



Leaflet

fall 2009 edition Volume 15/Issue 3

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

WNDU CURB APPEAL

by Mark Linton



BEFORE

If you haven't seen the "Curb Appeal" home and landscape makeover featured on WNDU for the past couple of months, I'd like to share some very exciting news with you. Linton's provided \$5,000.00 worth of landscaping to a lucky contestant who was one of hundreds who submitted their home for a free "curb appeal" makeover. The WNDU viewers voted the winner and chose Brad & Melissa Taube of Niles as the winner. After meeting with the Taube's, I formulated plans and drew up designs to dramatically change the front of Brad & Melissa's home. The process has been featured on numerous morning and evening news shows on WNDU. If for some reason you have missed these, you may view them on line by going to wndu.com and searching "curb appeal" on their website.

It's not only been fun working with WNDU, it's been an honor to work for the winners, Brad & Melissa. If you'd like to see the finished product, their home is located at



AFTER

70659 Ironwood Drive in Niles. The Taube's as well as myself invite you to drive by their newly landscaped house. Just look for the "Linton's" sign in their front yard.

Our thanks go out to the Taube's for allowing us the opportunity to feature our skills and talents. We also appreciate the team effort from Big B's Tree Service, Big C Lumber, as well as WNDU for making all of this possible. Stay tuned for another episode next year, as we search for the next lucky "Curb Appeal" winner.

**As a service to our customers,
LINTON'S OFFERS COMPLIMENTARY
WEDDING CONSULTATIONS.**

**Please call Ruth Linton
at 293-9699 to set up your appointment!**

Heavenly Hydrangeas

by Jennifer Martinez, Linton's Nursery Manager

It is easy to understand why hydrangeas are consistently one of the top sellers in garden centers around the country. Regardless of the species or variety, they are adored for their long season of blooms and varied forms. Their long lasting, large blossoms are excellent for fresh or dried arrangements indoors, as well. Here at Linton's, we carry the areas largest selection of hydrangeas (over 40 different varieties). It's not too late in the year to install one of these beautiful plants in your landscape. I'll help you through the shopping process. Being pregnant, I compare everything these days to ICE CREAM.

Hydrangeas, like ice cream, can be divided into several categories (ice cream, frozen yogurt, etc.). The 2 main categories are macrophylla (which are bigleaf) & paniculata (which are panicle). The "bigleaf" varieties (probably the most popular) are best in part shade to full sun with plenty of soil moisture. These varieties bloom on both old and new wood, so when it comes to pruning questions, you are better off to ask one of our expert staff which particular variety you have. The "panicle" varieties are the ones most everyone associates with a tree form (even though they just as often are pruned as a large shrub). These varieties are best in full sun & bloom on new wood, so it is best to prune them heavily in early spring. Some additional categories of hydrangeas include: Oakleaf, Climbing, & Smooth (like Annabelle).

Then, within each category, we have different flavors or varieties. The bigleaf hydrangea probably has the most expansive "flavor" list. We have hydrangeas in white, pink, red, blue, purple, & bi-color. HMMM...what color do I want? Well that's easily solved, too. If you prefer a cool blue or purple-ish tone, add the recommended dose of Aluminum Sulphate. If you prefer a rich red or pink-ish tone, add lime. Perhaps you don't have any or too few blooms, then try adding a "super" phosphate fertilizer (such as Fertilome's Blooming & Rooting Soluble Plant Food). If that doesn't work, you may need to move your hydrangea to a location where it will receive more sun.

So no matter what your landscape situation is, you are sure to find a hydrangea that will work for you. Come visit us at Linton's and let us help you scoop one up!

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

A Brilliant Autumn Show

by Laura Sherman, Garden Centre Manager

As autumn approaches, the kids go back to school (yeah!), the weather becomes cooler, apples are aplenty and the colors of the trees bring us a spectacular show of reds, oranges and yellows. While some of our perennials are starting to fade and get ready for old man winter, others are just getting started. In Autumn, the landscape is usually graced by the foliage of the trees. But, if your landscape lacks these brilliant specimens, the fall flowers must take on a larger role in our gardens.

