ISSUE #7 | SPRING 2018



ORGANIC GARDENING

A GUIDE TO HOUSEPLANTS

INDOOR Gardening

ATTRACTING Butterflies & Hummingbirds to your GARDEN

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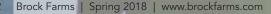
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# hello

n behalf of the entire Brock Farms family, we thank our loyal customers and future patrons as we present our 7th Brock's Magazine! We would love to greet all of you personally, in our stores, this magazine serves as a way for us to reach out to you and show our dedication and appreciation for the decades of support. Just like every other year, we are proudly continuing our commitment of providing the best quality, selection, and service for every person who walks through our doors.

With locations in both Colts Neck and Freehold, it only takes a few steps inside before you realize there's a difference when you shop at Brock's. Visit our Colts Neck store for the constantly expanding indoor-garden selections or the latest trends in ponds, water gardens, and statuaries. If you're looking for gifts, home décor, or furniture our Freehold location has a world's worth of treasures and rare finds that can fit any shopper's needs.

We're confident that any customer can discover the perfect addition to their home or garden at either of our stores because of our unwavering commitment to quality. There's no cutting corners at Brock Farms; instead of focusing on what's easy, we focus on what's best for our customers. We work tirelessly to make sure that every product we sell is up to the Brock's highest of standards. By monitoring the latest trends and constantly searching for rare products from all over the country, customers can break through the mundane finds at chain-stores and explore our deep selection of hand-selected plants and decorative pieces.

Our staff - who are more like family to us - create a friendly atmosphere for customers to peruse our vast selections at either store. While it can be easy to feel overwhelmed at some large garden depots, we make sure everyone on our staff is educated thoroughly on all our products, enabling them to properly inform customers and guide them through the shopping experience. Sure, you can go online and look through hundreds of plants from the comfort of your home, but when you

through hundreds of plants from the comfort of your home, but visit Brock Farms, you'll see how much fun we have in providing you with the best selection and service possible. In the end, you won't be leaving happy just because you found exactly what you needed, but because you enjoyed the experience itself.

Again, we thank everyone for their support over the many years, our staff who we can't praise enough, and our loyal customers who give us purpose. As we keep our pledge to provide nothing short of the best quality, selection, and service; we hope to continue to see all the familiar faces and welcome the new ones to our Brock's family.



### FEED YOUR LAWN... Feed Your Family On Us!



TURF BUILDER	15,000 Square FeetYOU PAY \$38.99 \$12 Mail in Rebate\$12.00 \$26.99 After Incentives\$1.99	Turi pulder	TURF BUILDER	5,000 Square FeetYOU PAY \$17.99 \$5 Mail in Rebate\$5.00 \$12.99 After Incentives\$0.49
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#### What You Seed is What You Get

Agreat lawn is only as good as the grass seed its grown from. How do you choose a great grass seed? Well, you can ask a neighbor with a great lawn what they used...or you can simply use Jonathan Green Black Beauty right from the start.

Grass seed is a product of nature so look at the analysis label on the bag for low percentages of weed seed with less than 0.10%; other crop seed with less than 0.25%; and inert matter with under 2%. Introducing more weeds - or difficult to control crop seeds makes your great lawn aspirations far more difficult. In the mid-Atlantic and northeastern states, it seems that tall fescue-based mixtures have become the grass seed of choice over the last 30 years. The greatest improvements to them have been thinner grass blades than older "meadow-type" fescues and darker green color. It's also important to choose the best time of year to seed, either in the early spring or early fall. Homeowners always say that "fall is the best time to seed". In general, it is. However, the spring has many great advantages, too. Whether you're seeding in the spring or the fall, make sure that you start early to insure the maximum growth potential before the summer (after spring seeding) or

the winter (after fall seeding) occurs.

Newly seeded lawns need to be fed with a "starter" fertilizer. Jonathan Green's Green-Up for Seeding & Sodding is the perfect fertilizer for this task. If you start with quality grass seed and your soil is balanced, feeding the grass and watching it grow is the fun part. Once the lawn establishes and its been mowed three times, you should begin putting it on a feeding program. Talk to the attendants at Brock Farms for more information on Jonathan Green's New American Lawn Annual Feeding Program.

Whenever you seed or fertilize, remember to keep your soil pH in balance, too. All plants like to grow within a certain range of soil pH to thrive. If your lawn soil is too low or too high, then grass plants will struggle to survive. Soil pH levels of 6.2 to 7.0 are best. If you're in the Freehold, NJ area, then it's likely that your soil is acidic. Use Jonathan Green's Mag-I-Cal for Acidic Soil to raise soil pH. Mag-I-Cal will maintain a proper soil chemistry for your lawn, especially the newly sown seedlings, to keep it growing lush and healthy.

### Enjoy your lawn with family and friends!



THE NEW AMERICAN LAWN

### FEED YOUR LAWN ... AND YOUR SOIL!

USE THE ONLY ANNUAL LAWN PROGRAM THAT DOES BOTH!

#### 3-PHASE LAWN PROGRAM





#### 2-PHASE SOIL PROGRAM

SAVINGS

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- Feeds and greens lawns for three months!
  - Prevents crabgrass all season long.. and kills it after it grows (up to the third leaf stage)!
- Controls dandelions, clover and over 250 other broadleaf weeds!

Feeds soil microbes with vital organic matter to unlock "trapped" nutrients in the soil.

Breaks up hard, compacted soil for greater air, water, and root penetration

Adjusts soil pH so lawn fertilizer nutrients aren't wasted and weeds are better controlled.

Come into Brock Farms for GREATEST PRICE AROUND on The New American Lawn Program!



Mag-I-Cal twice a year for five years on this sand-based soil in southern New Jersey.



### YOUR LAWN FOOD!

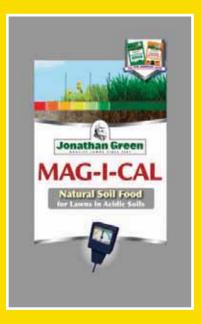
Use two, unique SOIL FOO S with AN Lawn Food or Annual Lawn Program... and get the lawn results you've always wanted

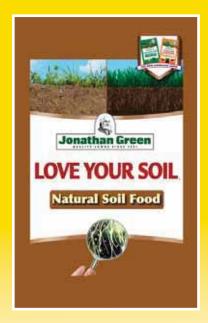
Applying both of the soil foods listed below will enhance the ability of your grass to absorb lawn fertilizer nutrients and build stronger resistance to diseases and other environmental stresses.

MAG-I-CAL is the first soil food. It adusts the soil pH to increase the ability of the turf to absorb more nutrients, particularly those from lawn foods. Additionally, Mag-I-Cal builds stronger cell walls in the plant, which helps the turf become more resistant to disease. It is filled with humates and plant extracts that will stimulate microbial activity and reproduction in the soil. Apply Mag-I-Cal in the spring with any lawn food product.

LO OU SOIL is the second soil food. It contains gypsum at a super concentration, which increases greater air flow throughout the soil. More air means deeper roots and greater microbial activity. Love Your Soil is also fortified with amino acids, humates and molasses, all of which provide numerous benefits to the soil and turf. Helping plants utilize nutrients from both the soil and lawn fertilizer, inspiring microbes to reduce thatch levels, reducing stress from summer heat and winter cold, eliminating summer fertilization, boosting the plants defenses to diseases, and increasing earthworm and beneficial microbial populations are key attributes of Love our Soil

So, "Supercharge our Lawn Food" with Mag-I-Cal and Love our Soil...and, finally, enjoy the lawn that you've always desired





### BROCK

Mag-i-cal<sup>®</sup> and Love Your Soil<sup>®</sup> are available at both locations. As well as a large variety of grass seeds and fertilizer from Jonathan Green. Come in and let our experts guide you to have the greatest lawn in your neighborhood.

