



LINTON'S

Leaflet



Summer
2010

newsletter volume 16/issue 2

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

Coneflower Crazy!!

by Jennifer Martinez, Linton's Nursery Manager

Happy summer, everyone! As I think about the Coneflower, my favorite perennial, I cannot believe the advancements that have been made to this species (echinacea purpurea) over my last 15 years in this profession! Absolutely incredible what science can do; taking a plant with such humble "prairie" beginnings to become a staple in nearly every American garden!

If you have a small garden area or are looking for container options, you will want to try Lilliput, After Midnight, Pink Double Delight, or Meringue. These are all coneflowers under 20" tall. Lilliput is a single rose-purple; After Midnight is a dark purple-pink with black stems; and Pink Double Delight & Meringue(white) are both double coneflowers.

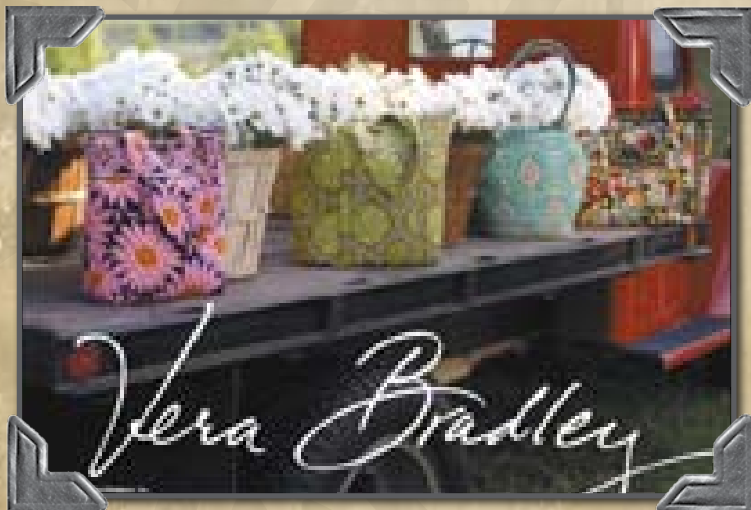
Since double coneflowers were introduced less than 10 years ago, the range of colors has increased dramatically. We started out with varieties like Doubledecker & Razzamatazz with a more traditional purple coloration. Then we moved on to white with Coconut Lime & Milkshake. We now have some pink & red shades, such as: Gum Drop, Pink Poodle, Cranberry Cupcake, Cotton Candy, Hot Papaya, & Coral Reef. The Hot Papaya is a sizzling red-orange pom-pom flower with a papaya orange halo. Absolutely beautiful! Cranberry Cupcake will be brand new coming in 2011.

The bi-colored petal category is a new concept for coneflowers. We have several nice cultivars from pink to red to green. Varieties in this group include: Mama Mia, Green Envy, Green Jewel, Flame Thrower, Firebird, & Big Sky Summer Sky. The Flame Thrower is one of my favorites standing at 40" tall with flowers that can reach 3 1/2" across and is one of the earliest to bloom.

Your traditional purple coneflower like 'Magnus' has been replaced with pinks, reds, oranges, & yellows. Reds include: Tomato Soup & Hot Lava. These varieties have especially large flowers with Tomato Soup reaching 6" across! Orange varieties include: Tiki Torch, Tangerine Dream, Orange Meadowbrite, & Big Sky Sundown. Orange Meadowbrite is the original orange coneflower with long, narrow, rustic-orange petals. Pink varieties include: Hope, Elton Knight, & Green Eyes. Every purchase of a Hope coneflower gives \$0.25 to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure to help further the search for a cure for breast cancer. Green Eyes has beautiful magenta flowers with indented green centers. Yellow/Gold varieties include: Big Sky Harvest Moon, Mango Meadowbrite, Big Sky Sunrise, Maui Sunshine, & Mac 'n Cheese. Maui Sunshine is sweetly scented and very floriferous with soft yellow mature flowers.

Now, if you're still not convinced and wish to stick with your traditional whites & purples, consider these new varieties to add punch to your garden: Purity, Fragrant Angel, Virgin, All That Jazz, & Merlot. All That Jazz is an incredibly unique hybrid with completely quilled ray petals. Merlot has huge 5" wide, rose purple flowers centered with orange cones atop stunning, well branched, burgundy-black stems.

Come check out our new & exciting varieties of coneflowers and see which ones would best suit your garden!



