meets on the third Friday of each month, at 9:00 am, at the James City County Health and Human Services Building, on Olde Towne Road.

The Board meetings are open to all Master Gardeners, and all are encouraged to attend.

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## BY-LAWS UPDATE

BY DAVE SISSON

"By action of the Board, the following amendment to the Bylaws is proposed.

{1. All forms for actions requested by a member or committee of members for Board Action shall be Posted on the W/JCC MG web site with the e-mail address of appropriate recipient incorporated in the body of the form itself. Any member should be able to find the form needed by linked Index. [Copy, fill in the blanks and send is be the norm.]

2. E-mail is considered NOTICE when sent to or from a member of the Board with confirmation of delivery from the carrier. Hard copies of NOTICE e-mails shall become part of the Board Minutes.

3. Announcements in the monthly Newsletter are to be considered as information items, but do not constitute NOTICE, with the exception of the language proposed for Bylaw changes.

4. General e-mail communication among members is encouraged for keeping tasks on focus, projects scheduled, eliminate the need for separate meetings, etc.}

This language will be voted on in the February 2013 Membership Meeting and is to become Section 4 of Article 8. If you have questions or comments in advance, please contact Dave Sisson, VP, Administration, [sisson2@cox.net](mailto:sisson2@cox.net).

In keeping with out existing Bylaws, please consider this 'Notice' of a pending change and vote date. These additions are being made to define the concept of 'Legal Notice' as it pertains to our internal communication exchanges with and among our members."

## WILDFLOWER OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### SCOURING RUSH *Equisetum hyemale*

The bamboo-like dark green stems look like nothing else – they are ridged vertically, stiff and hollow. Each joint (stem node), ringed with a black band, has a whorl of tiny, scale-like leaves fused into a sheath which ends in teeth with fringes. Lacking familiar leaves, in this plant photosynthesis occurs in these stems. From May through September, some of the stems will produce tiny, pine cone-like fruiting heads at the tips, which contain numerous spores.

This plant is not a rush, nor a fern. *Equisetum* is the single surviving genus of a class of primitive vascular plants, dating back to 350 million years ago. They are grouped with “fern allies” because, like ferns, they do not have flowers, nor seeds, and reproduce by spores. The only close relatives are the smaller, much-branched plants known as horsetails.

Scouring Rush likes medium to wet soils, it will grow in up to 4 inches of standing water, in full sun to part shade, and tolerates a wide range of soils. Growing 3-5 feet tall, this evergreen perennial can be extremely aggressive, spreading by branched, creeping rhizomes. Once established, it is difficult to remove, since any small section of rhizome can sprout a new plant. In the home garden, its growth can be restricted by planting in containers.

**Photo:**  
Scouring Rush  
(*Equisetum  
hyemale*)  
taken by  
Helen  
Hamilton



Native to nearly every county in Virginia and all over the U.S. and Canada, Scouring Rush is also native to large portions of Eurasia. It typically occurs in wet woods, moist hillsides and stream banks; locally it is often associated with shell marl outcrops.

With 15% silica content, early Americans used the stems for polishing pots and pans, and as sandpaper to give a very fine, satiny finish to wood. The silica is water-soluble and has been used as a tea for bladder ailments. Reported as a substitute for asparagus, the plant can interfere with vitamin B metabolism if eaten in large quantities, and is toxic to livestock.

For more information about native plants visit [www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org).

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## SOUTHERN STYLE PIGS-IN-A-BLANKET RECIPE

BY MARY EDWARDS

During the December reception, several people asked for the recipe for "Southern Style Pigs-in-a-Blanket". Here it is!

1/3 cup chopped pecans  
3 Tbsp honey  
3 Tbsp brown sugar  
1 stick butter  
2 pkgs crescent rolls  
1 pkg lil' smokies

Melt butter. Mix butter, honey, brown sugar, and pecans. Pour into the bottom of a rectangular baking dish.

Open the crescent rolls and separate each roll. Divide each triangle into three small triangles. Wrap each triangle around a lil' smokie. Place the wrapped smokies in the baking dish on top of sauce.

Bake at 400 degrees, until golden brown, around 20-25 minutes. Enjoy!

## NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY 2013

BY HELEN HAMILTON

JOHN CLAYTON CHAPTER, VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT  
SOCIETY

### SHORTLEAF PINE

*Pinus echinata*

With some characters suggesting Loblolly Pine, and others Scrub Pine, Shortleaf Pine is often overlooked. While less common around Williamsburg, it is the most widely distributed southern yellow pine, native in 21 southeastern states. This is a large, tall tree with a full, open crown. The trunk is straight, naturally pruned, the bark becoming reddish brown and breaking into broad, flat plates. Needles are 2-1/2 to 5 inches long with 2 and occasionally 3 per bundle. The egg-shaped cones are 1-3 inches long, their scales tipped with a short, often temporary prickle.

