



TWINTOWNS GARDENERS' MARKET

WAHPETON, ND / BRECKENRIDGE, MN

Perennial Plant of the Year™

Each year the Perennial Plant Association selects the Perennial Plant of the Year™. This year's selection is *Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum,' commonly known as Variegated Solomon's Seal.

Variegated Solomon's Seal has arching stems with pairs of small, bell-shaped, white flowers in mid to late spring. Its variegated foliage turns yellow in the fall. Grow this plant in moist soil and partial to full shade.

Solomon's Seal is hardy in USDA zones 3 to 8, which makes it hardy enough for our coldest winters.

In general, the Perennial Plant of the Year™ needs to be suitable for a wide range of climates, be low-maintenance, be relatively pest- and disease-resistant, have multiple seasons of ornamental interest, and be readily available in the year of promotion.

Over the years I have grown some of the past selections in my own garden. These perennials tend to be my favorite plants.

Leucanthemum 'Becky,' also called 'Becky' Shasta daisy, is one of my favorites, in part because my daughter's name is Becky. It carries nice-sized white flowers on strong stems from July to September. This plant grows best in moist well-drained soil and does not take well to hot, dry sites.

Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster,' who I affectionately call Karl, is the first ornamental grass I grew. This is the three- to four-foot tall upright grass you see in a lot of business landscapes. It is well behaved and attractive even in the winter.

I also like my 'Goldsturm' Rudbeckia with its mounds of golden flowers, 'Magnus' Echinacea, 'Husker Red' Penstemon, Perovskia atriplicifolia (Russian Sage) and 'Palace Purple' Heuchera. My cat is especially fond of my 'Walker's Low' cat mint.

Perennial Plant of the Year™ past winners are:

- 2012 Brunnera 'Jack Frost'
- 2011 Amsonia hubrichtii



Polygonatum odoratum
'Variegatum'

- 2010 Baptisia australis
- 2009 Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'
- 2008 Geranium 'Rozanne'
- 2007 Nepeta 'Walker's Low'
- 2006 Dianthus gratianopolitanus 'Feuerhexe'
- 2005 Helleborus xhybridus
- 2004 Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum'
- 2003 Leucanthemum 'Becky'
- 2002 Phlox 'David'
- 2001 Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'
- 2000 Scabiosa columbaria 'Butterfly Blue'
- 1999 Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii 'Goldsturm'
- 1998 Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'
- 1997 Salvia 'Mainacht' (May Night)
- 1996 Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red'
- 1995 Perovskia atriplicifolia
- 1994 Astilbe 'Sprite'
- 1993 Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue'
- 1992 Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'
- 1991 Heuchera micrantha 'Palace Purple'
- 1990 Phlox stolonifera

Go to www.perennialplant.org/education/past-winners for pictures and more information about these perennials.

By Penny Seifert

March 2013

Inside this issue:

Workshops	2
Garden Seminars	3
Send Us Your Photos	4

We're on the Web!

www.twintownsmarket.org



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Workshops

High Tunnel Workshop for Home Gardeners and Commercial Growers

Thursday, March 7, 2013
8:30 am-5:00 pm
Casselton, ND
Cost: \$25.00 by March 1, \$35.00 at the door
Lunch included

Brochure and registration form available at:
www.twintownsmarket.org/pdf/2013/GardenWorkshop2013.pdf

Richland County Extension Service

Catch Me Up

Thursday, March 14, 2013
Technology classes for all experience levels.
Instructor: Robert Bertsch

- ◆ 10-11:30 am, Entry level: Tech terminology and opportunities
- ◆ 1-2:20 pm, Intermediate: Is your smart phone smarter than you?
- ◆ 5:30-7:30 pm, Advanced: Find the app for that! And Take your head out of the "cloud"

Community Room, Law Enforcement Center, Wahpeton, ND
Cost: \$5.00
Register by email to debra.evenson@ndsu.edu, or 701-642-7793

Food Safety for All

Thursday, March 28, 2013
5:30-7:30 pm
Learn safe practices for your home or group settings with demonstrations.
Community Room, Law Enforcement Center, Wahpeton, ND
Instructor: Colleen Svingen
Cost: Free
Register by email to debra.evenson@ndsu.edu, or 701-642-7793

Food Preservation / Gardening in Small Spaces

April/May (dates TBA)
Register by email to debra.evenson@ndsu.edu, or 701-642-7793

M|State Sustainable Food Production

Natural Care for Goats, Sheep and Horses

Saturday, March 23, 2013
11:00 am - 2:30 pm
M|State Fergus Falls, 1414 College Way, Fergus Falls, MN
Library Building Room 103
Instructor: Alethea Kenney
Admission: \$15/includes light lunch
For more information contact Sue Wika at paradoxhomestead@gmail.com or 218-747-2202

