



Leaflet

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Garden Centre • Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe
Landscaping • Lawn Care • Nursery

Design For The Times *by Mark B. Linton*

Good landscape design can help ease the pain of bad economic times. We are seeing an increased interest in our landscape services. Obviously we aren't landscaping nearly as many new homes as what we're used to, but we are now seeing a shift towards landscape renovation and additional landscaping for existing homes. With the current economic conditions, homeowners are turning to the outdoor living spaces for refuge, inspiration and serenity. Attitudes have changed, and landscapes are considered something that enriches your life versus something to mark off the list as "done". Beautiful landscapes not only increase property value but also separate us from the chaos of the world.

A lot of our landscape clients are budget-conscious. We've been perceived as being somewhat expensive. When we are confronted with this concern, we encourage our clients to shop around. I also tell them that we didn't become the biggest by charging the most. In fact, we heavily promote our plant prices in the Elkhart and South Bend newspapers. We are proud to offer our products for less than other Garden Centers and compete with big box stores while offering a better quality product.

Many of our customers are not aware that we grow our own plants and have our own 40 acre Nursery facility, located near the Elcona Golf Course. This is the main reason why our prices are low and our quality is high.

Another trend that we are seeing is landscaping coordinating with the interior décor of the home. The landscape should flow with the interior of the residence. It shouldn't look like one type of personality lives inside and another lives outside.

Linton's Do-It-Yourself Program

How do you achieve the "Linton's look" for your landscape when you are on a tight budget? The answer is simple, check out our free Do-It-Yourself program.

We have several options from which to select. Linton's offers stock designs that may be utilized as is, or modified to achieve a personalized design for your landscape. Our knowledgeable Garden Centre Staff will happily coach you through the process to make sure you are selecting the right plants for your area.

Another option is our "Specific Area Sketch". This is available for our Green Thumb Savings Club Members only. If you are not a member of this popular savings club, simply ask any of our staff as to how you may join. To get started, bring in a pre-drawn sketch, with measurements, (pictures are helpful too), of an area that you would like to have assistance/ideas. Our Garden Centre Staff can then help you select the plants you like and suggest placement. We encourage you to call in advance so that we may schedule a time to give you the full attention you deserve.

AS A SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS,

Linton's offers complimentary wedding consultations.

PLEASE CALL RUTH LINTON

AT 293-9699 TO SET UP YOUR APPOINTMENT!



We are probably the area's only landscape architectural firm that also employs interior designers. We have always felt that we are in the home beautification business. We are qualified to decorate both the outside as well as the inside of your home.

A big growing trend that we are seeing is the creation of outdoor rooms. These "rooms" include outdoor kitchens, pergolas, fire pits and barbecues. Clients who invest money in these areas will see a big increase in property value and the sale of their home will be expedited.



Come and celebrate the wonderful world of Webkinz On May 1 -3, 2009. Linton's Enchanted Gardens will be offering a weekend of fun games and activities! Come in and share in the excitement!



Rainy Day Sale **Rainy Days Need Not Get You Down.**

Next time the heavens pour liquid sunshine, plan a trip to Linton's Enchanted Gardens. You can shop in the comfort of our Interior Décor Shoppe or Conservatory! When our Rainy Days Flag is flying, you'll save 10% off your day's purchases in the Garden Centre! We even have a supply of umbrellas for you to use if you'd like to stroll through our gardens. You can visit our website, rain or shine, at www.lintons.com.

Our most popular option is our "Master Plan Design". By using the Linton's "Master Plan Design" Program, you will receive designs exclusively drawn for your home or business by one of our trained and experienced landscape designers. The program is started with the purchase of a gift certificate as a deposit toward your initial plants and materials. We have a short questionnaire that we use to find out your preferences. After completing the questionnaire, our designer will make an appointment to meet you at your home or business to begin the on site design process.

All of these options are free and easy! And when you combine these programs with our Green Thumb Savings Club, you will save 10-75% off your landscape purchases. No other Garden Centre offers professional designs and savings like Linton's!

Clip & Save

FREE May Night Salvia
(1 gallon)

(Limit 1 coupon per family) (No purchase necessary)

Valid only 5/11/09 - 5/31/09

Linton's Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 - 7:00 • Saturday & Sunday 8:00 - 6:00

A Victory Garden?

