



Late summer greetings from Thieneman's!

It's technically still summer, but not for too much longer. The long, lazy days are getting shorter and daytime temperatures are slowly cooling down.

The first splashes of fall color are all over the city - not trees, not shrubs, but rather that unmistakable autumn yellow of school buses!

Autumn is a season of energy and action in the garden. Tired-looking flowers beg for deadheading, the last round or two of weeds need pulling (so why don't they ever look tired??), and the vegetables and herbs are ready for harvesting and storing (see Page 3 for a recipe!). Luckily for gardeners, falling temperatures and humidity seem to encourage us to get out and get it all done.

Back at the farm, the hummingbirds and Canada geese are restless, and so are we! We're looking forward to Fall - our time to cool down, clean up, and gear up for holidays to come (no, it's *not* too early, either!).

To feed the need for action, we've scheduled a whole bunch of classes both old and new. Read on for some ideas to keep your creativity going and growing for the change of seasons. Then, come on back to the farm and join us for some fall fun!

Thieneman's Hours of Operation

September and October:

Monday - Saturday, 9am - 6pm

Sunday 10am - 5pm

November and December:

Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm

Sunday noon - 4pm

Tarragon

Latin Name: *Artemisia dracunculus*

Meaning: Latin "dracunculus" or French "estragon" - "dragon"

Uses: Culinary, cosmetic, perfumery

Care: Full sun, well-drained rich soil. Goes dormant in winter.

Legends: Tarragon is said to have sprung up where the dragon passed on its banishment from the Garden of Eden. Or, it resulted from a marriage between a radish root and a flax seed! Long ago, Tarragon was known as a "dragon herb", able to cure bites and stings of venomous creatures and mad dogs. Travelers placed sprigs of it in their shoes, to give them stamina for long journeys. The colonists brought it with them to the New World, and Thomas Jefferson was said to be a distributor of the herb in America.



Speaking of Shrubs...



Barn swallows, gold finches and hummingbirds have entertained us for years. 2006, however, was the year of the mockingbird. Early in the season an amorous couple checked for nesting sites in greenhouse #2. (Those birds can be LOUD in enclosed spaces!) This summer an entire flock attacked our display of Aronia 'Hugin' and ate every berry in sight. It was amusing watching these big birds pushing each other out of the way and hanging upside down to make sure they got every single morsel!

I hadn't thought about shrubs as being entertainment centers.

To celebrate that thought we are having a **shrub sale** beginning September 15th. All trees and shrubs will be 20% off. So redecorate your garden. Add an entertainment center and tune in this fall and next spring for all-new shows.

- P.J.T.

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www.thienemans.com

Fall Class Series & Calendar

School days, school days... fall is just the time to follow the kids' example and learn a new thing or two! We've got a big bunch of classes this season - and who knows, you could also end up taking care of someone on your holiday gift list! Please note that **advance registration & payment are required for all classes**. Just visit www.thienemans.com for a class registration form or give us a call at 491-6305. 

English Troughs

Friday Sept. 15th or Saturday Sept. 16th, 10:00 a.m.

Make a rustic hypertufa trough from sphagnum peat moss, perlite, and Portland cement. Perfect for planting with succulents, mini herbs, or alpines. No need to bring anything - all materials are supplied (and we'll clean up!). \$30.00 fee.

Make a Wood-Cover Book

**Wednesday Sept. 20th or Saturday Sept. 23rd
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Lose yourself in a good book - one you make yourself from start to finish, with wooden covers. Lovely as a garden journal, for recording special memories, or to give as a truly unique gift. *Since this is a longer class than most, bring a sack lunch - we'll provide the drinks. Single session class, \$30.00 fee.

Casting Leaves in Concrete

Friday Sept. 29th or Saturday Sept. 30th, 10:00 a.m.

These impressions, made with white cement and real leaves, can make a unusual small bird bath, garden ornament, or coffee-table conversation piece. Materials supplied, but we suggest that you bring leaves - the larger, the better! Single session class, \$25.00 fee.

Scented Holiday Gifts

Wednesday Oct. 4th or Saturday Oct. 7th, 10:00 a.m.

Returning for the fifth year, with a whole new set of recipes and tips for herbal holiday gifts and food. Make-and-take examples included! Single session class, \$30.00 fee. Each class will be limited to 8, so be sure to register early.


Fall Planting/Putting the Garden to Bed

Friday Oct. 13th or Saturday Oct. 14th, 10:00 a.m.

Fall is time to prepare the garden for winter, but it's also a great time to plant new perennials, shrubs and trees. We'll give you the "ins & outs" of late season gardening. Single session class, \$8.00 fee.

Stepping Stone Workshop

Friday Oct. 27th or Saturday Oct. 28th, 10:00 a.m.

Learn how to make your own work of garden art - a concrete stepping stone, finished with white cement and embellished with real leaves, stones, shells, or anything else to hand! All materials supplied, but you can bring your own embellishments if you'd like. Single session class, \$30.00 fee. 