Some people believe that fall plants are too limited and often avoid planting in the fall. Let me tell you about some astounding plants to maximize the enjoyment of your yard before the first heavy snowfall.

Fall annuals? Yes, absolutely! Annuals add astounding color to the landscape and perform well. Pansies add a splash of color, and with so many new varieties, it is going to be hard to choose. The mammoth pansy has a larger flower for a more visual impact. Winter survivors are also a great choice. These are pansies which will bloom for the fall season until a hard freeze, and then reappear in spring. You can't beat that! Cabbage and Kale are also beautiful. They like cooler weather and as we have a few frosts the cabbage will change colors. Some turn white, purple, pink, or red depending on the variety you choose. Sunflowers are a very popular plant in the fall garden. They can be cut and placed in floral arrangements bringing the outdoors in. Mums and asters also add beautiful color to the landscape. They come in a wide variety of colors and styles. Mums can also be a perennial in the garden. To keep your mums plants full and bushy, trim the tops an inch or two in the beginning of June and again, right around the fourth of July. This will help them stay compact and produce more blooms.

There are many perennials that have great fall interest. Mr. Good Bud and Autumn Joy Sedum are very good choices. Their blooms turn brilliant colors in the cooler weather. Hypericum or St. John's Wort, blooms in the summer. Then as the blooms disappear, small berries in red and orange appear in the fall. They can be used in fresh cut floral arrangements. The ever popular ornamental grasses also show wonderful texture and color in autumn. Maiden Grass turns red, yellow, and beige in the fall. While purple Love Grass turns a reddish purple as the weather changes. Blue Oat Grass has beautiful seed heads that float above the foliage in the autumn breeze.

Shrubs are also a great way to add color in the landscape. Fothergilla has white flowers in the spring and the foliage is a blueish green in the summer, which then turns red and orange in the fall. The burning bush is also a very colorful shrub. It turns to a bright red color as the seasons change and is very easy to grow. There are also Red Twig and Arctic Sun Dogwoods. After the foliage falls due to cold weather, the twigs turn brilliant colors. Arctic sun branches turn to a yellowish-orange and the red twig turns red. Which one would you choose?

So as you see, there are many plants which will bring more fall color into your garden. It extends the season a bit longer before the snow flies and the shovels appear. Visit our garden centre to explore some new plants to add to your landscape!

**"IN THE GARDEN, AUTUMN IS,
INDEED THE CROWNING GLORY OF THE YEAR,
BRINGING US THE FRUITION OF MONTHS OF THOUGHT
AND CARE AND TOIL. AND AT NO SEASON, SAFE PERHAPS
IN DAFFODIL TIME, DO WE GET SUCH SUPERB COLOUR
EFFECTS AS FROM AUGUST TO NOVEMBER."**

- ROSE G. KINGSLEY, THE AUTUMN GARDEN

Eco-friendly Kitchen Options

Choose Matches Over Lighters - Most lighters are made out of plastic and filled with butane fuel, both petroleum products. Since most lighters are considered "disposable," over 1.5 billion end up in landfills each year. When choosing matches, pick cardboard over wood. Wood matches come from trees, whereas most cardboard matches are made from recycled paper.

Don't Use Liquid Dishwashing Detergents - Dish and laundry liquids are mostly water (up to 80 percent). While the double and triple compact concentrates reduce that amount, it still costs energy and packaging to bring this water to the consumer. Also, liquid detergents come in plastic packaging; whereas, powdered detergents are packaged in cardboard- another green perk. For other water saving tips, check out thegreenguide.com.

Don't Rinse the Dishes - Skip rinsing dishes before using your dishwasher and save up to 20 gallons of water each load. Plus, you're saving time and the energy used to heat the additional water.