Linton's Enchanted Gardens Helps Fight Cancer

Linton's, along with Vera Bradley held an event last year, along with other partners located throughout the United States to raise money to help find a cure for breast cancer. Linton's Enchanted Gardens and our customers helped raise over \$500.00, which was donated by Linton's to the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. Over the past year, Vera Bradley and their retailers helped raise almost \$150,000.00 to contribute to "find a cure". Linton's is very proud to be a part of this ongoing effort to help fight breast cancer. We want to thank all of our loyal Vera Bradley customers who have helped us make this donation possible!

Congratulations Monica Brooks!



Laura Sherman, Garden Centre General Manager (right), hands a gift certificate to the Ugly Side Landscaping Contest winner Monica Brooks (left).

Monica is the winner of the
"Ugly Side" Landscaping Contest
and has won a
\$2,500

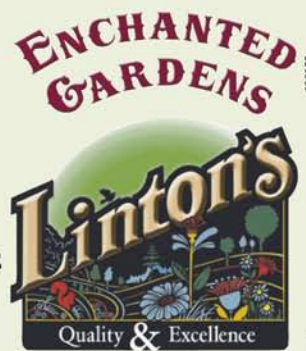
(\$500 custom landscape design and \$2,000 in plant materials)

**Gift Certificate from
Linton's Enchanted Gardens!**

The Elkhart Truth

Thanks to all
who entered!

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



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.

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.

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

Creating Your Own Back Yard Oasis

by Mark B. Linton

The sound of falling water evokes a sense of calm and relaxation found nowhere else. Creating a custom back yard oasis is easy when it's left up to the pros. Ponds, streams and waterfalls are among the hottest gardening trends!

Ponds can come in all shapes and sizes with unlimited features and may be incorporated into just about any back yard. We have set up self-contained decorative containers filled with fish and beautiful aquatic plant for apartment dwellers. These self-contained ponds may even have a small bubbler fountain installed which will give you that pleasant and relaxing sound that may be enjoyed either on a small upper balcony, as well as a patio. This can all be accomplished for a small investment such as a couple hundred dollars. For those with more room and a larger budget, the sky is the limit.

We have one crew that specializes in water garden installation and we keep them pretty busy all season long! Our firm just completed a massive 3/4 acre pond for a private residence. This pond features a nice sandy beach which gradually slopes down into the water so that it is safe for the kids. It also has a floating fountain which helps keep the water oxygenated, as well as crystal clear and clean. We also installed an automatic fill, which keeps the water level consistent and makes up for any water evaporation during the hot summer months. This owner wanted their pond to be very natural and blend into its surroundings, so we incorporated cattails, waterlilies and we partially sunk some native field stone boulders to allow the turtles to climb upon. We created a natural back drop of white birch, pines, maple trees along with some willows. The end result is amazing!!! People drive by and say that they never knew that the pond was there. It's hard for them to believe that it is all man made. This of course, is the greatest compliment to us! It is my personal goal to create something that looks like it was created by God and not man. Now, this homeowner has lake front property and a place for their kids to swim and fish, as well as ice skate during the winter months.

Some of our other projects have featured islands, winding streams, and dramatic waterfalls. We have even custom designed and built bridges and gazebos. One home owner even had us construct an old fashion grist mill, along with an operating water wheel. The client is only limited by their imagination!

Three elements are extremely important when building a pond. You need to create a balanced ecosphere. The pond must include aquatic plants, moving water and, of course, fish. Some clients don't want to bother with the maintenance of fish. I then explain to them that if the pond is constructed correctly, the fish will have enough food simply by feeding off the plants, as well as the micro organisms that live in a well-balanced pond. Fish are an important part of creating a balanced ecosphere. They provide not only a benefit of keeping the pond free of algae and insects, but provide beauty and entertainment as well. When selecting the location for a pond, the most im-

portant thing to consider is the amount of sunlight that the pond is going to receive. Ponds that are in the shade become swamps. They are almost impossible to maintain. Also, leaves that are shed from nearby trees create some maintenance issues. The leaves must not be allowed to fall into the ponds. If they are allowed to remain, they will begin to decay and will rob oxygen from the water, this oxygen is vital for the fish to remain alive. A simple solution, is a netting material stretched over the pond. This is a great way to keep the leaves off of the pond during the fall leaf season. Another concern is with predators, which may eat the fish. We recommend stocking ponds with Japanese Koi. These colorful fish can easily be trained to eat out of your hands and will provide wonderful entertainment for kids of all ages. Unfortunately, both raccoons and herons love to eat these beautiful fish. So, if this is a potential problem, we solve this concern by constructing what's called a "fish tunnel". The fish will swim into this tunnel and hide in it to get away from these predators.