"Pork on Pasture" Workshop

Saturday, April 27, 2013
10:00 am - 2:30 pm
18618 County Road 23, Verndale, MN
Instructors: Kent and Linda Solberg
Cost: \$50/person or \$75/family
Bring a sack lunch, beverages provided
Class size limited to 12 people
For more information, call 218-445-7580

Holistic Management of Goats Workshop

Saturday, June 15, 2013
10:00 am - 4:00 p.m.
Instructors: Sue Wika and Tom Prieve
Paradox Farm, 11643 State Highway 78, Ashby, MN
Cost: \$50/person or \$75/family
Bring a sack lunch
Class size limited to 12 people
For more information contact Sue Wika at paradoxhomestead@gmail.com or 218-747-2202

Introduction to Cheese Making

Session 1: Soft Cheeses

Friday, April 5, 2013, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and
Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:00 am - noon
(Lodging available for \$30.00, call 218-864-5303)

Session 2: Pasta Filata (Mozzarella) and Salt Brined (Feta) Cheeses

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Instructors: Sue Wika and Tom Prieve
Faith Haven Bible Camp, Eagle Lake, south of Battle Lake, MN
Cost: \$50/session or \$90/both sessions
Register by March 29, Class size limited to 10 people
For more information contact Sue Wika at paradoxhomestead@gmail.com or 218-747-2202

Garden Seminars

East Otter Tail County Horticulture Day

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Registration: 8:00 am

Keynote: *Weekend Gardener - Horticulture for Busy People* by Jackie Froemming

Prairie Wind Middle School, Perham, MN

Cost: \$25, Refreshments, handouts, door prizes, vendors, and lunch included

For more information go to East Otter Tail County Master Gardeners on Facebook.

Gardening Saturday

Saturday, March 30, 2013

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

NDSU, Loftsgard Hall, Fargo, ND

Cost: \$25.00 by March 21, \$35.00 at the door

For more information: www.ag.ndsu.edu/casscountyextension/pdfs/2013-spring-gardening-Saturday-registration-brochure

West Otter Tail County Garden Day

Saturday, April 6, 2013

Kennedy Secondary School, Fergus Falls, MN

Registration: 8:00 am

Cost: \$30.00, includes lunch, classes, and Garden Marketplace

For more information: www.extension.umn.edu/county/ottertail (Under 'Hot Topics in OTC')

Spring Gardening Workshop and Salad Supper

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Breckenridge Elementary School Cafeteria

5:15 pm: Registration and salad supper

6-9:00 pm: Mini-workshops

Cost: \$15.00 by April 1, \$20.00 after April 1

Join beginner and experienced garden enthusiasts for mini-workshops featuring a variety of gardening topics.

Register online at www.breckenridge.k12.mn.us. Follow Web Store/Community Education link to choose classes for MasterCard, Visa or Discover payment.

Bergeson Nursery

4177 County Highway 1, Fertile, MN 218-945-9688

www.bergesonnursery.com

Seminars are held Thursday evenings at 7 pm and repeated the following Saturday at 9 am, 11 am, and 1 pm. Coffee and donuts will be served. No registration necessary. Seminars are free.

Growing Fruit in the North

April 4 and 6, 2013

Enter the satisfying world of growing fruit in the north. From rhubarb, which won't grow anywhere but in cold climates, to apples, to strawberries, to elderberries — growing fruit can be a rewarding avocation. Planting and pruning tips included.

Trees and Shrubs for Your Yard

April 11 and 13, 2013

Basic yard plantings should consist of hardy, dependable trees and shrubs. Choose varieties that fill the bill. Basic planting, care, and design instructions will be included in the seminar.

Perennials and Hardy Roses

April 18 and 20, 2013

Check up on the latest perennials for your flowerbed, as well as the newest varieties of hardy, low-maintenance roses. Learn how to make your perennials and roses thrive with a minimum of effort.

Growing Beautiful Annuals

April 25 and 27, 2013

How to turn your yard into an explosion of color. The better your plants perform over the summer, the more you will enjoy them, and the more you'll plant. A handful of simple ideas can make a huge difference in the success of your garden. Learn about the newest annuals and our favorites.



Iris in Kairouan Moffet's Garden

Send Us Your Photos

In September my husband and I visited our daughter who works in Yellowstone National Park. Even though we've been there a few times, we always find something new and interesting.

Penny Seifert

Send us your best snapshots of your garden, large or unusual produce, flowers, the sky, your vacation, or anything else you find interesting, and we'll publish the best shots as room allows.

Email your photos to Penny.ttg@gmail.com. Please include your name, contact information, information about the picture, and where and when it was taken.



Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone National Park



Old Faithful, Yellowstone National Park



Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park



Proof that Mammoth is always changing

Did you see the beautiful sun dogs on February 12? As you can see below, Emmy caught them with her camera. The young man on the hill is Emmy's brother Joshua.

