

S W A N T O N , V E R M O N T

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Welcome to Hamlen's
Helping Hand!

3rd Newsletter of 2009

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SPECIALS

See store for promotional specials.

When: May 22-25

Where: Hamlen's Garden Center.

Hamlen's Helping Hand



Hamlen's Garden Center
157 St. Albans Road
Swanton, Vermont

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Visit us at Hamlen's. Enjoy browsing through our garden center. Take a look at all the new items for 2009 including our selection of decorative garden gazebos.

Our friendly staff will be glad to answer your gardening questions and help you select just the items you need. Come and discover wonderful ideas for creating an inviting and relaxing garden environment inside and outside your home.

Sunday, May 24, 2009 The 1818 stone house next to the garden center will be auctioned off along with the antiques in it. The house has been in the Hamlen family since 1938. David Hamlen the owner prefers to see the house go to someone who appreciates the beauty of this home. Come and enjoy the antiques that have been in the Hamlen family for years.

Address: 165 ST. Albans Rd., Swanton, VT. 05488

Parking: Just south of the home at the neighbors and on the curve



Viewing begins at 8:30 a.m. Antiques and contents auctioned starting at 10:00 a.m. Visit the Garden center before, during, or after the auction. **Go to the following url to view photos:** <http://www.merrillsauction.com/node/1000>

Ten Helpful Gardening Tips for the Glorious Month of May!

For the northeastern and New England portions of the United States, April-May showers are just about over, allowing for a morning, an afternoon, or a day here and there of sunlight and warmth. The trees have unfolded their leaves to reveal that brilliant green foliage identifiable only with the month of May. The daylight pushes into the evening hours and all of nature hints at the coming of summer.

The planting and gardening urge that began to stir in April is now awake, in full-gear, and ready for action. A visit to **Hamlen's Garden Center** will reveal such an inviting display of colors—such a variety of greenery and flowering plants—that you will not be able to resist the impulse to plant!



But, before you rush out to select flowers and plants at random, take a few minutes before you go to consider some helpful gardening tips. This action will save you time and money and reward you generously.

1. Take a site check.

Walk around your property and look at the existing conditions. Note what kinds of plants already exist and how well they appear to be doing where they are located. Ask yourself: is there anything I'd like to change—plants I'd like to move; new plants or flowers I'd like to add? Note what portions of your property receive morning, afternoon, and late afternoon sunlight and/or shade. Consider also if you will have to contend with tree roots, rocky soil, or any piping systems.

2. Plant according to your climate and site conditions.

Select those plants, flowers, herbs that will adapt most easily to your climate, soil,

and yard environment to enhance its layout and your enjoyment of it.

3. Be careful with those pruning shears . . .

Before you decide to go on a weekend pruning spree, you might want to check with Hamlen's to find out which shrubs would benefit from a "spring cleaning" and which ones prefer a fall "nip and tuck". Lilacs and Weigela, for example, want to show off their blooms in the spring and summer; but, if they receive a pruning now, you won't see their colors or smell their sweet fragrances until next year.

4. Is the "flavor of the month" look what you really want?

It is understandable to be overcome with the color and variety of blooms and greenery so that you want to select one of every thing you see. But, then when you get home and need to start planting, what do you do? Think about it; in nature, most plants grow together in groups. So, it should be in a garden setting. Select an odd number of each of the varieties you fancy and plant, for example, three or five together.

5. A little design layout is well worth it.

Add some interest to you garden landscape and give your plants room to breathe and grow. Place taller plants toward the back of your garden area, low ground cover in the front, and the mid-height plants in the middle. Be sure to space each plant so that the roots can spread and breathe and the foliage can stretch and express its unique plant characteristics without encroaching on its neighbor. Be aware of planting too close to walls, the base of trees, and any underground drainage pipes.

6. How deep should you dig and how much should you water?

Now, you're ready to remove your new plants from the store containers and place them in the ground. Take a good look at the plant root ball and then dig a hole twice as deep and twice as wide. If the roots appear tight and pressed together, just gently loosen the outer portion of the root ball with your hand and if need be, dip them in some water to further loosen them. It's a good idea also to amend the soil with peat moss and bone meal. Be sure to mix your soil with the peat moss and bone meal and be sure to wet this mixture right in the hole till it is soupy. Then place the plant root ball in the hole and gently press soil around the base of the plant—like tucking it snugly to bed . . . and it's good to go! After you've finished all your transplanting, don't forget to water your new garden area and be sure to monitor the soil dampness for the days to follow so that your new plants get the watering they need to survive and take hold. Be sure to water enough so the water penetrates to the roots, this can be done with a soaker hose left on for an hour. Depending on heat and dryness this may need to be done two to three times per week through most of the summer.

7. Help the local vermin and wildlife get over it.

Those cute little meadow voles, rabbits, skunks, and Bambies just love to chow down on your newly created garden masterpiece. But, you can surprise and deter them. Check with Hamlen's to find plants and gardening devices that are deer and "pest" resistant; so you don't have to share your flowering plants and garden salad with the wildlife.

8. Plants can enjoy life in a container, too!

Yes, it is ideal to be able to transplant your garden items into a garden setting; but if this is not an option, you can provide a happy home for them in a suitable container. Just make sure the container is large enough to allow the plant and its root system to grow. Also, be sure that the container provides ample drainage. If you plant a specimen that requires little watering, then it will not require daily monitoring. However, if you have a plant that requires damp soil—particularly when the hot weather sets in—you'll probably need to water it every day and from time to time give it liquid fertilizer, as nutrients in potted plants tend to deplete quickly.

9. Herbs are definitely individualist and selective!

Understanding up front that all herbs are not created equal, will save you time and frustration. Herbs are picky—some like lots of sunlight and dry soil and others don't. Rosemary, for example, loves a dry, almost barren-of-nutrients type of soil. If it's planted in nutrient-rich soil, it will wither and die within weeks. Also, if you love to plant Basil, keep in mind that pesky slugs love to eat Basil. So, enjoy the herbs you plant, be aware of their special needs, and know what to do to protect them against the insects that may try to dine on them before you can.

10. Large green lawns are impressive; but what a difference landscaping makes!

Unless you are going to use your beautiful green yard as a putting green or to play croquet, why not consider adding some interesting and environmental friendly landscaping. Adding such a feature doesn't need to cost a lot of money. It's something that can be begun and finished in a matter of hours or a day, depending on the scope of the project. Think of the colorful perennials, fragrant shrubs, and natural ground covering you can choose that will provide such beauty for you and your community and provide nectar, seeds, and habitats for birds, bees, and butterflies now and in years to come. And, you will have greatly reduced the amounts of water, fertilizer, toxic chemicals, and lawnmower gas required to keep a large lawn green. Don't know where to begin? Again, just stop by Hamlen's to get ideas, help, and the materials to make it so.

Hamming It Up

Sherlock Holmes - Elementary Dear Watson

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip, set up their tent, and fall asleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes his faithful friend.

'Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see.'

Watson replies, 'I see millions of stars.'



'What does that tell you?'

Watson ponders for a minute.' Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you? Holmes is silent for a moment, then speaks. 'Watson, you idiot, someone has stolen our tent.'

Hamlines

***Your philosophy creates your attitude, your actions,
your results, and these create your life.***

—Jeff Olson, author of *The Slight Edge, Secret to a Successful Life*

***Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it.
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.***

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust*

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

-Aesop



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Hamlen's Garden Center

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