



A warm summer "Hello" from Thieneman's!

Has it been hot, or what??? At the time of writing, we've weathered a stretch of near-100-degree days, then a cold front for a quick breath of October, and now back to the nineties again.

At first glance, the farm seems very quiet in the heat, with hardly a soul to be seen. Never fear, we're still here! It's just that our summer days revolve around keeping ahead of the heat - with water. Water to keep the plants cool and healthy, drinking water to keep ourselves safe, and a shower of cool water waiting for us at home at the end of each blast-furnace day. Funny, isn't it, how the simplest things always seem to be the most necessary?

For the rest of the summer, we've decided to keep things simple at the farm. Wedding bells for Mandy in September will necessitate a quieter fall, but we'll be making up for it with increased attention to our Trellis Group Garden Club and a whopper of a perennial and Finch House sale.

Read on for details of these and the late-summer classes we'll be offering, and come on back to the farm. To find any of us, all you have to do is follow a hose and the sound of running water!

Thieneman's Hours of Operation: August, September, October

Monday - Saturday, 9am - 6pm
Sunday 10am - 5pm

CLOSED ON SEPT. 24th

Scented Geranium



Latin Name: *Pelargonium*

Meaning: From the Greek, "stork"

Uses: Aromatic, medicinal, culinary, cosmetic

Care: Warm, sunny well-drained site. Bring indoors in winter.

Legends: Native to South Africa, scented geraniums were brought to Europe by sailors in the early 1600's. Their greatest popularity came in the 1800's, when the French perfume industry learned to substitute geranium oil for expensive attar of rose. Victorian herbalists used the leaves and flowers in teas, cakes, cookies, and jellies as well as in ointments and potpourri. Ladies would place the potted plants indoors in winter, where their long skirts would brush the leaves and perfume the house.

Greenhouse News



- Aug. 13 **Perennial Sale and Finch House 'Yard' Sale begin!**
See inside for details.
- Aug. 18 **Trellis Group Garden Club, 6:30 pm**
Topic: Growing herbs indoors for the winter. We'll share short & sweet recipes for herb-y foods and plant up windowsill gardens to test our winter growing skills. Bring your favorite herbal recipe(s) - and if you'd like to make a sample to share, we won't say no! No materials fee, but please call us at 491-6305 if you can, to let us know you're coming.
- Aug. 19 **English Trough Workshop, 10 am**
or
Aug. 20 Make a rustic hypertufa trough. Bring a pair of rubber gloves and we'll provide the rest! We'll also clean up - what a deal. \$25.00 fee, **advance registration/payment required.**

Please note that the Trellis Group will not meet in September.

- Sept. 9 **Stepping Stone Workshop, 10 am**
or
Sept. 10 Garden artistry! Learn to make and embellish a garden stone. \$25.00 fee includes all materials. **Advance registration/payment required.**
- Oct. 4 **Scented Holiday Gifts, 10 am**
or
Oct. 8 Returning from last fall, with a whole new set of recipes and tips for herbal holiday gifts and food. Make-and-take examples included! Single session class, \$25.00 fee, **advance payment required.** Each class will be limited to 8, so be sure to register early!
- Oct. 20 **Trellis Group Garden Club, 6:30pm**
Topic: Making Cast-Concrete Leaves. Made from white Portland cement and real leaf forms. Bring leaves - the larger, the better. **Please call ahead to RSVP - small fee for materials.**

To sign up for classes, you can visit www.thienemans.com for a class registration form or give us a call at 491-6305.

Questions we've been hearing...

August, Schmaugust! Just because it's hot outside, it doesn't mean you can't enjoy your garden. To help perk up your late-summer look, here are some cool answers to a few hot-weather questions.

What's Looking Good Now?

Sedums for color and drought tolerance.

Grasses for grace and statuesque form.

Hydrangeas for late summer showy flowers.

Clethra Summersweet shrub for scent.



What's New & Different?

Tuberoses! Beautiful long-lasting cut flowers with a heavenly fragrance. Plants come from bulbs that should be dug before frost - probably worth the effort once you catch a whiff of the perfume.

Tiger's Eye Rhus! This shocking chartreuse, gold and orange sumac needs to be seen to be believed. It reaches 6' x 6' at maturity and is hardy for us. Pair it with blue stoneware pots or an underplanting of blue plumbago and you won't want to quit looking at it.

What to look for in September?

A fresh, new crop of flowering shrubs for fall planting. Look for lilacs and viburnums, caryopteris and rosemary willow, Little Henry Itea and Beauty Berry Callicarpa, plus a lot more!