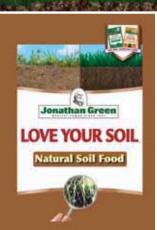
# SUPERCHARGE YOUR LAWN FOOD!



Jonathan Green's Soil Foods correct damaged soil and makes lawn foods work BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE!



- Corrects Soil pH Quickly!
- Maximizes Lawn Food performance!
- Contains Humates to Restore Soil Life!



Loosens Hard, Compacted Soil!
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(Less \$50 Restaurant.com Gift Card)

INCENTIVES...... \$32.95



As you access your landscape and lawn, you are sure to see some weed activity. Here is some helpful information about weeds and how to reduce and control them. A weed is an unwanted plant in our lawn or landscape. It could be a grassy weed or a broadleaf weed. In general terms and identification, for the most part, a grassy weed will produce seed heads, where a broadleaf will produce flower(s).

#### ith lawns the est defense for weeds is a healthy lawn one that is lush thi and thri in

Turn your back for a second, and it's astonishing how fast weeds can gain a foothold in the lawn. From those early-spring patches of speedwell to May's golden fields of dandelions to the fat leaves of summer plantain, Mother Nature has a varied lineup to fill any bare soil. Neglected lawns often end up with a mix of different weeds. Most of them are aggressive enough to outcompete turf grass.

Believe it or not, your mowing methods can have an impact on weeds. It's important to cut the grass regularly and on a high setting. Taller grass shades the soil better, which discourages the germination of new weeds. In NJ that is 3 to 4 inches. Spring and fall mowing would be on the lower end of that height, and summer would be the higher limit. Summer height will also reduce drought and heat damage, and reduce watering needs as the higher height helps the soil retain moisture and protect the roots.

It's important to understand that different weeds germinate at different times throughout a growing season – including winter in much of America. Some of them come and go with each season (annuals), while others are perennial weeds that come back from their roots year to year. Almost all of them hit peak growth in spring when the soil warms. If you let them grow, between the annuals reseeding themselves and the perennials spreading, weeds outcompete the grass. When that happens, the solution is to level the playing field by first eliminating the invaders.

#### rin is rime time to do that e ause that s not only when weeds are a ti ely rowin it s when they re most ulnera le to weed illers

A well timed spring application of a weed-killer can clean up the bulk of a weed infestation in one treatment. Granular and liquid forms are available, with or without fertilizer. That timing kills annual weeds such as henbit, hairy bittercress and speedwell that germinated in winter and hit the ground running in spring. It also kills newly germinated annual weeds, such as mustards, mallow, prickly lettuce and pigweed. And it kills existing perennials, such as plantain, bindweed, ground ivy and dandelions.

If grassy weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass and foxtail are also a problem, these are best controlled by preventing them in the first place with a preemergent (before germination) control product, referred to as crabgrass preventer. This product sets up an invisible barrier on the surface of the soil and will prevent grassy weed germination. Crabgrass preventers should be applied early to mid season, just before annual grassy weeds germinate. Timing is everything! That timing ranges from as early as mid-January to late May, depending



on climate. There are also some fertilizer formulations that provide post-emergent control of crabgrass – killing it while still in the seedling stage up to 4-weeks after it emerges. These allow you a little extra time to get it on the lawn to beat the crabgrass. Ask us at Brocks for timing recommendations, depending on the product you choose. Once applied and rain or watered in it's important not to disturb the barrier by raking or other means, as it will negate the effect of the product. If you think you must seed in spring, ask us about this first - we will want to steer you to a special pre-emergent product, that also allows seeding.

Broadleaf weed control is usually in the post emergent type. Liquid or granular. With or without fertilizer. Blanket applications (whole lawn) or spot treatments are used depending on amount of weeds and coverage. Granular applications are available which also may have the pre-emergent for grassy weeds, effectively allowing fertilization, grassy and broadleaf weeds controls in 1 time and money saving application. Key with granular broad leaf products are to apply to wet foliage, and then 48 hours with no rainfall or watering or mowing, so the product can be taken in to plant effectively and trans-locate to the root, allowing complete control, not just burning top leaves. Care should be also taken about reducing pet or other activity on the lawn in the 48 hour window, so as not to disturb the product from the leaves for maximum results and safety.

Landscape and garden weed control options are usually granular and are most effective as a pre-emergent. So, look for a product labeled as a weed preventer. They will not control existing weeds (the area must be cleared first) but after they have been watered in to activate, they provide good weed control as noted on the label -- for up to 3 to 6 months of controlled depending on the product you choose. They don't prevent all types of weeds, but many common weeds that will help keep your weeding activity to a minimum. As weeds are seasonal, you might consider spring, summer and fall applications to cover most of the winter weed and summer weed species - depending on the type and duration coverage you buy. Weed preventers are best to apply after mulching, or on top of existing mulch and are effective on both broadleaf and grassy weeds that are listed on the label. As always -please read and observe the instructions for best results, for both application rates (how much), weeds controlled, plant compatibility, and how and when to use. If questions come up, and simply ask our staff here at Brock Farms.





Both locations offer an incredible selection of herbicides for any weed imaginable, conventional or organic. Let our trained staff guide you to a weed free yard. Many brands in stock including Greenview, Bonide, Ortho, Monterey Organics, and many more.

### One Easy Application Does It All.

### Find **Preen One** at Brock Farms today!

www.preen.com

24-0-6

NE-STEP APPLICATIO

## ORANGE ROCKET

arrer

Orange Rocket Barberry is a show-stopping variety that adds much more than just a pop of color to any new or existing garden. This unique flowerless barberry has the ability to catapult any gardener's landscape to the next level and make them the talk of the neighborhood.

The award-winning Orange Rocket a compact, columnar upright growing deciduous shrub with a freely branching growth habit that feature small red leaves that turn a ruby red in autumn. Early summer, pale yellow leaves are followed by small, crimson red berries. Beyond that, some plant facts include:

- This barberry reaches five to six feet in height and two to three feet in width.
  - Is easy to care for and drought tolerant.
    - Thrives in sun to partial shade.
- Cold hardy to USDA Zone 4. (-20°F or -28°C), shows off a great fall/winter color!
  - Tight columnar growth that is Deer Tolerant.



Orange Rocket Barberry lights up the landscape in mass plantings, as a specimen plant, or in a container. Give it a chance in your garden and you won't regret it!

Orange Rocket Barberry is subject to PlantHaven patent protection; unlicensed propagation is prohibited.

BROCK

At Brock Farms both locations handle this garden debut plant as well as many other barberry varieties.



### May good things grow



**After Midnight Hydrangea** Hydrangea macrophylla x serrata 'After Midnight'



Baby Gem Boxwood Buxus microphylla var. japonica 'Gregem' PP21159



SAVING

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Nantucket Blue<sup>™</sup> Hydrangea Hydrangea macrophylla 'GRENAN'

# Organic Gardening with what comes naturally

#### ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING AND CHICKENS

You may think chicken manure is downright disgusting and incompatible with vegetable gardening, but when it comes to growing vegetables in an organic and sustainable manner, good ol' chicken poop, often known as "brown gold," is one of the best things under the sun.

Miraculous things happen when chicken manure is used as part of a comprehensive organic garden plan, along with cover cropping, crop rotation or other bio-friendly techniques. Chicken manure allows you to grow your garden in harmony with nature without benefit of toxic pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers.