Once an ideal location is selected, the design process begins. A successful pond begins with a professional design, which is my favorite part of the process. Every pond that I design is totally unique. First, I like to listen to my client and fully understand their vision. After understanding their wants and needs, I get involved by making my recommendations. I love working with the combination of water and plants! It's an awesome challenge to create a water feature that looks extremely natural and one that will blend in with the natural surroundings. Waterfalls are best when there is a natural occurring change in the elevation of the land. Plantings, as well as ground covers along with native boulders can soften the look and make it appear very natural.

Another one of my favorite elements is to incorporate underwater lighting into the ponds, streams and waterfalls. The new fibre optic lighting is not only easy to work with, but only requires one source of light (one light bulb) and can be directed to multiple locations. So many times, people work late and come home in the evening and can't enjoy their ponds until after sunset. Underwater lighting allows pond owners to enjoy their ponds late into the evening. There is nothing more relaxing than watching the Japanese Koi swim up and eat the bugs that the underwater lights are attracting!

We also work with many Do-It-Yourselfers who want to take on the challenge of pond construction. Linton's Enchanted Gardens has a large selection of pond supplies as well as everything that one may need to construct their own unique pond and waterfall. If the project seems too overwhelming, we can also work along with the homeowner. This is a great way to save some money and also be able to say that you helped install the pond yourself.

Linton's Enchanted Gardens, is the areas largest Home and Garden Centre and has a large assortment of aquatic plants, Japanese Koi, as well as water gardening supplies. Summer is a great time to begin planning and constructing your own back yard oasis.

KIND WORDS FROM OUR CUSTOMER

"I loved visiting your store and thoroughly enjoyed my shopping experience!
There is NOTHING like it in California, not even in the Los Angeles area."

Claire Herczeg/Los Angeles, CA

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.

Our Free Bees specials may also be found on our website at LINTONS.COM.

2010 Special Events

The Hawaiian Luau	August 7 & 8
Linton's Birthday Party	September 11 & 12
Oktoberfest	October 2 & 3
Spooktacular	October 23 & 24
The Red Carpet	November 2 & 4
Our Christmas Open House	November 6 & 7



Congratulations to Amber Yoder of Bridgman, Michigan who was the winner of our "April Showers" Contest in the South Bend Tribune. Amber won a \$250 Linton's Gift Card. Catherine of Linton's is shown presenting the gift card to Amber.

As a service to our customers, Linton's offers
COMPLIMENTARY WEDDING CONSULTATIONS.
Please call Ruth Linton at 293-9699 to set up your appointment!

KIND WORDS FROM OUR CUSTOMER

Long story short...

Friday my mother was being presented with an award at her place of business, I thought it was in the evening however it was at 11 a.m.... I live more than a thousand miles away and was not able to reach anyone there to bring her flowers. I called another florist and was told they couldn't do anything until noon, oh yes and it was after 10 a.m. when I called, I called Linton's (of course a staple of Elkhart but didn't know you did floral!) and spoke to a wonderful woman that created the most beautiful bouquet and had it delivered shortly after 11 am! I could not have asked for better service, my mother was and still is thrilled with the lovely arrangement and I am happy that I was charged a fair price and had such swift excellent service! Thank you Linton's for saving my day!

Amy Smith/Atlantic Beach, FL

All Season Gardening

All Season Gardening is the season's silent transformation of the landscape into a magical display that tantalizes visual senses of people who love gardening.

Spring announcing the arrival of another new year of the beauty of trees and shrubs.

Summer explodes into a gardeners' dream of colorful perennials, grasses, trees, groundcovers, and shrubs.

Falls' spectacular foliage paints it's color throughout the landscape.

Winter is a wonderland of red berries mixed with snow, exfoliating bark and evergreens and many hidden subtle features.

Choosing plants wisely is the end result of "All-Season Color".

Donations To Charity

Throughout the year, Linton's donates to charitable organizations. If you would like to be a part of this, you may donate your used floral baskets and/or vases. For each used basket or vase, Linton's will reward you with a credit of 50 cents towards your next purchase. Please deliver them to our Floral Shoppe on County Road 17 in Elkhart. Together we can make a difference!

Note: Baskets and vases must be in good condition and are subject to our approval.



