



Smith's

Gardentown Farms Newsletter

REMEMBER MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, May 8th
Smith's has plenty of gift ideas for mom, such as:

- * Rose bushes
- * Unusual decorative planters
- * Unusual blown glass fountains
- * Beautiful glass birdbaths and bird feeders
- * Mixed patio pots
- * Bright hammock chairs to relax in
- * Windchimes
- * Tilley hats
- * Garden statues
- * Wild Birds Unlimited hummingbird feeders
- * SMITH'S GIFT CARDS!

TIME FOR TROPICALS

And, of course, we have new shipments of tropical hibiscus, bougainvillea, mandevilla, bananas, esperanza and more. They're fast-growing, so you can get a full season of enjoyment from them between now and next winter.

SMITH'S BEDDING PLANTS ARE THE BEST EVER! "Your flowers are so beautiful!"

That's what we are hearing every day from folks who visit our retail greenhouses. A few days ago, several folks from Fort Worth, who came to Wichita Falls to visit their family, loaded up their car with Smith's bedding plants, telling us, "We just can't find this quality of plants in the Metroplex!"



Because we use the best potting mix and best growing practices, you can count on Smith's-grown plants to perform better throughout the season.



POND PLANTS ARE HERE

We have new shipments of water lilies and other pond plants, including some baskets with mixed pond plants ready to put in a small container garden. If you don't have a water garden or fish pond, many of these plants may do well for you in a damp spot in your yard where you have trouble with other plants.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Don't forget that we will clean and reuse large and small pots and bedding plant trays, so don't send them to the landfill – bring them to Smith's.

AND SAVE WATER!

It's no secret that we need some rain! Since our lake levels are still good, we may not face water rationing – but it's always a good idea to save water. Here are the things you should do to conserve water while keeping your landscape beautiful:

When planting, amend your soil with organic compost. This will distribute water more evenly to plant roots than our native soil.

After planting, cover your beds and the roots of trees with three inches of bark mulch. This will keep soil cool and moist when those hot winds blow. It will also help keep weeds from growing. (And don't use rocks or recycled rubber in your beds – they'll make the soil hotter!)

Deep, less frequent watering is better than sprinkling every day. Use soaker hoses in beds, or lay a hose down at a slow trickle to water trees deeply. Even grass does not need to be watered every day. During hot weather, a deep watering twice a week should be sufficient.

The worst water wasters are automatic sprinkler systems that are improperly set. Remember, after a power outage, your sprinkler clock may reset to default and run every day. If you don't know how to set your sprinkler clock, turn it off and then turn it on manually when the ground is dry.

A WORD ABOUT BIRD FOOD PRICES

The seed found in most bird food is a commodity. Like the grains that make up much of the food you buy to feed your family, prices of sunflowers, peanuts, safflower, corn and other components of bird food have been going up in price.

As a practical matter, that means that those "cheap" bird food blends you may see at the grocery stores or box stores will be even more worthless than before. That's because those manufacturers will be adding more of the fillers (like the red milo) that your birds will not eat! As always, you get what you pay for.

If 75% of the bag of bird seed falls to the ground as waste (and to grow weeds and attract rats), you really haven't saved anything by purchasing that discount bird food.

Wild Birds Unlimited has a staff of professionals who monitor the grain markets and constantly adjust our blends to give you the best value in bird food. And we'll never, ever add those fillers that won't attract wild birds!

AND SAVE PAPER!

We'd love to have you sign up to receive our newsletter online so we don't have to print so many. Go to www.smithsgardentown.com and subscribe.

Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop



FEED THE BIRDS DURING NESTING SEASON!

Young families need extra help. Providing good quality bird food means adult birds can spend less time foraging to feed their young, and they'll spend less time exposed to predators.



MOVING WATER ATTRACTS MORE BIRDS THAN ANYTHING ELSE YOU CAN DO

Add one of our Water Wigglers or a dripping mister to your birdbath (this will also help keep mosquitoes from breeding).