#### CHICKEN MANURE: IT S NOT JUST POOP

One chicken produces approximately two cubic feet of nutrient-rich manure every year. The manure is richer than steer or horse manure, providing nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, calcium, and other micro- and macronutrients.

Chickens spend much of their time scratching around in straw or other litter, and it all eventually goes into the garden. The earthy blend of manure and organic matter benefits soil by increasing water-holding capacity, reducing erosion, enhancing drainage and improving overall soil structure.

#### BUT IS IT SAFE ?

Manure must be properly pasteurized or aerobically composted before it's safe to use. As seasoned composters know, pathogens are destroyed as compost heats to a high internal temperature. Chicken manure is properly pasteurized when it is noticeably stinky and litter has broken down so it's no longer recognizable.

Aerobic Composing is a slightly different process that involves storing the manure in a safe, protected place where nature can take its course. Unlike pasteurization, aerobic composting kills pathogens by only allowing the compost to heat up to a specific temperature. This kills the harmful pathogens, but also allows for a bulk of the beneficial microbes to remain.

Aerobic composting is the preferred method for a fertilizer that results in significantly reduced odor in smell and higher in beneficial microbes.

#### A WORD ABOUT CHICKEN MANURE TEA

Chicken manure tea is suitable for nearly any plant in your garden, but it's especially handy for container-grown vegetables. It isn't difficult to make and the final product will provide your plants with a veritable buffet of nutrients and beneficial bacteria. To make the rich brew, just place a healthy scoop or two of aerobically composted chicken manure in a bag made of burlap or other porous material. Fill a 5-gallon bucket with water, then submerge the bag and hold it down with a heavy rock or brick. Put the entire set-up in a sunny location. You may want to cover the bucket to prevent rather unpleasant aroma from escaping.

Stir the tea a couple of times every day for about a week. At that point, dump the contents of the bag into the bucket and add enough clean water to create a 50/50 mix of tea and water. Provide your vegetable plants with a little chicken manure tea every couple of weeks until they begin to flower and set fruit.

### BROCK

At Brock Farms, both locations we are constantly expanding our organic supply products carrying a great selection for all your needs.

Brock Farms | 14



### Vibrant Gardens and Bountiful Harvest



healthy grow

"The Way IF's Made Matters"





Dave Thompson's Organic Healthy Grow<sup>®</sup> fertilizers are produced through a natural, 45-day aerobic composting process and use only the highest quality, carefully sourced organic materials. Because to us,

VEGETABLE & HERE

"The Way It's Made Matters.""

To learn more about our full line of organic fertilizers, soil enhancer and specialty mixes visit us at healthygrow.com



# **TO YOUR GARDEN**

hen you buy a plant - whether you know it or not - you are fulfilling a need. That is to say: each plant has a purpose. Would you agree, though, that some plants serve more a purpose than others? I believe so. Sure . . . every plant brings some value to someone somewhere; however, when you purchase and install a plant that goes beyond its beauty, you have something truly remarkable. For me (and for many gardeners), you achieve this through installing plants that attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

There are countless plants that may appeal to these lovely critters; but as stated above, not all plants are created equal. Some are a food source. Some are a habitat. Some are both! Let's take a moment to think about why these plants are important and why I think every gardener should have some in their landscape.

#### Chemistry, Anatomy, and Botany

I'm sorry to get technical for a moment, but I must do a bit of housekeeping before we get to the fun stuff. For the sake of plants being a food source for butterflies and hummingbirds, they need ample amounts of one very important item: nectar. Nectar is a sugar-rich fluid which all plants secrete in some fashion or another. Often it is located within the flower to lure pollinators. Some, but not all, nectar-rich flowers are long and skinny (such as tubular or trumpet-shaped). This flower-structure makes them ideal candidates specifically for butterfly and hummingbird anatomy.

Butterflies drink nectar through a tube called a proboscis. It remains curled up when not being used and can be extended into flowers (or other food sources) when feeding. This appendage can reach deep into those tube-shaped flowers we just spoke of. Hummingbirds have long and narrow beaks with matching long and narrow tongues with which they can capture nectar. It's essentially performing the same task, only in a slightly different manner.

#### Milkweed & The Circle of Life

Imagine yourself walking through the supermarket. As you stroll through the aisles, you see tons of things you can eat, but you walk past 90% of the items because you're looking for the select few items on the list that you truly want. The twenty items you buy are the lifeblood for you and your family, whereas the thousands of items you have passed by could sustain you, but they will not bring the happiness nor health of the food you have chosen. Now imagine that same grocery store, but this time your twenty items are gone. You are left to purchase only from the selection of items that you would rather not buy.

This is what faces the butterflies of the United States. Many butterflies have lost an overwhelming majority of their preferred food source: Milkweed. And this amazing group of native plants is so much more than just nectar for the adult butterflies. To put it into perspective, imagine that what Milkweed is to butterflies would be like baby food, Sunday dinner, and the roof over your head . . . all wrapped into one!

The life cycle of a butterfly is a beautiful process that relies on key ingredients at the right time. The eggs need a safe place to stay; not just any place will do. When hatched, the larva stage begins and they must be somewhere they can begin to eat immediately. Once they have eaten their fill, the chrysalis must be camouflaged and safe from predators. When the adults emerge, they need to eat nectar to gain the strength needed to start the process again. For a species like the Monarch that migrates hundreds of miles in its short lifetime, the availability of Milkweed throughout their journey is vital to their survival.

#### **Expanding Your Options**

But your garden cannot survive on Milkweed alone ... or, at least, I wouldn't find a landscape of solely Milkweed very interesting. That being said, I'm going to give you some of my top choices to help attract butterflies and hummingbirds into your garden.











#### Asclepias (Milkweed)

I know I mentioned this above, but I cannot stress enough just how important this species of plant is for butterflies. Hummingbirds will feed on them, too, but their ability to act as both food and habitat make it an easy choice. There are many species that grow well in New Jersey, but I feel that A. tuberosa (standard orange Butterfly Weed) is probably the best suited for most gardens.

#### Chelone (Turtlehead)

The overwhelming majority of plants sold in this country are items that bloom when garden centers are busy (ie - spring). But to feed these animals throughout the season, you must think beyond plants that bloom at that time of year. Chelone blooms in late summer / early autumn. Its bright pink flowers provide food at a time of year when they truly need the food.

#### Echinacea (Coneflower)

There are ample choices available when it comes to Coneflower. Colors ranging from red, to pink, to orange, to yellow all make great choices to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. One thing to think about, though . . . there are arguments that double-flowering Coneflower do not produce nearly as much nectar. I have yet to see definitive evidence of this, but I figured it's worth passing along.

#### Hosta

Most people think of Hosta as a foliage plant, but their flowers are great for pollinators. They are also one of the few items on this list that grow well in shade.

#### Lonicera (Honeysuckle Vine)

This low-care vine will climb a trellis or fence with near zero effort on your part. It also produces immeasurable clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers throughout most of late spring and summer. Hummingbirds are exceptionally drawn to this one!



#### Monarda (Bee Balm)

The name suggests bees like this plant, but truth-be-told, Monardas are magnets for all types of pollinators. They're also easy to grow and come in a range of vivid colors. My top picks would be 'Electric Neon Pink' and 'Rockin' Raspberry'.



#### Sedum (Stonecrop)

To some, a succulent being a great source of nectar seems a bit odd. I'd challenge you, though, to find a Sedum (regardless of species) that is in bloom and doesn't have some sort of butterfly nearby. They are also super-easy to grow and are adaptable to any sunny spot with well-drained soil. As I said, nearly any will do, but varieties with larger flowers will bring in more critters. I'd stick with 'Autumn Fire', and 'Blueberry Pie'™ for the best impact.