Make a Fresh Greenery Wreath

Fri. Nov. 17th or Sat. Nov. 18th, 10 a.m.

Make a lush outdoor wreath from evergreen boughs. Wreath forms, wire, and base greenery supplied - we suggest that you bring work gloves and clippers, and your own accent greenery (boxwood, holly, pine, juniper, etc.) if you'd like. \$20.00 fee.

Make a Tabletop Christmas Tree

Fri. Nov. 24th or Sat. Nov. 25th, 10a.m.

Learn how to turn fresh evergreen boughs into a unique accent for your holiday table. We suggest you bring work gloves and clippers, and accent greenery if you'd like. Single session class, \$25.00 fee.

"Simple Gifts", our 6th Annual Holiday Open House

Sat. Nov. 25th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
and Sun. Nov. 26th, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Watch your mail and our website
for details!

Make a Boxwood Topiary

Fri. Dec. 1st or Sat. Dec. 2nd, 10 a.m.

Use cut boxwood branches to make a round "lollipop" style topiary, just the thing for your mantel or holiday table. Please bring clippers and work gloves. Single session class, \$35.00 fee.




Mini-Tree Workshop

Fri. Dec. 8th or Sat. Dec. 9th, 10 a.m.

Create two little "fantasy trees" from fresh greenery, fragrant herb branches, and other fresh-cut materials. \$25.00 fee includes materials for a 6" and 8" tree. Please bring clippers and work gloves. Single session class. (View some sample trees at our Holiday Open House, above!)

Trellis Group Fall Schedule

September 21, 6:30 p.m. - Seed Exchange!
October 19, 6:30 p.m. - Topic to be
decided at 9/21 meeting
(No meetings in November or December)

From the Finch House...   
While you're between classes, be sure to drop in. We'll be making lots of new markdowns to make room for lots of new fall goodies!

Peggy's Corner

Thoughts from the farm



When J first started working in the family business it was in order to make a little extra spending money - J remember wanting a microwave. Then the plants grabbed me. Collecting, propagating and learning how to grow them became an all-consuming passion. Now, being a responsible business owner ranks right up there with collecting and growing. To that end, identifying what our customers want and figuring out how to make gardening an even more attractive pursuit J scour trade magazines and marketing articles. Today J discovered that a recent poll indicates that people would garden more if they had more time.

Wow. It was like hitting a brick wall. J can't put hours in the day. What do we do? After some head scratching J figured that saving time and/or convincing one to take time (away from some other activity like housekeeping) would have the same result - more time - for gardening. So J have a couple of suggestions.

Try shrubs. Some people are calling them the new perennials. They tend to be more permanent than herbaceous perennials (less time required for replanting) and their flower power can almost be as great.

Try containers. Lots of color, small amount of time to maintain them. Easy to reach!

Find the right tools. They can make the job easier and quicker - again resulting in MORE time!

Finally, just TAKE the time! Last Wednesday and Thursday when J SHOULD have been doing the laundry, taking care of my own garden or tending to things at the farm my two daughters and J just drove away from everything and went to see the Glass in the Garden exhibit at the Missouri Botanic Gardens in St. Louis. The ideas we came away and the creativity recharge we experienced were worth every dirty sock J left on the basement floor! And the 48 hours we squandered? Priceless!

Peace and always remember - green side up!

- P.J.T.

Do Not Read the following until Dec. 1st!



I hate hearing about the holidays until December but because this is the last newsletter of the year I feel obligated to remind you now that a plant or two from the greenhouses could really personalize a holiday gift. How about a beautiful rosemary plant to accompany a loaf of foccacia bread and a great bottle of olive oil? How about a catnip plant to bring cheer to the kitties? How about a selection of mint plants to go with a special mug found at the St. James Art Fair - for tea sipping in January while perusing gardening catalogues? How about a gift certificate? I know, a bit less personal but depending on the receiver it could be wildly appreciated! And we have others - ideas that is, so come in or call if you are short on them - ideas that is (or even time). We will be open until noon on December 24th - not a minute later!

- P.J.

Got Basil?

This is prime basil season, but you'll have to harvest it soon - basil plants just won't take colder weather. Here's a great way to store that wonderful, addictive flavor for the long winter months:

Basic Pesto

- 4 cups fresh basil leaves, firmly packed
- 1 cup pine nuts (pignoli)
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup plus 1 Tbl. olive oil

Place basil, pine nuts, and garlic in food processor bowl. Process until smooth. Add the cheese and process to combine. With processor running, add 1 cup olive oil in a slow stream until pesto is a creamy paste. Immediately fill half-pint jars with mixture. Drizzle 1 1/2 teaspoons olive oil over each jar. Place lids and screw bands firmly, place in freezer. Makes 2 half pints. (You can also freeze pesto in ice cube trays - to store, pop the cubes into a freezer bag. Use a cube or two in soups or with pasta.)

