

Pittsfield Village

GREEN SPACES • GREAT NEIGHBORS



Winter Pet Notes

Thank you for picking up after your dogs! With the snow "melting", the evidence speaks for itself. Please do your part and take responsibility for your pets.

CATS...

must not permitted to roam the community unattended. Please do not let your cats out without a leash!

February 2019



Hi. I live on Pittsfield Blvd. I wanted to share this great way to have a "guest bed" in a one-bedroom condo. I made the purchase a few weeks ago at Cost-co for \$249.00 plus tax.

The bed opens with 3 quick moves to a memory foam mattress twin bed. It is also on rolling wheels that can be locked.

Just thought you might like to know. It's always fun to find furniture made functional for homes the size of our condos. Enjoy!

Linda Claire Groshans

Pittsfield Village 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, February 23

1:00 to 3:00 pm

In the garage adjacent to the office (parking lot side)

Register by calling or emailing the office

office@pittsfieldvillage.com

971-0233



IN THE GARDEN

By Lisa Joseph, Community Horticulturist

It's February and time to start thinking about the upcoming gardening season. A little early planning and researching will give you the opportunity to hit the ground running as soon as the weather permits. Let's first talk Bearded Iris- *Iris germanica*. These beauties bloom in May in a wide range of colors. Personally I prefer charming pastel pinks, purples, and yellows that to me define spring and the anticipation of warm sunny days.

Bearded Iris is deer and rabbit-resistant, requires full sun, and is drought tolerant. I recommend planting this perennial back from the front of the garden border because once the blooming has wrapped up, the foliage can get rather shabby and unappealing.

Bearded Iris isn't exactly low-maintenance, but with a little effort, you will have a neat and good-looking clump that will last for years...



CARING FOR BEARDED IRIS:

Bearded Iris clumps require frequent division, at least every three or four years. When irises become overcrowded, blooming will decline. The best time to divide and replant iris rhizomes is in July and August, when plants are dormant in the intense heat of summer.

Dig up the entire clump. Replenish the soil with compost or composted shredded leaves. Replant a few large rhizomes in an area that gets at least 6 hours of sun per day and that has well-draining soil and good air circulation to avoid disease problems.



PLANTING STEPS:

- Build up a small mound of soil in the middle of your planting hole.
- Place rhizome clump on top of the mound, spreading the roots down into the soil on either side of the mound.
- Gently but firmly tamp down the soil around the roots.
- Space plants about 12 to 24 inches apart.
- Water well. Add mulch.

IMPORTANT! It is a common mistake to plant iris rhizomes too deep. They should be planted so the tops of the rhizomes are visible and the roots are spread out facing downward.

FERTILIZING IRIS CLUMPS:

Use an N-P-K ratio of 10-10-10 or 5-10-10 for best results.

Avoid fertilizer high in nitrogen (first number) as it will encourage weak soft growth that is susceptible to disease. Fertilize in spring and again a month after bloom. Spread fertilizer around plant, not directly on the rhizome.

IRIS LEAF SPOT is a common problem with rainy humid conditions or overhead irrigation. Yellow spots with beige middles appear on the leaves, causing the foliage to look unattractive and tatty in the garden.

I recommend that you edit out these ugly spots that take away from the beauty of the rest of the garden by cutting out all or part of affected leaves. This will help control the spread of this fungal disease as well.

Lisa's Suggestion for an Annual Plant that is EASY CARE, TOUGH AS NAILS, AND COLORFUL ALL SUMMER LONG:

LEMON CORAL SEDUM

(*Sedum mexicanum* 'Lemon Coral') 10 x 14"; mounding/trailing habit; bright chartreuse spiky foliage; heat and drought tolerant; works as a foliage plant filler in containers or in the garden bed.



This beauty performed well for me all last summer with no care at all, no deadheading, no supplemental watering, no fussing at all. I could not ask for more from this workhorse. Write this one down in your notes so you don't forget to look for it come May.

COMBINE WITH: the bright yellow chartreuse color combines perfectly with magenta petunias, deep violet-blue Salvia 'Deep Cathedral Blue', rosy pink Wave Petunias, Cherry Red and Fuchsia Zinnias, the cobalt blue blooms of Balloon Flower, and any plant with maroon or purple foliage.

SHADY GARDEN? LISTEN UP: THE NEW FROSTKISS SERIES OF HELLEBORES!

Perfect for a smaller shade garden, these new introductions have lovely foliage coloration to extend their interest throughout the season, and the flowers are sterile which means no little seedlings popping up all over the garden. To top it off, Hellies are deer-resistant, have ever-green foliage, and are important early spring food sources for pollinators.

TWO OF THE FROSTKISS CHOICES:

-HELLEBORUS 'PIPPA'S PURPLE' (18" tall x 24" in width)- adorned with large violet-purple outward-facing flowers from February to April; deep green foliage with silver and pink veining.

-HELLEBORUS 'PENNY'S PINK'- (24 x 24")- purple buds open to hot pink outward-facing blooms from February to April; dark green foliage has striking chartreuse green veining.

COMPANIONS: Creeping Phlox, Epimedium (Barrenwort), Pulmonaria (Lungwort), Heucherella (Foamy Bells), Hakonechloa 'Aureola' (Japanese Forest Grass), Athyrium n. 'Pictum' (Japanese Painted Fern), Narcissus (Daffodil), Scilla (Squill), Polystichum polyblepharum (Tassel Fern).



POLLINATOR GARDEN UPDATE:

We plan to add a habitat for solitary native bees! Many native bee species build nests in a variety of cavities or tunnels. The two main kinds of cavity-nesting bees are mason and leafcutter bees. Both types are important pollinators, and by providing them with a safe habitat, people can help conserve their population.

Cavity-nesting bees are solitary, with each female using her own cavity. Solitary bees are nonaggressive. They do not produce honey.

Native bee habitats should be placed in a location facing southeast to receive direct morning sunlight. Install the habitat about 4 to 5 feet above the ground and mount it firmly so that it doesn't shake in the wind and disturb the developing larvae. The habitat needs to be in place by Mid-April when nesting begins. It is also important to have plants that flower in succession from spring through fall to provide foraging sources. This summer we will add Zinnia, Salvia, Dahlia, Petunia, Ageratum, Borage, Thyme, and Gomphrena that will invite a variety of good insects to our existing multiple-season Pollinator Garden. I am really looking forward to this garden taking off and attracting even more beneficial insects to the community.



IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT. WE'VE GOT THIS

Go outside and play in the snow. Then come inside and have a steamy cup of hot cocoa with mini marshmallows! I will too.

Pittsfield Village Office

Monday— Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
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COMMITTEES

Maintenance & Modification: Leif Millar, Chair
Landscape: Brian Rice, Chair

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5 6:00pm open forum; 6:15pm M&M Commit-	6	7 CRAFT NIGHT 5:30 pm to 7:00	8	9
10	11	12 6:00pm open forum; 6:15pm Landscape Mtg	13 JAN BOARD MEETING 6:15 pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 CHILI COOKOFF! 1:00 PM
24	25	26	27 6:15pm open forum; 6:30pm: FEB BOARD MEETING	28		