#### Vernonia (Iron Weed)

Don't let the "Weed" name fool you; this plant will not spread all over your yard. What it will do, though, is attract butterflies and hummingbirds in late summer. Vernonia also plays a major role as a food source for migrating Monarchs!

### BROCK

At Brock Farms, both locations carry many plants that attract butterflies- hummingbirds and other forms Of desirable nature to your yard. We have on staff many people to help you design this.

### your garden with BlewLabel<sup>®</sup> Perennials!

Inviting these beauties of nature into your landscape is as simple as choosing the proper plants for the proper places.

Allow the garden center professionals at Brock Farms transform your garden into a feast fit for perfect pollinators.

And for more information, visit www.BlewLabel.com or your local Brock Farms store.



Attract butterflies and hummingbirds to

Available at .

BROCK FARMS

# FOR SIGNS OF SPRING, LOOK TO -Songbirds-

f you're looking for a sign of spring, don't limit yourself to the American Robin. (Besides, it turns out not all of them go south for the winter!) To get the full picture, keep your eyes and ears open to all songbirds. Spring is the time they transform their lives, moving from their winter flocks to pairing off with mates so they can get down to the business of laying eggs.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

#### Song of the winter songbird

Even though there is still snow on the ground, you might hear winter birds, such as the Black-capped Chickadee or Northern Cardinal, already breaking into their springtime song, which is associated with choosing a mate and a home. Even with the freezing temperatures, the lengthening days give these birds a cue that it's time to start their spring work: Find a mate, find a site, build a nest and lay the eggs. By the time their first brood hatches, it should be warm enough to find food to feed them.

#### Drumming of the woodpecker

Instead of carrying a tune, woodpeckers drum. Hammering away on the bark of a tree is not just a way to get insects. They use the sound to communicate with other woodpeckers, whether they're attracting a mate or putting rivals on notice that their nesting site is chosen. When they send messages in the spring, they may turn to other instruments besides trees,

such as house siding, drain pipes and metal chimneys.

#### Migrators return

As we move deeper into that springtime feeling, you'll see the return of the long-distance migrators, such as the Baltimore Orioles, grosbeaks, warblers and Purple Martins. As soon as they return, they get right to work establishing their nesting areas and start looking for a mate. And before long, you'll hear that loud chorus of birds at dawn! During the spring, even as food supplies are emerging, keep your feeders full, or you'll miss out on the spring rush. Migration and nesting are physically demanding on birds.



At Brock Farms both locations boast a wide selection of wild birding needs including bird seed, suet,bird feeders & houses and all accessories. All the leading brands and also a lot of the unusual.





### Attract More Birds with Lyric Premium Blends



The Finest Nutricats. See The Difference.



All Natural Food White Nat There The Finest Nutrients. See The Difference.



The Differen

FRUIT & NU High Energy Mix

All Matural Food with No Filler The Finest Nutrients. See The Difference.

Get your favorite Lyric blend at Brock Farms today!





V V SAVINGS

SNS

### TetraPond<sup>®</sup> filters and UV clarifiers

1

### keep ponds clean, clear and healthy.





#### **Bio-Active Pressure Filters**

**For optimal biofiltration conditions.** TetraPond's Bio-Active Pressure Filters (with or without UV clarifier) provide mechanical and biological filtration to help maintain clear, healthy pond water. Their specially designed open-profile bio-activators contain a large surface area with unrestricted water flow for improved cleaning. Also designed with an easy, backflush valve for fast cleaning. Includes a 2-year limited warranty.

#### **Filtration Fountain Kits**

**Your all-in-one solution.** TetraPond's complete filtration fountain kits are an all-in-one solution for adding a fountain—and a touch of beauty—to ponds. All kits come with three fountain heads (frothy, spray and bell pattern), swivel adjuster for leveling fountain heads, and diverter assembly.

#### Skimmer

**Skim debris before it sinks.** TetraPond's In-Pond Skimmer acts as a pre-filter for the pump, keeping the pond clean by skimming off debris or suspended matter before it sinks. It's easy to install and can be used with flexible or preformed ponds.

#### **UV Clarifiers**

**Keep ponds algae-free**. Dependable GreenFree<sup>®</sup> UV clarifiers help get rid of pond algae—or "green water"—for good, by using ultraviolet light to destroy the reproductive ability of microscopic, suspended algae. Heavy algae blooms are removed within days, leaving a cleaner, more beautiful pond.

#### **Waterfall Filter**

Create beautiful waterfalls quickly and easily. The mesh bag allows for the addition of bio-media (6-8 liters of Bio-Activators) for effective filtration for ponds up to 1,000 gallons. Easy to install and blend into landscape. Use with pumps 500 to 4,500 GPH. Includes a 2-year limited warranty.

21

### PONDMASTER CEREFICIAN PRESSURIZED POND FILTER

988 y B.

CLEARGUARD • Backwash Air Kit (optional)

• CLEARGUARD Pressurized Pond Filter

#### THE FILTER YOUR POND HAS BEEN WAITING FOR.

The Pondmaster Clearguard Pressurized Pond Filter is an easy-to-use filter with 7 distinct functions: Filter, Backwash, Rinse, Winterize, Empty, Circulate and Close!

Available in 2700, 5500, 8000 & 16000 gallon sizes and feature a reusable Filter Pad which removes debris while polishing the water along with Biological & Mechanical Media for maximum water clarity resulting in a cleaner and healthier pond. Both Slip-Fit and Barbed fittings are also included with each filter size.

All Clearguard Filters are offered with or without a UV Clarifier; optional UV clarifiers are offered in 9W and 18W sizes for upgrading your Filter. For ultimate performance, use the Clearguard Backwash Air Kit (sold separately).







#### Ecological **Laboratories** inc. **Providing Aquatic Solutions Since 1976**

#### www.MicrobeLift.com

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FROM THE

/MicrobeLiftProducts

@MicrobeLift



# A Simple JATER Treatment Solution

#### **A Water Treatment Revolution**

In order to keep ponds and fountains low maintenance and looking beautiful, it is important to select the proper water treatments and apply them consistently and accurately. However, with the wide variety of water treatment options available in the market, choosing what is best for your pond or fountain can be difficult, confusing, and overwhelming. The Aquascape Automatic Dosing System water treatments, along with the new line of easy to dose pump top versions, simplifies this process, providing select formulations that combine multiple treatments to target a wide variety of issues, including water guality, sludge, cloudy water, scale buildup, fish stress, and more. Our goal is for science to meet simplicity, making it easy to solve any issue without a closet full of treatment products.



Adding water treatments on a regular basis can be a chore, requiring discipline to regularly add the necessary treatments in the right quantities. The Aquascape Automatic Dosing System works like an IV system for ponds and fountains, eliminating the guesswork and routine of manually adding water treatments, so you can spend more time enjoying vour water feature.

Typical water treatment application involves the addition of large doses on a weekly basis. This approach can shock the ecosystem by changing water chemistry quickly and drastically, negatively impacting water quality and causing stress for pond inhabitants. By consistently adding small amounts of treatment gradually throughout the day, water treatments become much more effective and safer to use.

Water treatments are commonly added to combat a newly discovered issue. However, by the time problems are noticed and the correct treatment(s) are added, it may take several weeks for the issue to be resolved. This reactive approach to water treatments prevents you from enjoying your pond or fountain. The Automatic Dosing System employs a proactive approach to water feature treatment, resolving water feature concerns before they become a problem.