Loblolly Pine is rather similar in stature and bark. However, its needles are 6-9 inches long, 3 to a bundle. Cones are 4-6 inches long, with stout, very sharp prickles. Scrub Pine is usually shorter in stature, and scrubby in appearance due to numerous lower branches persisting. It has the shortest needles, usually under 2-1/2 inches long, strongly twisted, in bundles of 2 only. The bark of mature trees is only slightly fissured and scaly. The cones are small, like those of Shortleaf Pine, and tend to accumulate on the tree for many years.

Shortleaf Pine grows in uplands and dry forests on a wide range of soil and site conditions, in every county



**Photo:** Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)  
taken by Helen Hamilton

in Virginia. The range is from New York to Illinois, south to Florida and Texas.

An important timber species, the tree produces lumber for construction and millwork as well as plywood, barrels, boxes and crates. Seedlings and small trees will sprout after fire damage or injury.

*Echinata* is from Latin *echinus* which means “hedgehog,” alluding to the spiny hedgehog-like appearance of the cone. A larval host for the Elfin butterfly, the tree provides habitat and food for Bobwhite, Mourning Dove, Meadowlark and a variety of songbirds.

For more information about native plants visit  
[www.claytonvnps.org](http://www.claytonvnps.org).

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## GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS!

**Seated:** Marilyn Riddle & Angela Cingale,  
VMGA Reps; Margene Hartsough, President

**Standing:** David Sisson, Admin.VP; Bob  
Winther, Treasurer; Judy Casone, Internal  
Education VP; Mary Edwards, Secretary;  
Deborah Griesinger, Projects VP.



# The Colonial Master Gardener February 2013

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## PLANTS HUZZAH! COMMITTEE 2013 PLANNING

BY CHERE' HARPER

The Plants Huzzah! plant sale is April 26-27, 2013.

The planning committee will meet February 4, March 4, April 1, April 15 and April 22 from 1 to 2 PM in Meeting Room A of the JCC Recreation Center, following the new Training Class.

All MGs are welcome to attend. Bring ideas and suggestions!

A donation of 6 inch pots from the Colonial Williamsburg Greenhouse is coming to Aileen Bartlett's yard and may be there by the time you see this. She reports the yard is ready and MGs are welcome to come and get pots now. There are both herb and 6 inch pots available, as well as some larger sizes.

Wondering what to plant and grow for the sale? Attached to this newsletter (pages 9 & 10) are our latest vegetable and 1<sup>st</sup> year blooming perennial variety recommendations, with the recommended time to start them before April 26<sup>th</sup>. Limited copies of recommended Annuals and Herbs from Seed, with a chart for timing to match the Plants Huzzah! event will be available at the February Meeting.

## MG HOURS IN 2012 : IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

BY DAVE SISSON

In 2012, JCC/W MGs (that means YOU) contributed 17,857 hours of service to our communities through our various projects.

Let's break that down into a couple of ways to think about it:

§ If one of our Government Agencies had to pay for these services our communities tax burdens would have been just about \$389,000 higher.

§ Our schools would have had 40,000+ fewer text books.

§ 52 + public employees would not have had a full time job with benefits.

§ 4 vehicles used by our first responders would not have been replaced.

We could go on, but you get the idea. What you do as a Master Gardener has great value to your community. Let's keep up the good work and be sure to keep your hours up to date on our records. Look for more info about what we did in next month's Newsletter. BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO AND WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISH AS A VOLUNTEER!

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## PEGGY KRAPF TO SPEAK ON "ACCESSORIZING YOUR GARDEN"

The public is invited to a program presented by Peggy Krapf, noted area landscape designer and one of our very own MGs, to be held at the Herb Society of America's Colonial Triangle Unit's regular meeting. The subject is "Accessorizing Your Garden."

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, **March 12**, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Road, Norge.

## REMINDER FROM THE BOARD

We need your hours updated on a regular basis. If you are having trouble recording them, let us know so we can get you the help you need [or the courage to tackle a new program]. Also let us know if you are having trouble getting your volunteer hours or education hours because your circumstances have changed. We can guide you to alternatives. Let us know before you get too far behind--we are here to help.

# The Colonial Master Gardener February 2013

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## MG LIBRARY

BY JEANNE MILLIN

The JCC/MG are grateful to member Aileen Bartlett, for allowing me to look at her extensive botanical library for the purpose of selecting books to be donated to the JCC/W MG library housed at the office in Toano. If you have not been up to that location recently, please take a look. Aileen has quite a large collection and I choose 12 books that represent areas of interest that are not currently covered extensively and which reflect new approaches to our gardening. I will be summarizing some of the new additions to the library in future issues.