Don't Pre-Heat the Oven - Unless you are making bread or pastries of some sort, don't pre-heat the oven. Just turn it on when you put the dish in. Also, when checking on your food, look through the oven window instead of opening the door.

Turn Off the Oven Early - Simply turn your oven off ten minutes before the end of the actual cooking time and allow the residual heat to complete the process. By doing this alone, you can save around 1600 kw of electricity per year.

Go Vegetarian Once Per Week - One less meat-based meal a week helps the planet and your diet. For example: It requires 2,500 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. You will also save some trees. For each hamburger that originated from animals raised on rainforest land, approximately 55 square feet of forest have been destroyed.



Introducing ... Linton's Kinzcash©

Kinzcash is now available at Linton's Enchanted Gardens! For every \$10.00 you spend on Webkinz merchandise, you will receive \$1.00 in Kinzcash. There is no expiration date on the Kinzcash, so you can save them up to get that special Webkinz pet that you always wanted.

Kinzcash is only available at Linton's Enchanted Gardens and may only be used at our store. Visit our Interior Décor Shoppe to see all of the wonderful Webkinz pets that are waiting for a loving home!!

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.

Employee spotlight

Introducing ... Kerri Snodgrass, our Petting Zoo Caretaker. Kerri has been a member of our team for 8 years and oversees the care and feeding of the animals in the petting zoo. Kerri is certified in equine massage therapy and attended Penn State studying veterinary technology. Since the age of 16, she has worked in various veterinary clinics.

Growing up on a farm, Kerri developed a love for animals at an early age. She has been riding horses for 21 years and also trains and breaks horses. She finds that the time spent with the animals is very relaxing. We enjoy having Kerri as a member of our team.



ASK IRIS

Dear Iris,

The flower beds around the house are completed. Now we would like some trees, any tips?

Signed,
Spring & Autumn

Dear Spring & Autumn,

Trees always add immeasurably to any landscape, improving it's overall visual appearance and adding to quality of life. They reduce water run-off, filter out pollutants, and generate fresh oxygen, as well as provide hours of relaxing enjoyment. Begin your selection by being an educated shopper...the number one cause of tree death by humans is selecting the wrong tree for the site.

First, determine why the tree is being planted: for seasonal color or blossoms; to provide light or dense shade; fruit for wildlife; or as a windbreak/privacy screen. What about the site for the tree? Does the space lend itself to the mature size of the tree you were considering? Are there overhead or under-ground utilities that would interfere with roots or branches? Micro climates within our zone can be created by driveways, walks and buildings, so consult a professional if necessary. Trees are carefully bred for resistance to pests and diseases, drought tolerance and physical characteristics. Containerized or balled & burlaped stock experience less transplant shock than dug trees.

Here's a few suggestions: Color - Crimson King Maple, Birch, Japanese Maple; Flowers - Thundercloud Plum, Rose of Sharon; Wildlife Fruit - Serviceberry, Crabapple 'Merlot'; Conifers - Arborvitae, Hemlock, Upright Juniper; Unique Shade - Tulip Poplar, Tri-color Beech, Dawn Redwood, Locust.

Signed,
Iris

Flowering Plants Speed Surgery Recovery

Research has confirmed the beneficial effects of plants and flowers for patients recovering from abdominal surgery. A recent study by Seong-Hyun Park and Richard H. Mattson, researchers from the Department of Horticulture, Recreation and Forestry at Kansas State University, provides strong evidence that contact with plants is directly beneficial to a hospital patient's health. Patients with plants in their rooms had significantly fewer intakes of pain medication, more positive physiological responses (lower blood pressure and heart rate), less pain, anxiety, fatigue, and higher satisfaction with their recovery rooms than their counterparts in the control group without plants in their rooms.

Linton's offers a wide variety of living plants as well as fresh floral arrangements, which can be delivered to area hospitals daily!