The Automatic Dosing System is made up of a few simple, easy-to-assemble components and installation is guick and easy, requiring less than 15 minutes for most setups. The system is set in a location near the pond or fountain and is installed in the ground or conveniently mounted on a post, wall, or fence. The included water treatment pouch is installed in the canister, and the dosing tube is discharged into the water feature. Based on the amount of gallons in the pond or fountain, the control panel is then set to the appropriate level using the + and - buttons. When the treatment pouch is exhausted, a new pouch is installed.

Choosing the correct treatment is simple, and for most applications the appropriate staple treatment is included with the system, allowing you to quickly begin to enjoy a clean water feature. All treatment formulations and concentrations are designed around the

26 Brock Farms | Spring 2018 | www.brockfarms.com calibrated treatment rates of the Automatic Dosing System, and because the treatment is added slowly and consistently, we are able to combine several effective ingredients into these powerful formulations. These versatile formulations include four treatments for ponds and two treatments for fountains, providing options for a wide variety of pond issues.

S

a a for o s

 Combines our most effective treatments into one powerful formulation designed to successfully maintain ponds and water features.

- С
- · Powerful blend beneficial bacteria, including lithotrophic, heterotrophic, and photosynthetic strains
- · Contains a powerful phosphate binder that locks up this excess nutrient that would otherwise cause water quality problems
- Flocculent quickly clears cloudy water by clumping suspended debris
- Detoxifier removes and detoxifies chlorine that enters the pond when adding new water
- Safe for fish and plants

#### С

- This formulation contains a powerful blend of heterotrophic bacteria
- focused on digesting sludge and organic matter found in the pond or filtration system • Ideal for breaking down and reducing decaying organic matter caused by uneaten
- fish food, fish waste, dead plant matter, and more
- Effectively cleans between the rocks and gravel
- · Reduces filter maintenance by keeping filter media clean and preventing it from becoming clogged
- Safe for fish and plants

· A concentrated formulation of ingredients targeted at solving the most stubborn water quality problems

• Contains a blend of clarifiers designed to clear suspended debris and reduce debris that attaches to rocks and gravel

Quickly and safely clears discolored or cloudy water

Contains a powerful phosphate binder that locks up this excess nutrient that would otherwise cause
water quality problems

- Safe for fish and plants
- This all-natural formulation contains tea tree oil and other plant based biopolymers
- Accelerates healing of superficial wounds, scrapes, cuts, and breeding abrasions

Protects fish from stress and disease after conducting cleanouts, routine maintenance, or partial water changes

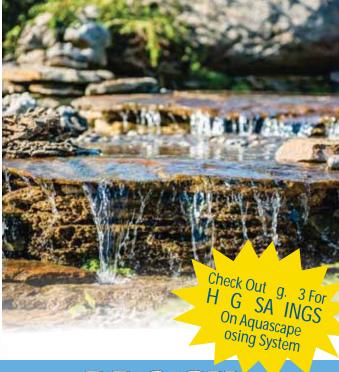
- Great for use after handling fish
- Does not discolor the water
- Safe for use with fish and plants

#### F

- · Controls unsightly white-scale buildup without damaging fountain surfaces
- · Prevents stains and unsightly water conditions
- Contains a blend of clarifiers designed to clear and prevent debris buildup in the water and on the surface of the fountain, rocks, or gravel
- Safely prevents and eliminates foam
- Safe for birds and animals that may drink from fountain
- Not safe for fountains containing fish

#### С

- Ideal for water features with standing water, including container water gardens and other water features containing fish or plants
- Contains a powerful phosphate binder that locks
- up excess nutrients to clarify the water
- Flocculent quickly clears cloudy water by clumping suspended debris
- Safely prevents and eliminates foam
- Safe for birds and animals that may drink from the fountain



BROCK

At Brock Farms Colts Neck we carry Aquascape Dosing Systems at a great price . We also handle a full line of pond water treatments from all the leading names in the pond industry.

#### MAINTAINING Optimum Water Quality FOR PONDS AND FOUNTAINS IS EASY!

New Aquascape pond and fountain water treatments allow you to benefit from innovative formulations designed to create clean and clear water. Convenient

pump tops make dosing easy.





FOR PONDS



NEW

FOR 2018

FOR FOUNTAINS

Eliminate the guesswork and routine of adding water treatments to your water feature with the Aquascape Automatic Dosing System!

Visit **BROCK FARMS** and learn more about easy-to-use Aquascape water treatments. **brockfarms.com** Visit **aquascapeinc.com** for more information about water features.

aquascapeinc.com

uascape

### PONDESSENTALS BURGER BURGER

a ing t roug y neig or oo was onging for t e future ays of war weat er an consi ering y ans for t e co ing season w en ca e u on a sig t t at ave en oye a ost every ay since ove into y town t was an es ecia y i ressive water feature eautifu y an sca e on a usy corner in our neig or oo t was a center iece esigne to attract assers y eo e see w at is ut see w at was

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ig or s a a casca ing waterfa or a inear fountain ta e your ic an a e your ar tart wit an i ea or a goa or an ins iration an **figure out what you'll need to realize it all.** 

#### It's really that simple.

ut save you a wrin e row or two y et ting you in on a itte secret its a a out t e u is is i ortant for a to now t ose t at wor an in an wit o eowners an t ose res onsi e for ig reat ta ing water features in ig en ote s an neig or oo co unities

now e ge is ower so ere goes e u is t e eart of any on or water feature Don tforget t at t oves t e water ure it as **important partners-the filter and the nozzle**, a ong ot ers ut t e u is t e su re e **workhorse. There are all kinds-different sizes**, for iverse o s wit varie ur ose

e u is arge y esigne to re ain unseen wor ing wit out fanfare an wit few e an s et it ictates everyt ing inc u ing t e water ua ity of your on An water ua i ty affects the fish life, the water clarity, the plant ea t

### In other words, everything.

ere are a few oints to consi er w en it co es to u s e re iving in a wor wit a growing awareness of energy an c i ate an **how each affects the other-so an energy effi** cient u s ou a et e ist of ust aves t trans ates to your ont y e ectric i a so ute y ut it s a so a out energy re uction an environ enta res onsi i ity A win for every one inc u ing ot er Nature

Dura i ity ay et e truest test of a u any wor 7 eant to ove a ot of water wit itte ower o i s an ing u s w ic are a common type of filter pump, handle de ris wit out c ogging ey re w at are nown as high-flow, low-head pump and many are designed to be long lasting and efficient. So no nee to reac to t e otto of t e on for aintenance Nasty usiness nstea a o e owner just cleans the filter, and voila. Off to golf.

en ig taso is an ing u co ein an y you as a e a oi on oi are eauti ful fish. But Koi eat-a lot. So they produce a lot of waste A so is an ing u is a erfect tas aster an wi ee t e water ea t y an c ear A for your viewing easure

Anot er fan favorite is t e waterfa or foun tain u w ic in ost cases is a ig ea u ountain u s earn t eir ar s fro sheer efficiency. And they're show-offs, too. They can serve su t e in oor fountains an fountains in out oor gar enst at refuse to e ignore

ere is an entire y se arate au itory e perience from a backyard waterfall-no traffic, no ou neig ors no ar ing ogs ure easure o eowner sty e

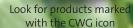
o on t forget t starts wit t e u t e foun ation to t e ea t an eauty of your **pond or water feature. Ask questions, figure out** w at you want an w at you nee to get it one atc t e rig t u to t e rig t ro ect an you can t go wrong

en it s a a out sty e an i act an effect Get creative Get aring ow your water circu ates over w at or t roug w ere a ows a **customized and personal approach for whatever** effect you see

#### Have fun with it. Otherwise, what's the point?



At Brock Farms at our Colts Neck location we carriy a large selection including many brands and sizes of pumps. we are a complete water garden destination.



