

Advertising Index

Bruce Helsel Tree Farm	3
Ace Hardware	3
Affordable Irrigation & Maintenance	2
Breeze Hill Greenhouse	4
Brown Lumber & Company	6
Cabinets by Robert	5
Cedar Hedge Gardens	4
Concrete Service	2
Country Warehouse	3
DeWeese Hardware	5
Dobias Landscaping & Gardening Center	5
Flower Power	5
Four Season Nursery	5
Four Seasons Sunrooms	3
Handyman Connection	5
Max's Service	6
Misty Ridge Herb Farm	5
National City Bank	4
Northern MI Hardwoods	2
Organic Plant-It	5
Petal Pushers	2
Plant Masters	1
Robinson's Scenic Gardens	4
Silver Leaf Sawmill	5
Steuer Excavating	4
Summer Place Casuals	3
G.T. County Housing	5

All decked out

Wood decking usually requires refinishing every two to four years, depending on the type of finish applied, climate conditions, exposure to direct sunlight and proper maintenance.

TO MAINTAIN A DECK

- Sweep regularly
- Wash routinely with a hose and scrub it with a stiff-bristled brush
- Annually deep-clean it using a power washer or hose, making sure to get between the boards
- Use one of the commercial products designed to clean and restore weathered wood surfaces
- Thoroughly rinse all cleaner/restorer products from the wood surface
- Allow the wood to dry prior to applying a wood preservative*

*Wood preservatives repel water, preserve the wood with mildewcide and screen out UV rays



Copley News Service / Pete Chenard

Season's floral select

BY SHEILA GARRETT
Special to the Record-Eagle

Area gardeners thinking spring will have a mix of new plants and perennial favorites to choose from when they plant their gardens this spring.

Shirley Becker, owner of Manitou Gardens between Traverse City and Suttons Bay, a lifelong gardener who grew up in the gardening business, predicts that top sellers for this year will include annual standards like impatiens, geraniums and petunias. 50 new varieties of perennials will be added to their regular stock of 200 this year, including phlox, shasta daisies, viola, monard, delphinium and a hardy new echinacea (coneflower.)

Becker believes that the hydrangea Endless Summer will be a very popular shrub, as it flowers long and blooms on old and new wood.

"We have ordered more than last year after seeing it in our gardens and finding it excellent," she said.

Julie Sovereign of Traverse City's Garden Goods is also enthusiastic about this plant, which made its debut last year.

"This was one hot plant and for good reason," she said. "It solves the problem many northern gardeners have when trying to grow the old-fashioned mop head hydrangea in our tough climate. The customer knows he will get the treasured blossoms even if the old wood has died off."

"Endless Summer" continues to set new buds all season, so there is a very long bloom period, she said.

Another hydrangea choice is "Big Daddy," which boasts 12- to 14- inch blossoms. A new item at Garden Goods this year, this selection is considered a great choice for an old-fashioned garden look.

New annuals include the Osteopermum Symphony series, featuring yellow or orange daisy-like flowers that bloom all summer. They are an improvement over previous cultures that tended to stop blooming in



Photo/Kurt & Karen Schmidt

inch blooms. Knockouts, disease resistant for cut as for garden. "These roses don't want disease, or sprouting winterizing Schmidt said. A number trends are among gardeners the world. The perennial and hybrid out with a that need l and mainta

"Xeriscaping with lining getting a lot she said.

Ornament continue to take world by storm as they are seasons. She out the wide developing annuals in deep hued Schmidt, Gardener, workshops, knowledge and garden. She will be tainer garden the Penins 2.

Shirley B daughter o Pillars, wh Manitou Ga She learne to be a "he always enjo with plants. "Most of are family can say it's ily business

Manitou S at 12086 S. Drive, Elm open from Julie and Sovereign, Garden Go 3510 N. US have been 10 years, an garden acc landscaping consultant open year-

Sheila Ga freelance v

Sprinklers in all shapes and sizes

BY CHRISTINE HUARD
Copley News Service

If you're tired of watering your lawn and landscaping by hand, it's time you took a look at the many sprinklers and irrigation systems.

While they come in a variety of sizes and shapes, there are five general types. What you're watering and the area you need to cover will determine which type you need.

Ace Hardware Web site, www.acehardware.com, provides the following descriptions. Check with your local hardware store, home improvement center or landscaper for help in getting the right kind for your yard.

■ Stationary sprinklers spray water through a pattern of holes in the sprinkler head. They are good for smaller lawn and garden areas that need to be watered quickly and effectively. Fixed sprinklers can be round, half circles, rectangular and several other shapes, with costs varying according to size.

