



## **Fresh from the Garden November 2007**

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### **The Fruits of my Labor**

And we are off! The holiday season has officially begun, which means most folks take all gardening-related activities and file them under "wait until spring." However, this is far from true for me. I find that during this high-stress, fast-pace, gotta-do-this-and-that season, my garden is my holiday stress buster.

Maybe I'm deadheading pansies while enjoying a cup of coffee on Saturday mornings. Or bending over to pull a few weeds as I walk through the garden checking out what is going on out there. My garden restores my soul and sanity. And it reminds me of what spring has in store in just a few short months. The flowers to come are breaking through the ground as I write this; how can I stay out of the garden? Calendula, Sweet Peas, Dill and Nigella are all coming up! Merry Christmas to me!

It has occurred to me that I am enjoying the fruits of my labor more and more with each passing season. The more successes I have in the garden (yes, I have my share of failures also), the easier it all gets. The easier it gets, the more enjoyable it becomes.

I am thankful to all of you for your continued business and encouragement. We want to thank you and to offer the very best wishes to you and your family for the coming season.

Blessings to you and yours,

Lisa

### **Do you have a flower lover in your life?**

Give a Share or Subscription of our Cutting Garden!

For more about our flowers and what our Share members have to say [click here](#).

About our flowers: This will be our 9th season of offering our "first dibs" flowers to our loyal customers. We grow a variety of proven cut flowers, some available for several weeks or months and others only a week or two. Our flowers have a long vase life and you will find varieties not readily available anywhere else. Customer satisfaction is fully guaranteed. Our season normally starts in May and ends in September.

What is a Garden Share? Garden Share members pick up their share of flowers from our garden on any and every Friday morning during the season in the Denbigh section of Newport News. Flowers are harvested, conditioned, ready and waiting for you on pick-up day. Garden pick-up of flowers is only available to Garden Share members. Garden Shares are \$100 each.

What is the Subscription? Brighten your home or office with flowers from the garden all summer long! We offer Monday drop-off service of mixed bunches of our fresh-cut flowers. Drop-off is available to the following zip codes: 23608, 23602, 23606; Oyster Point Park of Newport News; and the Riverside Hospital Complex. 10-week drop-off into a bucket or vase at your business or home: \$225.

Our flowers are available to the public from local Farmer's Markets in season.

To purchase a Share or Subscription, print the appropriate order form and return by December 15 to receive a gift announcement by Christmas.

[Garden Share Order Form](#)

[Subscription Order Form](#)

**Are Your Indoor Blooming Bulbs Started?**

If you would like a pot or a vase full of gorgeous LOW FRAGRANCE Paperwhite blooms for the holidays, start them in the next couple of weeks. I want to emphasize just how easy to grow and beautiful these guys are. They are going to bloom--they just need a little help from you, giving them some water and light!

Our jumbo-size bulbs speak for themselves, but I am surprised every year when I start mine just how many shoots come out of one of these bulbs. [Learn more about growing Paperwhites.](#)

Our breathtaking Benfica Amaryllis bulbs are programmed to bloom 5-8 weeks from planting. Did you know that Amaryllis flowers are excellent cut flowers? [Learn more about growing Amaryllis.](#)

If you are not totally pleased with the show you get from our bulbs we will refund your money no questions asked!

[Buy Bulbs Now](#)

## **Easy Shopping for Great Gifts for Guys and Gals!**

Why not give a useful gift that they will love? TGW tools and supplies make garden and household chores a snap! Shopping online with us is easy and convenient. Save on shipping by checking out our local delivery and pick-up options!

[Shop Great Gifts Now](#)

## **Save on our Delivery Options**

Choose a delivery option and just enter the promotion code at checkout:

- Free merchandise pick-up from the 23608 Newport News area. "Porch" promotion code.
- Free local delivery to zip codes 23601, 23602, 23606, 23608. "Local" promotion code.
- Discounted shipping fees for seed-packet-only orders. Discount taken in-house at processing.

## **"A Gardener's Workshop and Open House" Thursday December 6, 5:00-8:30 PM**

Private shopping for our customers!

"A Gardener's Workshop and Open House" in Newport News, VA.

Open warehouse will begin at 5:00pm with a Gardener's Workshop being held from 6:30 - 7:30. Cash-and-carry shopping will be available before and after the Workshop. Lisa will demonstrate The Gardener's Workshop tools, supplies, seeds and bulbs, including some great holiday gift ideas. Workshop features tips and solutions for gardening at every level. Registration required for Workshop @ 6:30. Great Closeout Sales! To register [click here](#).

### **Quick, Get the Hoe!**

Go out to your flowerbeds and take a look...did you see them? Little baby spring weeds, that's what they are, everywhere! They are about ½-1" tall and look oh so healthy.

You see spring weeds follow the same growing schedule as our fall-planted spring blooming flower seeds, except we didn't intentionally plant these weed seeds. The mother weed plant that grew in the garden this past season lived a good life, went on to make a flower, which led to the next natural step of producing seeds to reproduce. As the seed ripened in the flower pod head, the seeds prepared to drop, scatter or to make their way to the ground in one method or another. Thus they plant themselves at the appropriate time to begin growing.