AND THER GUARAN

### »Discover everything together«

**OASE Clear Water Guarantee Systems** - the perfect team for clear water.

OASE has engineered the best pumps, filters, and UV clarifiers to ensure consistently clear water and minimal maintenance.

When properly used in conjunction, these specialized products become a Clear Water Guarantee (CWG) system.

For more information visit www.oase-livingwater.com/na/cwg

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### garden insect control Natural or synthetic

- Broad based garden insect control
- For organic gardening
- Derived from soil dwelling bacterium
- Contains spinosad
- Use on fruits, vegetables, berries, citrus, grapes, nuts and ornamentals





- Kills over 130 insect pests
- For lawns, vegetables, trees, shrubs and ornamentals
- Keeps working up to 4 weeks
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### Mother Nature's Insect Control **Year-Round** Horticultural Sprav

- Year-Round" for use in both dormant and growing season applications Effectively controls aphids, scale, whiteflies, mites, and other insect pests. Protection for your garden, vegetables, house plants, fruit trees,

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- and ornamentals—both indoors and out. Recommended by top growers and agricultural experts USE UP TO THE DAY OF HARVEST.

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#### Kills mosquitoes before they're old enough to bite!®

- #1 biological mosquito killer—100% natural, biodegradable, ٠ works for 30 days or more.
- Use in bird baths, planters, potted plants-or in any standing water.
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Monterer

Monterey Nutrient Solution Step 1 • 3-5-4 Combines with Monterey Nutrient Solution Step 2 to create a nutrient package for plants in all growing mediums. When combined, the two become a nutrient package for all types of plants in all stages of growth.

> Monterey Nutrient Solution Step 2 • 3-0-0 Combines with Monterey Nutrient Solution Step 1 to create a nutrient package enhanced with calcium.

For more information call: 559.499.2100 info@montereylawngarden.com

Monterev Seaweed Plus • 1-2-2 Enhances microbe action. Prevents and corrects

deficiencies.



**Monterey Soluble** Silicate • 0-0-8 Improves leaf erectness. Provides resistance to heat and drought.

**Monterey Manni-Plex®** Micro • 2-0-0 Foliar micronutrient solution for the prevention and correction of micronutrient deficiency.



**Monterey Manni-Plex®** Cal-Mag • 7-0-0 Foliar nutrient solution to be used as part of a balanced fertilizer program.

Acid 12 Supplies organic matter in a readily available, easy-to-use and effective solution

**Monterey Humic** 

SAVING

14412

Mosourro Brts

NEW! Now Controls Fungus Gnats...



Monterey Plant Stack • 5-0-1 **Promotes robust root** and shoot growth. Foliar nutrient solution.

# A Rainbow of Colors All Season

Looking for plants you can trust to create a beautiful, easy-to-maintain garden?

Brock Farms is fully stocked with the best plants for New Jersey gardens. They are ready to help you with heat tolerant, all-season bloomers like those you see here. A rainbow of captivating colors awaits you there. Stop in soon!



SUPERBENA® Royale Red Verbena



SUPERBELLS® LEMON SLICE® Calibrachoa



BLUE MY MIND® Evolvulus



SUPERTUNIA VISTA® BUBBLEGUM® Petunia



DIAMOND FROST® Euphorbia



ANGELFACE® Blue Angelonia



SUPERBELLS® DREAMSICLE® Calibrachoa



LEMON CORAL<sup>™</sup> Sedum



SUPERTUNIA® ROYAL VELVET™ Petunia

#### 2018 Annual of the Year – SUPERTUNIA® BORDEAUX™ Petunia

This dazzling beauty has earned the highest award from Proven Winners and it's easy to see why. Supertunia Bordeaux is one of the most striking, easiest-to-grow petunias you'll find for containers and landscapes, blooming reliably from spring through fall.



# Lilac Festival Leads the Way

Lilac Festival kicks off the gardening season in spring with three shades of sumptuous purple, a trending color for 2018. This exquisite recipe will bloom from spring into fall without the need to remove the spent blossoms, becoming fully rounded to trailing in shape as summer settles in. Sunshine, water, and regular feeding will keep it in beautiful shape all season.

#### LILAC FESTIVAL FEATURES AN ARRAY OF PURPLES:

#### SUPERTUNIA<sup>®</sup> Royal Velvet<sup>™</sup> Petunia

Velvety purple blooms punctuate the bouquet, taking on a mounded trailing shape through the season.

#### SUPERBENA® Violet Ice Verbena Pretty parasols of lilac blooms add

playful texture on trailing stems.

#### SUPERTUNIA® Mini Blue Veined Petunia

Echoing the colors of its neighbors, this is the magic ingredient that pulls the recipe together. In time, its blooms cascade like a silvery waterfall.

#### Option 1: Plant Your Own Container

To create your own Lilac Festival, visit Brock Farms to purchase two pots each of the three varieties shown here plus a 1.5 cu. ft. bag of Proven Winners premium potting soil and a container of water soluble plant food. Grow this recipe in full sun, and remember to water and feed it regularly.

#### Option 2:

#### Purchase a Pre-Planted Container to Go

Lilac Festival is available this season at Brock Farms. Pick up a matching pair for your sunny porch or patio. Be sure to water and feed your new plants regularly for best performance.





Explore hundreds more container garden recipes at www.provenwinners.com.

## Popular Proven Winners® Perennials

Enhance your garden this season with vibrant, hardy perennials in trending colors. Pollinators will swoon for those you see pictured here and since they are all long blooming, you'll have plenty to use in fresh bouquets, too.



AMAZING DAISIES® DAISY MAY® *Leucanthemum* 



'Cat's Meow' Nepeta



Tuscan Sun' *Heliopsis* 



2018 Perennial of the Year – PRIMO<sup>™</sup> 'Black Pearl' Heuchera Jet black foliage, incredible vigor and exceptional performance in containers and landscapes make this award-winning coral bells a

standout all season.

PRIMO<sup>°</sup> 'Black Pearl' *Heuchera* 



SHADOWLAND® 'Empress Wu' Hosta



'Denim 'n Lace' *Perovskia* 



MAGIC SHOW® 'Enchanted Indigo' Veronica





INCREDIBALL® *Hydrangea arborescens* 



ZINFIN DOLL® *Hydrangea paniculata* 



INVINCIBELLE® Ruby Hydrangea arborescens



'Limelight' *Hydrangea paniculata* 



BOBO® *Hydrangea paniculata* 



Little QUICK FIRE® *Hydrangea paniculata* 



2018 Landacape Plant of the Year – SPILLED WINE® *Weigela* 

SPILLED WINE<sup>®</sup> Weigela

An updated look for weigela, this low mounding shrub features dark velvety foliage and a bright floral bouquet of magenta pink blossoms every spring.

### Brock Fams Your #1 Source for Proven Winners® in Central New Jersey



Gardening is easy when you start with Proven Winners plants from your favorite local retailer, Brock Farms. Their helpful staff is excited to show you what's new this year and assist you in choosing the best annuals, perennials and shrubs for your garden. Start your plants off right by using Proven Winners premium potting soil and nutritious Proven Winners plant food to keep them blooming strong all season long.





Loads of inspiration and information awaits you at www.provenwinners.com.

