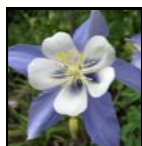




The Perennial Word



A Publication of Cedar Mountain Perennials

March 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1



Cedar Mountain Perennials :



Specializes in native plants for the Inland Northwest Garden

Offering a wide selection of native perennial wildflowers grown from seed or cuttings at our nursery outside Athol, Idaho. We

also feature a limited selection of shrubs.

Our plants have been selected to be ideally suited for climate, soils, and moisture regimes of the Inland Northwest.

Inside this Issue:

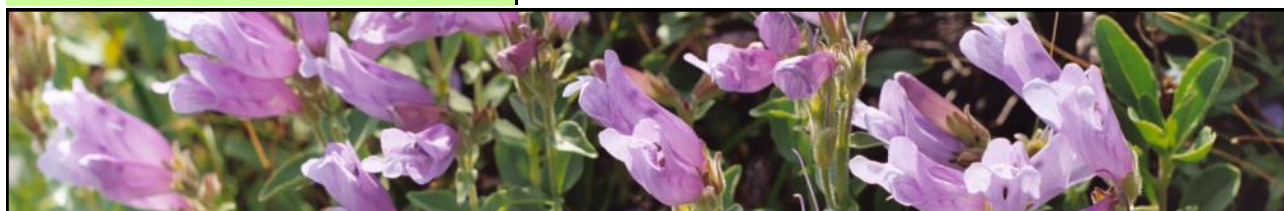
Editor's Note	1
What is a Native Plant?	2
Plant of the Month: Syringa	4
What's Bugging Me	5
2011 Spokane Garden Expo	6
Products and Services.....	7
Retail Locations.....	7
Calendar of Events	7

Editor's Note:

Welcome to the first issue of the Perennial Word. Through this newsletter we hope to bring information to gardeners in the Inland Northwest about a variety of gardening topics related to utilizing native plants in local landscapes.

Each issue will include a number of articles which we hope will be enjoyed by both novice and experienced gardeners. This month's feature is on understanding what a native plant is in the context of a garden situation. Other articles will include a featured plant with more detailed information about the plant, it's cultural requirements, landscape uses etc. The featured plant in this issue is the Syringa, *Philadelphus lewisii*. We will also include an article in each issue about a particular pest or disease, how to identify them, what problems they cause, and how to manage them. This month's article on "What's Bugging Me" is about aphids.

Of course we'll include information about special events and upcoming sales. This month's highlight is the upcoming Spokane Garden Expo organized by the Inland Empire Gardeners.





What is a Native Plant?

This question is not as easy to answer as it first appears. The same plant may be sold as a native by one nursery and not considered native by another. Native plants have the advantage that they are well adapted to local climate patterns and soils. This means that they require less soil preparation, less watering, and less work for the gardener. In addition, they support local wildlife and pollinators. Non-natives may grow well here but are less likely to provide suitable food and nectar sources for our local fauna.

There are three things that make up defining whether a plant is native or not. As you will see, each part has some grey area.

1. **Does the plant occur in the wild?** Native plants are those found to occur in nature. This would seem like a no-brainer, and yet what about native plants that have been selectively bred for certain ornamental characteristics? How much breeding can occur and still retain enough of the original characteristics to be considered native. Can a hybrid of two native species be considered native? Some of the *Gaillardia x grandiflora* hybrids, which are crosses of *Gaillardia aristata* (a native here), and *Gaillardia pulchella*, a showy annual, are sold as natives. We prefer to use plants exactly as they occur in the wild without any breeding or hybridization. Any selection for certain characteristics can narrow the genetic base of a plant and sacrifice adaptations for other things like drought tolerance or fire resistance.
2. **Define what geographic area is “local”.** Determining what the limits of your local area is really a personal deci-



sion. It can be defined narrowly, such as by a county list, or more broadly, as a state native or even a western US native. We try to provide information with our plants about where these species occur naturally. Those found in the five northern counties of Idaho we consider our local natives. Some of the plants we grow occur in other parts of Idaho, but not the Idaho Panhandle. Others have been chosen that are found in the Rocky Mountains, the Great Plains, and the Great Basin. If you are seeking only plants that grow in our local area, we can help you select those. For more information on geographic ranges of plants see the USDA PLANTS Database, <http://plants.usda.gov/java/> which has a distribution map of the states and counties where each species has been reported.

3. **Where did the seeds/plants come from?** Many species have wide geographic ranges. Even though they may be found locally, if seed are collected from distant sources, the plants may not do as well here. Species become adapted to local conditions wherever they grow. For example, Aspen grow here, but some of the commercial types are from southern Colorado and Arizona where the climate is dryer. If those plants are grown here, they are more likely to be adversely affected by some of the leaf spot diseases which are more prevalent in our wetter climate, and to which our local types are more resistant.

As you can see, it is not always easy to say whether a plant is native or not. At Cedar Mountain Perennials we are only carrying plants that occur in the wild and are providing information about the range where they occur naturally. As much as possible, we are collecting our own seed locally but are purchasing some from reputable sources.





Featured Plant:

Syringa *Philadelphus lewisii*

Syringa, also known as Mock Orange, is a member of the Hydrangea family. Syringa is Idaho's State flower and is widely distributed throughout the Inland Northwest at low to mid elevations. The species is named after the explorer Meriwether Lewis.

It's wood was used by the Secwepeme people to make arrows and digging sticks. When bruised for rubbed, the eaves and flowers foam to make a lather for soap.