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LINTONS OFFERS
COMPLIMENTARY INTERIOR
ACCESSORY CONSULTATIONS.**

**Please call Andrew Skipper at
293-9699 to set up your appointment!**



Fall Is In The Air

The cooler evenings and awakening to see the dew on the grass is a sure sign that fall is approaching quickly. At Linton's we are preparing our Home and Garden Centre to reflect the change in seasons. Our Garden Centre will be stocked with all of your favorite fall decorating needs. In addition to the traditional Mums and Asters, be sure to check out our largest selection of Ornamental grasses. We have many new varieties from which to choose. This year for the first time, we have incredible fall Mum pouches and beautiful Mum hanging baskets as well as miniature Sunflowers to decorate your porch or patio. You can always depend on us for pumpkins, squash, Indian corn, kale, cabbage, corn shocks and straw bales. Inside our Floral and Interior Décor Shoppe, you will see the seasonal change as soon as you enter the front doors. Fall is a fun time to redecorate the inside of your home to reflect the new season. Be sure to check out our increasing selection of Halloween décor.

Our Oktoberfest is one of our biggest special events of the year and we invite you to bring family and friends to this event. Last year we featured pumpkin bowling for our Spooktacular and it was a "smash". So we're starting a new tradition and will continue it again this year. For only 50 cents you can bowl unlimited until your pumpkins busts. Last year, many participants scooped up the remains and roasted the seeds and made home made pumpkin desserts.

We hope to see you soon!

Organize Tools

Before we know it, winter will soon be upon us. Get your gardening supplies in order before the next planting season. An old rake head can serve as a rack for hand tools; secure it to a toolshed wall with appropriate hardware. Hang trowels, weeders, hoes, and shears from the tines with leather cord. If the handles don't have holes, use an electric drill fitted with a 3/16" bit to make them.

What's Cooking?

Sweet Potato Muffins

- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup cooked, mashed sweet potato

Heat oven to 275 degrees. In a large bowl, mix the flours, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and 1/2 cup brown sugar. In another bowl, lightly beat the egg. Add the butter, milk and sweet potato and combine well.

Pour the sweet potato mixture into the flour mixture and stir until the dry ingredients are blended. Fill greased muffin tins. Sprinkle the batter with the remaining brown sugar. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until a tester inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean. Makes 18 muffins.

Linton's Special Events For 2009

October 3 & 4 - Oktoberfest

October 24 & 25 - Spooktacular!

November 3 & 5 -

Red Carpet Special Event

November 7 & 8 -

Christmas Open House

Saturday & Sunday hours for all events 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Red Carpet hours 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



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. Or, check us out on the web for our weekly Free Bees Sale at LINTONS.COM.

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.

celebrate
OKTOBERFEST
Saturday & Sunday
Oct. 3rd & 4th

Enjoy the tastes of fall
Free Cider, Donuts & Coldstone Creamery Ice Cream.

BUILD YOUR OWN SCARECROW!
Assembled by kids of all ages starting at \$8.99

- Free straw bale maze
- Free Petting Zoo!
- Pumpkin patch and photo spot.

COUPON
Good during Oktoberfest 2009 only
50% OFF
Any One Item in Our Floral & Interior Décor Shoppo or Garden Centre
\$50.00 Maximum Discount off regularly priced items only. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Limit one discount per family per event.

COUPON
Good during Oktoberfest 2009 only
Green Thumb Savings Club Members Only
75% OFF
Any One Item in Our Floral & Interior Décor Shoppo or Garden Centre
\$50.00 Maximum Discount off regularly priced items only. Must present coupon & savings club card at time of purchase.

Fall decorations available!

ENCHANTED GARDENS
Linton's
Quality & Excellence

315 CR 17 (at Beck Drive)
ELKHART
574/293-9699 • Lintons.com
Mon.-Fri. 8-7 • Sat. & Sun. 8-6