(Well, sort of.) by *Laura Sherman, Garden Centre Manager*

In the 1940's Americans answered a call from the U.S. government to help feed our troops. And we did a marvelous job by providing 9-10 million tons of fresh fruits and vegetables. Now in an effort to save money and help feed our own families, many of us will be trying to grow our own fruits and vegetables.

Some plants are better grown from seed and some from seedlings. Those best started from seed are beans, carrots, peas, beets and turnips. The best seedlings are tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, onions, herbs, garlic, raspberries and blueberries.

First decide what you are going to plant. That should not be too difficult, just let your palette decide for you. What is delicious to you?

Next is location. Fruits and vegetables need at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. And remember, you can incorporate fruits and vegetables into your existing landscape. Have you ever heard of a book called "Roses Love Garlic"? It is a book about companion planting. How about a pole bean teepee next to your daylilies? Or planting onions and garlic around your flower garden? That will help keep deer and rabbits away from your tastiest ornamental plants. What about a blueberry bush next to your clematis? It is a great shrub that stands about 5 feet tall, with beautiful white blooms and it produces delicious berries.

Now that you have a location, make sure irrigation is nearby. Annuals need more water and nutrients than most perennials. They expend a lot of energy in producing flowers and fruits in a short period of time and need to replenish it.

After these decisions have been made, the real fun begins with getting our hands dirty. Plants need a good foundation to become and stay healthy. That starts with good rich soil. To do this, incorporate composted cow manure or peat moss into the existing soil. Doing this helps your plants get off to a healthy start. A healthy plant can fight off disease and insect problems better than a sick one. They also produce more fruit/blooms.

Here are some pointers for taking care of your plants once they are planted:

When you water your plants, try to water them early in the day so that the water on the leaves has a chance to dry before the evening. This helps reduce many fungal disease issues. Remove the fruit when it ripens and your plant will produce more. If you leave the fruit to rot on the plant your plant will cease in producing as much fruit. Inspect your plant regularly. This is a good way to find problems early enough to remedy them.

When preserving your fruits and vegetables, please do it safely. Some of the ways our grandmothers preserved foods are no longer safe for our time. The best up to date information I have found is from the University of Georgia, in a book called "So Easy To Preserve". It is scientifically based, for safe food handling.

I hope I have inspired you to try to grow your own garden. If you have any questions or need additional information, please stop by our Garden Centre and our staff of experts will help you. I hope you have a delicious season!

Employee Spotlight

Introducing . . . Jennifer Satkoski!!!

Linton's Enchanted Gardens is proud to introduce our Nursery Manager/Head Grower, Jennifer Satkoski. Jennifer has been a part of the Linton Team for two years and works at our Nursery located on CR 14 in Bristol. She assists wholesale clients and oversees daily nursery operations. Jennifer also keeps our retail Garden Centre and landscape crews stocked with a vast variety of plants.

Jennifer graduated from Vincennes University with an Associate of Arts Degree in Horticulture Technology and has 14 years of experience in the gardening industry. She enjoys keeping up on the latest plant introductions and continuing her education to become a better grower.



What Are "Free Bees"?

What are "Free Bees"? If you are a regular customer of Linton's, you already know. But if you're new to the area, you might just think that we are passing out those pesky pollinators that may sometimes sting us. Well, you are wrong! Every week during the Garden Centre season, we pass on HUGE savings to our customers with our weekly Free Bee Sale. These are healthy plants that we have grown at our own Nursery in Bristol and have over produced.

When we need to get our inventory level down, we pass on these unheard of savings to our customers! Where else can you buy one or two plants and get three free? Linton's Enchanted Gardens of course! Just watch our weekly ads in the Elkhart and South Bend newspapers, or just simply stop by and pick up a weekly sales flyer and look for the red sale flags throughout the Garden Centre.

AS A SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS, *Linton's offers complimentary interior accessory consultations.* PLEASE CALL ANDREW SKIPPER AT 293-9699 TO SET UP YOUR APPOINTMENT!

Attention All Container Gardeners

On Sunday, May 17th, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Linton's will be hosting a container gardening workshop. The cost for attending this event is \$4.99 per person + the cost of plants and/or containers that you take with you. The \$4.99 will cover the cost of your dirt & slow-release fertilizer. We will have additional classes held on May 23rd, 30th, & 31st leading up to our garden party open house on June 6th & 7th.