Once again, I have been organizing the library and purchasing books for the Help Desk and Plant Diagnostics since my intern year, five years ago. I firmly believe in moving on and would welcome a new librarian. Please contact me if you are interested. Jeanne Millin

## VMGA TREASURE POSITION OPEN

The VMGA Treasurer's position is now vacant. Anyone interested should contact Marilyn Riddle at [mriddle@cox.net](mailto:mriddle@cox.net). She is a member of the VMGA Nominating Committee. Thanks.

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## TIPS FOR THE GARDEN

BY AILENE BARTLET

Okay, so you have a pile of new seed and nursery catalogs, but do you have these other things?? (1) A PLAN of your garden, what you want to plant and where you want to plant it, (2) a timeline, based on our (supposedly) average last frost date of April 15, as to when you need to start seeds, (3) location for proper seed-starting, (4) supplies for seed-starting, (5) supplies for planting out in the garden. If you've got all that, then you can make a list of seeds and plants you want to order, sit down with your catalogs, and start the process.

If you have seeds left over from previous years (hopefully kept in the refrigerator), you can go through those and see what you have that are less than 2 years old. The rest are questionable, at best.

## BOOK REVIEW

BY JEANNE MILLIN



The following two books are part of the donation from Aileen Bartlett.

### Insect, Disease & Weed: ID Guide

After a short introduction, this hardbound organic guide is divided into three sections, with a class key for each color-coded section. There is a page for each identified insect, disease and weed, listing the range, with a short description, life cycle, host plants (where appropriate), and prevention and control. This book was published by Rodale Press so you know their approach will be in keeping with the Master Gardener approach to sustainable gardening practices. The book can be found in the MG Library as SB603.5 I1575. It is a 2001 publication.

### Pests

Another Rodale Publication, this small publication packs a lot of really useful information into its 95 pages. The approach is towards preventing problems before they start and a listing of supplies is a large chapter in the book. Animal pests, such as deer, rabbits and birds, and how to deal with them are covered. A useful chapter, that is unique to this publication is the chapter dealing with imposters in the garden such as winter injury, sunscald, and waterlogged soil that can fool us into thinking we have a pest problem. This book is worth a look. It can be found in the library under SB975 R62. Also published in 2001.

And when you've gotten everything organized, you might want to go to the library and pick up a good book to while away the rest of the winter. You might like a book of garden quotations, which usually contain quotes from Biblical times to the present, and are certainly good views on how many notables felt about their gardens! Going from there, many of the people quoted in those books also wrote books on their gardening experiences, and one can learn and be amused/amazed at the same time. Some of the names you've run across in your studies may come alive!

We don't hold our MG classes this time of year for nothing. There's less outside digging to do, but more time for inside digging, to add to your store of knowledge. Try it, you might like it!

# The Colonial Master Gardener February 2013

## Important Dates

- 2/4 Plant Sale Planning Committee Mtg.
- 2/7 Monthly Meeting at WRL
- 2/18 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 3/4 Plant Sale Planning Committee Mtg.
- 3/9 Turf Love University
- 3/12 Herb Garden Mtg., Peggy Krapf Talk
- 4/1, 15, 22 Plant Sale Planning Committee Mtg.
- 4/26-27 Plant Huzzah! Sale

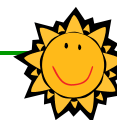
## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of material for the **March Newsletter** is **Monday, February 18**. Please send to Cathy Lohwater, newsletter editor, at [cathy.lohwater@cox.net](mailto:cathy.lohwater@cox.net) or call 757-259-1133.

### JCC/W Master Gardener Mission Statement

*The purpose of the James City County/ Williamsburg Master Gardener is to learn, educate, and communicate environmentally sound horticultural practices to the community. Trained by the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener volunteers are committed to offering information to the public through sustainable landscape management educational programs.*

## SUNSHINE NOTES



If you know a Master Gardener who is ill, facing surgery, has suffered a family loss, or any event in which that person might benefit from a **sunshine note**, please contact the MG Secretary, Mary Ellen Edwards. She will send a note or take appropriate action on behalf of the organization. Mary Ellen may be reached at (804) 966-9366 or [JMEMEE12350@verizon.net](mailto:JMEMEE12350@verizon.net).

## ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER GARDENERS AND VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Virginia Master Gardeners are volunteer educators who work within their communities to encourage and promote environmentally sound horticulture practices through sustainable landscape management education and training. As an educational program of Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Master Gardeners bring the resources of Virginia's land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University, to the people of the commonwealth.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments. Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**New Kent Extension Office**

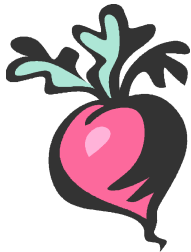
P.O. Box 205 / 11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1

New Kent, VA 23124

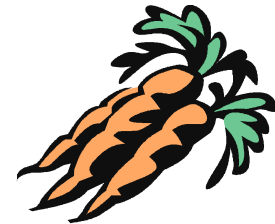
804/966-9645 / Fax: 804/966-5013

<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new.kent>

Raised Bed Gardening Clinic  
Saturday, February 16, 2013  
10:00 am - Noon



FREE!!