# CAPTURE YOUR GARDENS

G ar ens ave a ways een use as a way to co ect the finer things nature has to offer and host them in a s ace of your very own et er it e an as sortment of vegetables, an array of colorful flowers, or an arrangement of shrubs and bushes --

#### ardens are spe ial e ause it aptures your own personal sli e of arth.

However, you can't capture all of the world's charm if you only focus on the things that grow from the ground and photosynthesize. Nature is filled with scurrying crit ters, tending gardeners, and other whimsical creatures an artifacts ow o you ca ture a of t ese as ects of nature in your garden? Statues, of course!

Real rabbits are little scoundrels, but statues have

much more respect for your garden. Adding a few stat ues of your favorite woo an frien s gives your gar den their charming company and a more complete re flection of nature without all the fuss. Placing a statue of a squirrel and a few ceramic birds perched here and there can make you feel like Snow White every time you enter your gar en

Want to add more personality to your garden? Try an anamorphic frog sitting on a log (perhaps prince charming turned to stone?) or the classic garden gnome. Need more personality than that? Go right ahead! Make your garden part safari with life-sized scu tures of ions or giraffes even a a touc of fantasy wit statues of fairies an ragons

our garden an also apture na ture s relationship with people y in luding human statues to the mi. Statues of figures performing tasks like gathering, watering, or tending emphasizes the gar den's ability to take a snapshot of life in nature, having these moments suspended in time for aesthetic pleasure. If a statue of your everyday person isn't meaningful enough, gardens are also great for devoting attention to mythical or religious figures. Statues of religious figures like Jesus or the Virgin Mary are common focal points in gardens for the spiritual, while statues like Poseidon a top a water fountain makes a powerful impression.

Maybe a statue of a Greek God riding a wave with an accompanying waterfall is too much for you. No worries, sometimes a simple birdbath makes an even stronger statement when placed in the right type of garden. For some, less is more. A nice bench, antique pots, and a we ace stone can e a your gar en nee s to e its very est

Or, you know, go with the statue of a dragon fighting Zeus. Your garden is your world -- you pick the characters. Whatever your specific needs may be, Brock Farms as t' e argest statuary se ection in New ersey

If you can't find it in their seven acres worth of statuary, you won't find it anywhere.

### BROCK

Nobody in new jersey offers you a selection of cement fountains and statuary as Brock Farms. It's all here to stroll through and decide what fits your yard or just come in and enjoy the display.

### **Bringing Wonder To Your Garden**



# KEEP DEER OUT

#### Get Rid of Temptation

Pick Plans Deer Hate

Scare Them Off

f you are tired of shaking your fists and shouting obscenities at your neighborhood deer for raiding your garden or yard and chowing down on your plants, it s time to do something. The first way to stop attracting deer to your property is to stop luring them in with their preferred treats. ou re not doing yourself any favors by stocking your garden with deer delicacies, so make things easier on yourself and keep your property free of their favorites. hese include varieties of lettuce, fruit trees, beans or peas, tulips, impatiens and pansies.

ow that your yard is free of plants the deer love, its time to load it up with the plants deer hate. When they re hungry enough, deer aren t shy to deviate from their normal selection of plants. hat s why it s important to stack the deck further in your favor and load your garden or yard with plants that will work to keep your hooved garden mooches away. eer avoid plants with a rough or fu y feel, prickly plants with spines or thorns, and plants with strong odors, like sage or lavender. sk your local garden expert which of these types of plants are best for your individual situation.

ow that you ve done your best to prepare the least appeti ing menu of plants for the deer, you can ward of your neighborhood deer by being a nuisance of a neighbor. By utili ing certain annoyances, like noise and light, you can rig your property to effectively scare off deer. eer can get spooked by sound, so having items like wind chimes is a pleasantly easy way to have a steady source of noise. Having objects that shine and reflect light or motion-activated lights can also startle deer enough to save your plants.

f those steps are still too subtle for your local deer, try a direct approach and sprinkle repellents through your yard or garden. epellents can range from things as simple as garlic or mint plants for their strong smells to the less obvious, like soap, fabric softener, and even hair. f course, you can also use store-bought repellents, but be sure the products you use are safe for both wildlife and the environment.

Repellents

f your deer still don t get the hint that your garden is not their cafeteria, then it s time to seal them off completely. urrounding your treasured plants in a barrier is the strongest defense against the most stubborn of deer. emember, deer are high jumpers, so if you decide to build a fence, make sure its too tall for them to hop over. f it is too much to build a fence, mesh products are an effective barrier and little cost - even fishing line can be used around the perimeter of a garden to keep deer at a distance. nly have one or two plants in particular that need protecting Build a mini fence or barrier around individual plants and keep them safe from being chomped.

Barriers

BROCK At Brock Farms both locations offer many lines of repellents, fencing, nettings, and deterrents to keep deer away as well as a huge variety of deer resistant plants.



## HBSCUS PLANTS ARMPET OF COLOR

which vary in size, color and cold tolerance. Blooms may be seen in red, white, blue, pink, yellow, purple and mixed colors that may extend up to a foot wide. One can understand why these plants attract butterflies and hummingbirds to any garden.

These plants are typically divided into two groups: Hardy hibiscus and Tropical hibiscus. Tropical Hibiscus enjoys a warm, humid environment with temperatures above 50 degrees F while the Hardy Hibiscus survives in a cooler climate in which temperatures may drop below freezing in the winter. Tropical hibiscus plants need to be brought indoors during the winter months because they cannot tolerate much more than a light freeze, or the plant will die. The Hardy perennial hibiscus (often called Rose Mallow) dies back to the ground each year, but eventually re-emerges to produce those large colorful blooms. Rose of Sharon is another hardy hibiscus variety that produces giant blooms during the mid-summer months. The leaves and stems die down to the ground with the colder weather; however, the roots may live in freezing temperatures with little to no protection. These plants do take their time developing in the Spring. Sometimes the plant doesn't come to life until early summer! Make sure to cut back old woody stems before new foliage arise.

Provide your Hibiscus plant with at least 5 to 6 hours of sunlight especially if you want to enjoy many blooms. When Hibiscus are in their blooming stage, they require large amounts of water. Daily watering is needed during the warm weather. Try to keep the plant moist, but not soaking wet. A nice layer of mulch is beneficial to keep the ground ideal. Once the weather cools, cut back on the watering. Only water when the soil is dry to the touch.

Hibiscus prefer an acidic soil that drains well. A mixture of peat, sand, garden soil and organic compost create the perfect blend of soil. Hibiscus need nutrients to bloom. In the summer months, use a fertilizer with mostly nitrogen and potassium. Potassium will result in better health and more blooms. A natural way to increasing potassium to your soil is to incorporate your unused banana peels.

Moderate pruning should be done to keep the plant tall and growing. Pruning helps to promote new growth and causes more blossoms to appear as well. Cut the branches just above a node or leaf joint and angle the cut away from the center of the plant. This will send a signal to the plant to grow more branches at this location – away from the center of the hibiscus. Pruning back the plant immediately before the dormant cold weather - is a must!

You may not know that the flowers and leaves of the hibiscus plant may be found in teas and liquid extracts that are useful to treat high blood pressure, weight loss and fevers. Also, the Hibiscus is Hawaii's state flower. Traditionally worn by Hawaiian girls. A fun fact is, if the flower is worn behind the left ear, the women is married or in a relationship. If the flower is worn on the right, she is noted as being single or openly available for a relationship.

If you have never grown a Hibiscus plant, take some time this year and add some gorgeous color to your living space and consider that one of a kind plant that will beautify any environment!



At Brock Farms, both locations have an incredible selection of lush tropical, perennial and hardy hibiscus.