The class will be scheduled as follows:

Please arrive early enough to get your containers (limit 5) into the conservatory (or shop for new ones) before class begins at 1:00 p.m. (we will have people on staff that day to help with heavy ones, too).

- Once class begins we will go over some design principles & ideas as well as fertilizer needs.
- You will then be free to move out to our annual area and pick up whatever plants your heart desires (or if you prefer, we could also help you assemble a mini conifer container, like our fairy garden).
- During this time we will check on you to see if you have any questions.
- When you are finished and satisfied with your containers we will come around and total your purchases (plant/container costs).
- At this time you will have the option of adding a delivery service, if you feel that your containers are too heavy for you or your vehicle.
- You may then pay and leave at your leisure.

This workshop is a great opportunity to bring in your own containers and get them done with unlimited options. It will give you a chance to ask questions, and get answers from our professional staff. If this sounds like something your mother, wife, daughter, or best friend would enjoy; why not treat them for Mother's Day? This is not a "women's only" event though. So, gentlemen, if you have a green thumb, please feel welcome to join us. If you are interested in hosting your own party or workshop; we are taking reservations now for birthdays (kids or adults), company outings/retreats, school field trips, bridal showers, baby showers, or just because.



ASK IRIS

Dear Iris,

Late spring when my bulbs are all finished blooming, what should I do to care for them?

Signed,
Enlighten

Dear Enlighten,

Bulb and corm plants usually only bloom for a short 1-2 weeks. With a little research and planning, you can have a bed of bright blooms coming and going over several months. After your colorful show has passed its prime, you can cut off the faded flowers and stems. Allow the leaves to grow to maturity so they will continue producing chlorophyll for food which will be stored in the bulb below ground for next Spring. Don't remove the leaves until they have yellowed and browned.

For most Spring bloomers, the leaves can be removed whenever hot weather comes, mid-to-late summer. Most bulbs, but not all, benefit from lifting and dividing every year or two. Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus, Fritillaria, and the shade lover bulbs need not be moved or divided at all, unless they are showing signs of decline. By the 3rd year in the ground, they may be smaller in size and have fewer blooms. This is an indication that they need nutritional attention or are overcrowded. The larger sized Tulips may need lifting more often more frequently. By enriching the soil and dividing the bulbs, you will be guaranteed large colorful blooms every year. Divide and sort dug bulbs by size, and plan ahead to replant immediately so the roots will not dry out. Relocate the smaller bulbs from your dug up cluster to an inconspicuous location until they get bigger. Replant the larger bulbs in an obvious spot to attract the most attention.

Signed,
Iris

What's Cooking?



SPRING VEGETABLE SALAD WITH BUTTERMILK DRESSING

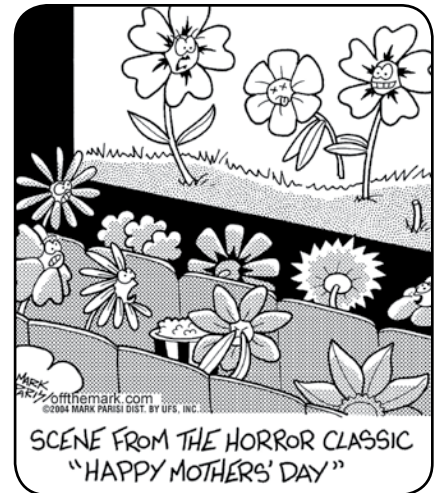
- 1 ½ cups asparagus, cut into 2" lengths
- 10 medium baby carrots, halved lengthwise if thick
- 1 cup sugar snap peas, stem ends snipped
- 1 medium English cucumber, halved lengthwise, thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup buttermilk
- 3 tbsp reduced-calorie mayonnaise
- 2 tsp apple cider vinegar
- ½ tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/4 tsp table salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper, freshly ground
- 2 tbsp chives, fresh, sliced
- 2 tsp dill, fresh, chopped
- 6 cups mixed baby greens
- 4 oz semisoft goat cheese, crumbled

Bring a large skillet half full of water to a boil. Add asparagus and carrots; cook 1 minute. Add sugar snap peas; cook until vegetables are crisp-tender, about 1 to 2 minutes more. Drain, rinse under cold water until cool and drain again. Put vegetables in a medium bowl and add cucumbers; toss to mix.