Location:

New Kent Extension Office  
11809 New Kent Highway, Suite 1  
New Kent, VA

Master Gardeners Sue Donnelly & Sue Voigt will talk about the advantages of raised bed gardening with vegetables, what it takes to have a successful vegetable garden, how to create a garden design, good soil composition, and ways to add organic matter to your gardening beds.

A visit to “Carole’s Garden”, the New Kent Master Gardeners’ demonstration garden, on site at the Extension Office.

Please **pre-register no later than Monday, February 11th**, and for more information contact:  
New Kent Virginia Cooperative Extension (804) 966-9645,  
email [millsm@vt.edu](mailto:millsm@vt.edu) or visit <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/new.kent>

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact Cynthia Rowles, New Kent - Virginia Cooperative Extension at (804-966-9645/TDD\*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

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Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.



## PLANTS HUZAH! SEED STARTING RECOMMENDATIONS

### Vegetables from Seed:

Broccoli	8 wks	Packman, Green Goliath
Cabbage	8 wks	Early Jersey Wakefield, Stonehead, Dynamo
Cauliflower	8 wks	White Sails
Swiss Chard	8 wks	Rhubarb, Lucullus
Lettuce	6-8 wks	Salad Bowl, Oak Leaf, Heatwave Blend, Rouge d'Hiver Romaine, Red Romaine, Buttercrunch, White Boston, Black Seeded Simpson
Peppers	8 wks (soil 85 deg.)	Lady Bell, Boydton, Jalapeno, Cayenne, Sweet Banana, Cubanelle
Eggplant	6-8 wks (soil 85 deg.)	Mission Bell, Little Fingers, Longship
Tomatoes	6 wks (soil 85 deg.)	

Red: Big Beef, Better Boy, Celebrity, Super Sweet 100, Plum Dandy, Big Mama Plum, Juliet Plum, Early Girl, Sunmaster, Sweet Million, Solar Set, Grape  
Yellow: Lemon Boy, Sugar Sun, Sun Gold, Jelly Bean Yellow, Sioux  
Heirloom: Cherokee Purple, Arkansas Traveler, San Marzano, Yellow Pear  
Tomatillo: Toma Verde, Salsa

### Seed Directly in Pots, start 3 weeks before:

Cucumbers	Bush Whopper, Picklebush, Bush Champion, Salad Bush
Summer Squash	Goldrush, Butterbur, Superpik, Puma, Yellow Scallop
Winter Squash	Table Ace, Butterbush

### Perennials that bloom 1<sup>st</sup> year from Seed, start these 8 to 10 weeks before:

Agastache (hyssop)	Fragrant Delight Mixed, Golden Jubilee
Alcea rosea (hollyhock)	Summer Carnival, Peaches 'n Dreams, Black Beauty, Indian Spring
Alcea ficifolia (figleaf hollyhock)	Happy Lights (resistant to rust)
Columbine	Song Bird, McKana's Giant
Coreopsis	Early Sunrise, Presto, Rising Sun
Delphinium	Magic Fountains mixed, New Century, Blue Butterfly, Blue Mirror, Summer Skies
Dianthus	Sonata, Crimsonia, Russian Skies
Digitalis (foxglove)	Foxy, Camelot

***Continued Next Page.....***

# PLANTS HUZZAH! SEED STARTING RECOMMENDATIONS

(CONTINUED)

## **Perennials that bloom 1<sup>st</sup> year from Seed, start these 8 to 10 weeks before (continued):**

Echinaca purpurea	Magnus
Gaillardia	Goblin, Arizona Sun, Sundance
Heliopsis helianthoides	Summer Night
Hibiscus	Southern Belle, Disco Belle, Carolina mixed, Luna
Leucanthemum (shasta daisy)	White Knight
Lupines	All
Malva silvestris	Zebrina, Mystic Merlin
Nepeta nervosa	Blue Moon
Penstemon barbatus	Iron Maiden, Cambridge mix
Salvia	Blue Queen
Tanacetum (feverfew)	Tetra White
Verbascum	Southern Charm mixed, Nigrum
Veronica	Sightseeing mix, Blue Bouquet, Blue Spires
Yarrow	Summer Pastels

## **More Perennials from Seed, start 8 to 10 weeks before:**

Lychnis chalcedonia	Maltese Cross
Rudbeckia hirta	
Rudbeckia fulgida	Black eyed Susan