■ Oscillating sprinklers water a rectangular pattern by spraying numerous streams of water from a spray tube that waves back and

forth. Oscillating sprinklers are one of the more popular designs. They can effectively water medium to large areas and usually feature settings that can be adjusted.

■ Many homeowners appreciate the efficiency of a pulsating sprinkler which can deliver a lot of water over a large area. Pulsating sprinklers operate in a radius pattern, but top-quality units will be able to be adjusted to change the height of the stream or the pattern of operation.

■ Rotary sprinklers have two or three spray arms from which water sprays as they spin. They are good for covering small to medium areas. Top-end sprinklers will feature mist and jet spray action, and a lock for fixed watering.

■ Traveling sprinklers combine the spray action of a rotary sprinkler with the benefit of a self-propelled unit. The wind-up kind follows a sort of track predetermined by the homeowner. Tractor units drag the hose behind them as they follow the hose pattern.

Permanent systems

If you're ready to give up fiddling with hoses altogether,

er, you'll want to think about the convenience an irrigation system offers. Once it's installed, all you have to do is set a timer for it to water at the right time — no more unrolling and rolling up a wet, grassy hose.

First you'll have to decide what you want watered with a system — the lawn, landscaping or flower beds, for instance. Ace Hardware features interactive presentations on watering systems in its Web site's "Project How-To's" area which point out the importance of using the right sprinkler on your plants:

■ While spray-type sprinklers are good for lawns, they're bad for flower bed — the force of the spray will knock down your flowers.

■ Shrub heads spray down, but deliver a lot of water. It's better to use a low-flow system that lets you to irrigate more effectively.

You'll also need to decide if installing a watering system is a job you want to do yourself or if you should hire a landscaping contractor to do it. Once in, however, many homeowners discover the convenience of even a basic system is worth the price.



Bruce Helsel Tree Farm
It's a Perfect Time to Plant Trees!
Full Line of Garden Goods
Over 600 Trees In Stock!
Open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Daily • Sunday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Corner of M-115 & 13th St. • Cadillac
Nursery 231-779-1414 or Cell 231-409-7170

Scotts
Super Turf Builder® with Plus 2® Weed Control
Patented formula kills weeds that ordinary weed and feeds miss.
Apply to a wet lawn anytime weeds are actively growing.
\$11.99 (5,000 sq. ft.)
\$32.99 (15,000 sq. ft.)
SKU75491 SKU75883

Scotts SpeedyGreen® 3000™ Broadcast Spreader
For quick coverage on any size lawn.
\$39.99
SKU75088

Maxbauer ACE Hardware
3 LOCATIONS: ACME • CHUMS CORNER
TRAVERSE CITY (W. FRONT ST.)

Open For The 2005 Season
MICHIGAN'S LARGEST DISPLAY OF CASUAL PATIO FURNITURE AND BARBEQUE GRILLS
Great Selection
Lowest Prices Guaranteed
Over 150 Groups on Display for Immediate Delivery!
Over 3,000 Selections for Special Orders. 3-6 Week Delivery
Floor Samples up to 60% Off While they last!
15 yr. Warranty
HOMECREST
RATTAN-WICKER
TEC GRILLS
Awnings (Manual & Remote)
Decks & Docks with Lifetime Warranty
Homecrest • Telescope • Brown Jordan • Woodard
Land Indoor/Outdoor Wicker and Rattan • O.W. Lee
Grosfillex • Mattresses
Tec Infra-Red Grills and Much More

Summer Place Casuals
14000 US-31 South (15 minutes west of Chums Corner)
1-231-325-6000 • 1-877-322-8820
Mon.-Fri. 10-6 p.m. • Sat. 10-5 p.m. • Sun. 12-5 p.m.

Outdoor Living ... In

With 18 different styles to choose from, we can design a sunroom to compliment your home, lifestyle and budget.

Independently Owned And Operated

FOUR SEASONS SUNROOM
SUNROOMS • CONSERVATORIES • PATIOS
PATIO AND DECK ENCLOSURES •

Call for a Free Information Packet
In-Home Design Estimate
(231) 938-3300 or (800) 521-5211
5704 US-31 North • Acme (1 block south of Chums Corner)
Visit our web site... www.nsg.fourseasons.com

HUGE MATTRESS SALE
15 Year Guarantee
Twin Sets Reg. \$259 Now \$129
Full Sets Reg. \$339 Now \$159
Queen Sets Reg. \$498 Now \$189

Country Warehouse Sales
7 miles south of Kalkaska & 25 miles north of Cadillac
US-131 South • South Boardman, MI 49680
(231) 369-2850

PILLOW TOP AND MATTRESS
Full \$319
Queen \$369
Full Line of Furniture
Good Financing
90 Days Same