In a small bowl, whisk together buttermilk, mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper until smooth; stir in chives and dill.

To serve, place 1 ½ cups of salad greens on each of 4 salad plates. Place about 1 cup of vegetable mixture in center of each; drizzle each with about 3 tablespoons of dressing and 1 ounce of goat cheese. Makes 4 servings.

off the mark.com



by Mark Parisi



Help SAVE Mother Earth

Every year millions of nursery pots are used just once and then hauled away to the landfill. By recycling and re-using the pots, we can all do our part to help Mother Earth.

For each used plastic nursery pot (1 gallon or larger) returned to us, Linton's will reward you with a credit of 5 cents per container. And we don't mind if the container was purchased elsewhere.

Note: Pots must be in relatively good condition.

Linton's New Plant Introductions

by Jennifer Satkoski - Linton's Nursery Manager

Hello, everyone! I hope you are off to a GREAT gardening start this year! I am so excited about this year's new plant introductions. Wow! What great plants! We have lots of new trees, shrubs, roses, flowers, & vines to talk about. I will be telling you a little bit about them in our spring, summer, & fall newsletter this year according to its season of interest.

Well, let's start with some exciting groundcovers. We have an amazing new Lily-of-the-Valley to introduce this year. It is extremely rare, and a real collector's item. This new breakthrough has gold variegated leaves that are perfectly pinstriped. A real eye catcher! We also have 2 very exciting new Ajugas. The first is called 'Party Colors'. It is an absolute rainbow of color, starting with the leaves that range from green and white to reddish pinks and purples. The second is called 'Sparkler'. It definitely is! Sparkler Ajuga has wonderful dark green leaves with creamy-white splashes. In winter the variegation turns to an amazing pink.

A new tree with a "Heart of Gold" is sure to get everyone's attention at the Garden Centre this spring. A new variety of Redbud. Yes, that's right, Redbud. Its beautiful leaves emerge as a coppery red, then turn to an amazing gold color that will NOT scorch in the hot summer sun. This is all in addition to the flower show you get first thing in the spring.

Come and see our brand new variety of Forsythia called 'Citrus Swizzle'. It is the first variegated form of the Bronx Dwarf Forsythia which only gets 18-24" tall. Leaves on this beauty start out edged in gold, and as the summer progresses, turn into a creamy white. A new variety of Caryopteris (Blue Mist Shrub) called 'Hint of Gold', should have been named "Screaming Siren" of Gold. Wow, very bright leaves will mix with blue flowers by June. We are offering a brand new variety of bush Honeysuckle called 'Cool Splash'. It is

the very first variegated form of this genus, and gets 3-4' tall and wide.

We have a couple of new grasses to introduce. The first is a new variety of feather reed grass called 'Eldorado'. It has very bright gold variegation that absolutely radiates in the sunshine. The next grasses are both what we call "switch grass", because of their flowers in the fall. Prairie Fire has blue green foliage that turns wine red by very early summer with rosy flowers, and Huron Solstice turns an even deeper wine red with deep purple flowers. I mention both of these grasses now in the spring because you can enjoy the foliage early on in the season, and because we have limited quantities.

And finally, let's talk about new perennials. Wow, where do I start. We have 3 new Columbines in the "Winky Series"; blue and white, red and white, & all white. A great new variety of goat's beard called 'Misty Lace'; 'King's Ransom' heartleaf brunnera; 'Coconut Punch', 'Dragon Fruit', & 'Apple Slice' from the new "Fruit Punch" series of dianthus; 'Candy Mountain' & 'Goldcrest' Foxglove; a double flowering variety of perennial geranium called hima Plenum; 2 new varieties of shasta daisy called 'Christine Hageman' & 'Old Court'; an awesome PINK flowering and a variegated form of forget-me-nots; great new varieties of creeping phlox like 'Scarlet Flame' & 'Fort Hill'; 4 new varieties of lungwort called 'Bubble Gum', 'Excalibur', 'Silver Shimmers', & 'Victorian Brooch'; and finally one of my personal favorites...catchfly 'Rolly's Favorite'. I don't know who Rolly is, but he picked a great plant.

Have a great spring everyone, and remember...you can always call us for more information or availability of these plants, and with prices starting as low as \$6.99 for perennials, you're sure to find something that fits in your budget.