So those weed babies growing in the garden now planted themselves sometime during the past growing season. They have been waiting for cool temperatures, shorter light days and a little rain to get off to a great start. These weeds, like the flower seeds we intentionally plant in fall are what I call "hardy" annuals meaning they not only survive our winters, but they literally thrive afterwards.

My most pesky winter/spring weed is chickweed, of which I grow a bumper crop each year! Right now they are about 1" tall and it is a breeze to take them out with our Razor or Garden Hoe. Thirty minutes of hoeing now will save a day's worth of pulling mature weeds in the spring---no kidding!

I know most folks think hoeing is a back-breaker of a job, but this is not true when you use our "real" Garden or Razor Hoes. When you use our hoes, you stand upright to work, not hunched over, and pull the hoe through the top ½-1" of soil, shaving the ground. This destroys all the weed growth going on in the top layer of soil where weeds seeds get what they need; light, air and water.

You will find after hoeing your beds a couple of times in early winter and topping off with compost and/or mulch, your garden is ready to put on a show in spring, without needing a weeding!

[Buy a Hoe](#)

### **Lisa's Blog**

I am learning how to better use my blog to share information and photos. Please check it out

and I'd love for you to post comments!

[View Lisa's Blog](#)

## **Green Tips**

My dad was "going green" long before it was cool or in vogue. My brother, sister and I are all conditioned to automatically do a lot of things that I learned many of my friends weren't doing at the time. Although many of these practices he instilled in us ultimately lowered our family expenses, this was not the purpose behind his reasoning. He always had the bigger picture in mind, the impact on the earth over time and from oh so many people.

Here are some of the simple things he taught us about conserving what we have:

- Cut the water off while brushing your teeth or washing your hands.
- Don't stand at the refrigerator with the door open, grazing.
- Use as little detergent/soap as needed in doing laundry and washing up.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Put on a sweater and socks.
- Keep exterior doors closed as much as possible.

I have added a few of my own, being the organic gardener that I am. My trips to the landfill to purchase compost have given me a new awareness of the mountains of trash we are building:

- Use cloth napkins in place of paper.
- Use dishes in place of plastic and paper plates.
- Wrap gifts with the intention that the wrapping will be recycled.
- Use tea towels in the kitchen in place of paper towels.
- Grow your own!
- Compost kitchen and yard waste.
- Give useful gifts that will not be irrelevant in 6 months.

All of these are so simple and easy. They help to conserve our resources, spare our landfills and will also lower our utility bills. If each family just cut off the water while brushing their teeth- wow- I wonder how much water that would save?

## **Garden Chores:**

- Use compost for your fall mulching. It will suppress weeds and feed your soil.

- Use your garden fork to open the soil around the drip line and beyond of your shrubs and then mulch with compost. Your shrubs will be thanking you all next season. **Buy a fork.**
- Soil preparation is far easier to do in the cool fall weather than in the heat of spring and summer. Make and prepare beds now to be ready come spring. What a pleasure this is when it begins to warm!
- Don't be too quick to tidy up your garden. Birds will appreciate the flower seed heads and just might return the favor next spring by returning to eat some of those uninvited garden pests!
- Compost all healthy refuse from your garden.
- Vegetable and working cutting gardens will benefit after fall clearing with adding compost and mixing it in. This will have you ready come spring.
- Top off all bare ground with a layer of compost as a mulch to prevent winter weeds and soil erosion.
- There is never a need to send leaves to the landfill. They are a valuable resource for the garden. Broken-down leaves turn into the black gold known to gardeners as "leaf mold." An easy way to process leaves is to mulch the garden pathways with leaves in the fall/winter and then next fall/winter rake the pathways into the beds and repeat all over again. I won't go on and on here about leaves, but they are priceless in our opinion!

### **Save the dates**

- November 29 to December 2, 2007. Thurs. to Sat. 10am to 7pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm. The Christmas Collection, Bizarre Bazaar. Richmond, VA. TGW retail vendor. For more info visit: [www.thebizarrebazaar.com](http://www.thebizarrebazaar.com)
- December 6, 2007, Thursday 6:30pm. "A Gardener's Workshop" in Newport News, VA. Lisa will demonstrate The Gardener's Workshop tools, supplies, seeds and bulbs, including some great holiday gift ideas. Workshop features tips and solutions for gardening at every level. [Click here](#)
- December 8, 2007, Saturday 9am to 1pm. Yorktown Market Days at the River. [Click here](#) TGW retail vendor.
- December 11, 2007, Ware Circle of King's Daughters presents: The Christmas Open House held at "Five Gables" the home of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Barbee in Zandoni, VA. Hours: 12:30-2:00; 2:30-4:00; 4:30-6:00. Tickets are \$20.00. The Gardener's Workshop will be a vendor set-up outdoors on the grounds. All proceeds from the Open House and a portion of all vendor proceeds benefit Children's Hospital of The King's Daughter's. Another great holiday shopping opportunity!

Gardening is soothing for the soul,

Lisa Z

[info@thegardenersworkshop.com](mailto:info@thegardenersworkshop.com) • The Gardener's Workshop