HELP US SAVE TREES!

In an effort to help save our environment, we are now offering Linton's Newsletters on line. If you would like to help us save some trees, please visit www.lintons.com and sign up for our on line newsletter.

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!

INTRODUCING . . .

Gooseberry Patch
Cookbooks



Linton's now carries the tried and true cookbooks of Gooseberry Patch. You'll find titles such as Mom's Favorite Recipes, Meals In Minutes, Dinners on A Dime, 101 Slow Cooker Recipes and many others. The following recipe is from Farmer's Market Favorites:



Crunchy Green Bean Salad

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ½ c honey | 2 lbs green beans, trimmed |
| 1/8 t cayenne pepper | ¾ c sweetened dried cranberries |
| 1 ½ c pecan halves | 3 T sherry vinegar |
| 2 t Dijon mustard | ¾ t salt |
| pepper to taste | ½ c walnut oil |
| 2 heads Belgian endive, trimmed and sliced lengthwise | |

Stir honey and cayenne pepper together in a saucepan over medium heat until warm. Stir in pecans; pour mixture onto a parchment paper-lined 13"x9" baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees until golden, about 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from oven and set aside. Whisk together vinegar, mustard and salt. Slowly drizzle in oil, whisking constantly to blend. Fill a large bowl with ice and water; set aside. Add beans to a stock-pot, cover with water and bring to a boil. Cook over medium heat until tender, about 2 minutes. Drain and plunge into ice water. Drain, pat dry and place in a large serving bowl. Toss with vinegar mixture to coat. Add nut mixture and remaining ingredients. Toss gently. Serve immediately. Makes 12 servings.

Mr. Smarty Plants

Dear Mr. Smarty Plants,

I bought a Clematis 2 years ago and it won't bloom? Can you help?

Sincerely,
No Bloomin' Thing

Dear No Bloomin' Thing,

Clematis usually takes 3 years to fully peak. The first year sleep, the second creep and the third leap. You can bypass this by purchasing older plants at Linton's Enchanted Gardens. These plants are more mature and will produce blooms the first season. Remember you get what you pay for. If you purchased the plant in a box or a plant that is only 12" tall that is a sign of a very immature plant. You may need to wait a few years for your plant to truly peak.

Sincerely,
Mr. Smarty Plants



Shade Trees, A Great Investment!

This is one investment that you won't hear about on the stock market or Wall Street. I'm sure that you have heard that "money doesn't grow on trees", but did you know that trees can actually save you money? Strategically planted shade trees around your home can provide shade that reduces air-conditioning bills up to 75% and can save you hundreds of dollars in energy costs each year!

During the hot summer months, temperature can be in the 80's and 90's in the full sun, but as soon as you step into the shade of a tree the temperature drops at least 10 degrees!

Now is a great time to plant trees around your home and start saving on your utility bills.

Linton's Enchanted Gardens has a wide selection of shade trees and better yet, they are on sale!!!

Only Linton's offers a Two-Year Guarantee!



Asian Lady Beetles

Why do ladybugs cover your windows and walls in a creepy crawly blanket? Since when do ladybugs swarm? Well, since the Asian lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*), a native of eastern Asia, became naturalized in the United States—a process that began with an accidental introduction in Louisiana about 20 years ago.

In the fall, they're attracted to sunny, south-facing walls. They seek out cracks and other openings, where they hibernate for the winter. When the weather gets warmer, they start moving around, and some wind up on the inside of your windows rather than the outside.

The Asian lady beetle (which looks a lot like the native ladybug: yellow to red coloring, typically with black spots, but sometimes with none) eats aphids and other plant pests. But because of their tendency to leave stains on carpets and walls, these bugs are not great houseguests. Get rid of them by vacuuming, and pest-proof your home by caulking cracks and openings. Plant trees to shade the sunny side of your house and make it less attractive to the beetles.



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

LINTON'S HOURS:

Monday through Friday 8:00 - 7:00

Saturday & Sunday 8:00 - 6:00

the **HAWAIIAN LUAU**

**Saturday & Sunday
August 7th & 8th**

Save **75% OFF**
on select plants when you
wear a coconut bikini top
and a hula skirt
or
Save **50% OFF**
on select plants when
you wear a Hawaiian
Floral Shirt

Join the fun!

*Free leis and frozen
tropical drinks!*
(served from 10am - 5pm)

ENCHANTED GARDENS

Linton's

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

Quality & Excellence