On the non-vegetative front, we've been seeing plenty of hummingbirds and goldfinches around the garden center! So, keep your eyes open for a visual treat as you shop.

Goldfinches hang out in our taller shrubs, on electrical wires, and all over the herb garden's stand of coneflowers, and you can see hummers around the salvia and agastache in Retail.

How about some new toys to play with - On Sale?



In The Finch House, Julie has just placed our biggest single order ever - and most of it is scheduled to arrive in early September.

To make room for all this cool new stuff, The Finch House will be having its **second annual "Yard" Sale**.

Come on by from **August 13th - 31st** for some really sharp markdowns!

(And here's the big question) WHAT'S ON SALE?

A first time ever, perfectly spectacular sale on our line of 4" perennials - you know, the square ones that normally sell for \$4.95? We are house-cleaning, pulling a lot up from the wholesale side of the business and - are you ready - letting them go for **\$.99 each!**

What a deal. Time to try something different! **Sale starts August 13th.**

*****Please note that Thieneman's will be CLOSED on Saturday, Sept. 24, due to WEDDING BELLS for Mandy and Terry! (Best wishes from all of us!)**

Trellis Group News: Focus on Projects for Fall!

The Trellis Group, our own garden club, has been meeting regularly since 2003. We've covered a wide variety of topics, made some fun projects to take home, and been a source of support (trellis-support, get it?) for each other.

This summer and fall, our meetings center around projects to make and take home: a windowsill herb garden in August, cast-concrete leaves in October, a fresh greenery wreath in November, and a greenery tabletop Christmas tree in December. (There will be a small materials fee for the fall projects.) See Page 1 for details.

If you've never come for Trellis, Peggy and the Staff invite you to check it out. We meet on the third Thursday of each month (no meeting in September this year), and there are no dues, officers, or business meetings. It's all about the garden, very laid-back, and a whole lot of fun!

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Peggy's Corner

Thoughts from the farm

It's too hot to think so, I THINK, my corner will take a short vacation this quarter. Actually the short vacation I'm thinking about will be even hotter. At the end of August I get to help fire the wood kiln at EKV. Pottery is a parallel passion (how's that for alliteration). The process takes about 4 days and involves throwing enough wood into the open front of the kiln to make it reach 2100 degrees F. Now that's hot! I'm making garden art, of course, and if the plan comes together I'll have pictures to post on the web site, plus some pots to show off later in the garden center. Wish me luck and stay cool!

- P.J.T.

Critter News



We'd like to introduce our newest furry co-worker, Stoney (alias "The Rhinestone Kitty"). A smallish gray guy with a black nose, snazzy rhinestone collar and a mellow attitude, Stoney wandered onto the farm and into our hearts this spring. He loves to hang out with our customer friends (even the little ones), often napping in boxes of plants on the front checkout bench. We've even spotted him riding through retail in a little red wagon! So, next time you visit, be sure to say hi to Stoney.

You may have noticed that we've had barn swallows nesting by the door of The Finch House this year! Three babies hatched just after midsummer. One hot, anxious July day, one chick was elbowed out onto the ground and replaced by a staff member. (With Mom and Dad dive-bombing!) All three have now found their new wings, leaving the nest for good in late July.



A Mailing List Note



Have we misspelled your name? Would you prefer an e-mail? Would you like to be removed from our mailing list entirely? Please just call, drop us a line, or send an e-mail to finchhouse@ka.net with "Thieneman's Mailing List" in the subject line. And as always, we never sell our mailing lists or share them with anyone else.

The Farmer's Quarterly



My oldest brother, Mike, dutifully climbed that corporate ladder but now, sitting up there as a senior vice-president at Whirlpool he's finally decided to get back to his roots. This is the brother, who as a child (according to family legend) planted the onion sets upside down - much to Dad's consternation. It must have been traumatic. It kept him from gardening for quite awhile. But soil under the fingernails has a way of haunting a person so about 3 or 4 years ago he started on a beautiful shade garden next to his home. As that neared completion and enthusiastically supported by a new son-in-law he launched into his next great adventure: a fifty acre farm in Michigan, soon to be an orchard! An apple cider operation has been hinted at as well as reserving a five acre space for a special "Fruit Salad" selection of trees. Personally, I hope he puts in one or two Asian pears. It will be interesting to watch corporate management skills go head to head with Mother Nature.

A weed



is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

- Doug Larson,
American cartoonist