Syringa is a deciduous shrub with bright green opposite leaves that are ovate to elliptic in shape with smooth margins. Each leaf has three veins running from the base.

Syringa features lovely large fragrant white flowers in late spring. It is a good sized shrub reaching 10 feet in height at maturity. Syringa will tolerate part shade to full sun and dry to moderately moist sites as long as there is good drainage. It is quite drought tolerant once established. This flexibility makes it a very nice addition to just about any landscape where there is room for this plant to grow.

In the landscape it is a fountain-shaped shrub, typically broader than tall. White flowers are 2 inches across and quite showy. The fragrant flowers are a nice feature adjacent to a patio or deck. Flowers are also attractive to butterflies so this plant is a perfect addition to any butterfly garden. Syringa may also be used as a specimen shrub in a background planting. Drought tolerance allows it to grow in somewhat harsher sites adjacent to driveways or parking areas.

Maintenance includes annual pruning after bloom, cutting out oldest wood and any surplus shoots at the base.



What's Bugging Me?

Aphids in the Garden

Aphididae

Aphids are common and sometimes troublesome pests of a variety of garden tree, shrubs and perennials. They are small soft bodied insects that suck plant juices. There are a wide variety of species and types and different species may feed on leaves, twigs, buds, bark, fruit and even underground on roots.

Aphids feed in colonies on leaves or stems. Adults are usually 1/8 inch or less in length and often pear shaped with long legs and antennae. Aphids have remarkable abilities to reproduce. Adult aphids may give birth to live young without mating. Eggs may be laid as well, most often in areas with cold winters.

Landscape plants can tolerate extensive feeding by aphids. However, heavy infestations may result in slower plant growth, distorted leaves and flowers, cause premature leaf drop and even wilt symptoms during times of water stress. The aphid's excreted sticky honeydew droplets can be a real nuisance when they cover cars, deck furniture etc.

Management of problem infestations can be accomplished through a variety of methods. Natural enemies are a very important in reducing aphid populations and include parasitic wasps, lady beetles, lacewings and syrphid flies; however natural enemy populations often do not appear until aphids become quite numerous. High levels of nitrogen fertilization favor aphid reproduction so never use more than necessary.

Insecticidal soap, neem oil, and horticultural oils are excellent safe methods of reducing aphid populations. Their use also conserves natural enemy populations. These are non persistent so may need to be applied more than once. Other insecticides available to control aphids include formulations of malathion, permethrin and acephate (non-food crops only).





13th Annual Spokane Garden Expo

May 14, 2011

9 a.m. —5 p.m

1810 N. Greene St—Spokane CC Lair

This year's theme:

Gardening—That's Entertainment

The show will have many wonderful highlights:

- **Specialty Plants for Sale**
- **Lecture Series**
- **One-of-a-Kind Garden Art**
- **Door Prizes**
- **Children's Activities**
- **Garden Accessories & Décor**
- **Unique Gifts**
- **Food**

Come See Us: at the Expo:

Cedar Mountain Perennials

We'll have a lot of great plants for you to choose from



Cedar Mountain Perennials

Products and Services

Wildflowers:

Our selection includes over 60 species of local, regional and western native wildflowers.

Shrubs and Trees:

We carry a broad selection of native shrubs and some trees.

Pricing:

We offer retail sales through the Kootenai County and Sandpoint Farmer's Markets. Volume discounts are available to landscapers and those purchasing in quantity

Consulting:

- Site Evaluations
- Plant Identification
- Plant Selection
- Pest and Disease Diagnosis
- Training
- Programs about Native Plants

RETAIL LOCATIONS:

Saturdays:

Kootenai County Farmer's Market

Highway 95 and Prairie Ave.

Hayden, Idaho

Note new time 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Wednesdays:

Farmer's Market at Sandpoint

Farmin Park, Sandpoint, Idaho

3:00 to 5:30 PM

By Appointment:

The Nursery

7875 E Highway 54

Athol, Idaho

Please call first

(208) 683-2387

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please send us an email at: botanybob@frontier.com

Calendar of Events

First Week of Kootenai Farmers
Market May 7

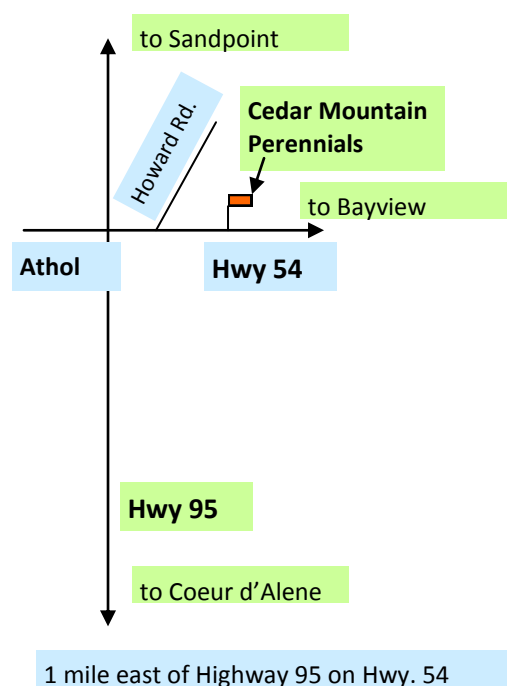
First Week of Sandpoint Farmers
Market May 11

Inland Empire Gardener's
Spokane Garden Expo May 14

Cedar Mountain Perennials
Open House & Plant Sale June 10-11



To Find the Nursery:



Cedar Mountain Perennials
7875 E Highway 54
Athol ID 83801