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## Nature in the Home A Guide to Houseplants

By ick eckmejian





D ave ea ac es fre uent co s an congestion Are you fee ing one y unins ire or t at you ac a sense of ur ose as ife gone co ete y u ortu nate y t ere s a cure ants

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or starters ants ave io ogica functions that are beneficial to your health. The most significant being that plants ab sor car on io i e fro t e air an re ease o ygen As a resu t of t is rocess ants re uce car on io i e eves in t e air an filter certain pollutants and toxins, leaving you wit uc c eaner air in your o e E i inating a stuffy air revents i nesses an ea s to ess a ergies ea ac es an rowsiness

Along with the process of filtering air, ants a so increase t e u i ity in a roo This is beneficial as it reduces dust levels which adds to the fight against illnesses and a ergies softens t e air an e s regu ate te erature

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#### tudies have shown that having plants in your home or wor pla e an redu e fatigue and in rease levels of positivity and produ tivity.

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Even with all the medical and psychological benefits of aving in oor ants t e est reason for ringing ants into your o e can e t e si est t ey oo an s e great it t e u teen ifferent s ecies of ants you can incor orate into your interior in oor ants can e t e erfect foca oints or accents for t at roo issing a certain so et ing or a ow you to en oy the aromas of nature from the confines of your home.

ot sure what plant is est for your home? al to one of the e perts at *Brock Farms and they'll help you find the perfect selection for your specific* situation.





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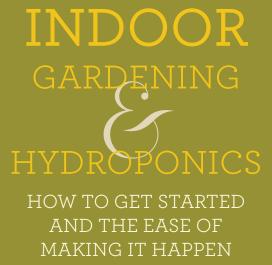
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aving fresh vegetables all year long is an appealing thought too many. The concept, although interesting, is often considered a challenge not worth undertaking. Really, it isn't that difficult and only takes a minor time and financial commitment to get it started.

There are two types of indoor gardening, with or without soil. Hydroponics is a soilless concept and has been around for centuries. With hydroponics the growth rate of plants is often faster and the yield is often greater. This is due to the oxygen in the growing mediums that Hydroponic gardeners use. The second type of indoor gardening is the standard indoor garden using a soil mix, similar to outside gardening. This practice is more conventional and consumers often feel more comfortable with it. Either way, success is not that difficult.

With either method, lighting is important. Plants require more light than comes through windows so it is helpful to supplement natural lighting with grow lights to meet normal sunlight requirements. There are several different types of indoor lights and your local retail experts can help guide you through the array of options.

The difference between the two types of indoor gardening are very pronounced when it comes to the soils or soilless mediums that are used. With standard indoor gardening, you use a retail potting soil. Many of these contain nutrients that will feed a plant for weeks. With Hydroponics, a growing medium is used to help aerate and separate the plants roots. As with lighting, your local professional can guide you to the best available soilless options in your area.

Fertilization also varies depending on what type of indoor

#### BRQCK

Colts neck location. This department is growing rapidly at this location. Please stop in and see what we have to offer. Also be on the look out for several seminars and open house events on this category. Sign up for our e-mail list so you can be notified on our next event. gardening you prefer. With soil gardening, standard granular or water-soluble fertilizers are sufficient. Hydroponics use nutrient solutions to provide the elements plants would otherwise get from soil. There are many different brands that begin with starter solutions followed by specific nutrients such as calcium magnesium, humic acid, seaweed and silicates. All these can produce amazing vegetables indoor year around.

One of the best benefits to Hydroponics is the truly organic concept to soilless plantings. Generally hydroponically grown plants have fewer issues with insects, disease and fungus. Should these problems begin, regardless of which indoor growing practice you use, check for temperature, light and water issues before anything else. Should insects or disease problems occur, make sure you use OMRI certified organic controls as you do not want chemicals inside the house.

Fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers can grow year around regardless of where you live. Indoor gardening is an enjoyable hobby that can help get you through those long dark days of winter. With the help of Brock Farms Garden Center and Hydroponic store, you can be living outdoors, indoors,

all winter long.



## INDOOR GARDENING GROW IT YOURSELF

No matter how small your space is, you can sill have <u>an edible garden.</u>



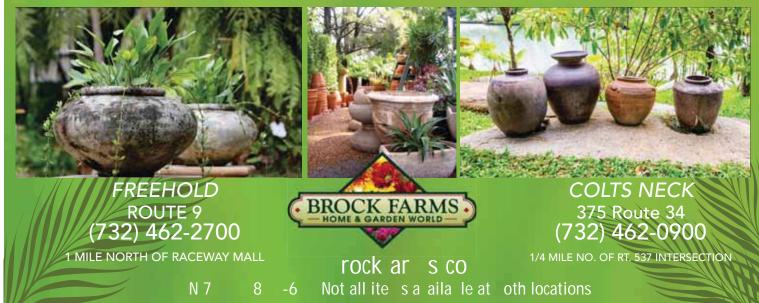
SOME OF OUR FAVORITE BRANDS



GARDEN WORLD

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#### Monmouth County 200 Club

The Brock Family is a long time supporter of the 200 Club of Monmouth County, a unique association dedicated to providing financial assistance to the families of our public safety and rescue personnel who have been killed in the line of duty. This includes, but is not limited to, Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and EMT Technicians of Monmouth County New Jersey. We provide financial assistance to the family in need within 24 hours - no questions asked. The funds can be used in any way the family deems necessary; including funeral arrangements, bills, or medical assistance.

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- The easy way to protect gardens from deer and other pests.
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- Easy to use No mixing, measuring, or mess!
- Provides the right amount of nutrients without overfeeding.
- Feeds at the roots where plants need it most all season long.



- Organic feeding in an easy-to-mix form that consumers know and like.
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Jobe's Organics Herb Granular with Biozome® is specially formulated to provide herbs with the nutrients they need to produce healthy and abundant foliage and blooms.

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## sungro Horticulture what's in the mix?

Sun Gro retail products are made with the highest quality ingredients in the same facilities that produce our mixes for professional growers. Our many brands cover every gardening need - from general gardening to container-specific planting to specialty plants and plant foods. Whether your customer is a weekend gardener or a master gardener will all find products to suit their plants, projects and lifestyle.

The major role of a growing mix is to support the plant, while holding water and nutrients for the plant to use during growth. The following is a brief overview of each of the components:

**Sphagnum Peat Moss** is the non-living fibrous material that forms when Sphagnum moss decomposes. While peat moss is brown, like garden soil, it has a different texture and weight: it's light and spongy and crumbles into small clumps. It has a remarkable ability to manage water efficiently and hold on to nutrients that may otherwise leach out of the soil. It is nature's best all-purpose soil conditioner. That is why Sun Gro adds Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss to all of key potting mixes.

**Bark** is important because of its increased air capacity, from its unique particle size and shape which allows air to circulate through the soil, providing oxygen to the roots.

**Perlite** is derived from crushed volcanic rock which is expanded "popped" in a furnace.

Perlite particles are roundish and white that are mixed with peat, bark or other components. Perlite is a natural additive used to aerate the media and aid in water retention.

**Coconut Coir** is a by-product of the coconut fiber industry. Coir is the "dust" produced during the processing of coconut fiber. It is used to add bulk and texture to potting mixes - and can hold up to 9 times its weight in water.

**Compost** is the organic material (such as rice hulls, peanut hulls) that has been processed and has decomposed. Compost is used for many reasons but Primarily for providing natural and stabilized organic matter to a growing mix. Compost also has excellent water holding ability and a particle size that helps with oxygen exchange.

**Earthworm Castings** provide a rich, natural fertilizer. Castings are the stable end-product of the decomposition of organic materials by earth worms. Earthworm castings are nutrient rich and biologically active, and enhance the ability of your soil to retain water.

**RESILIENCE®** - **Silicon (Si)** is a beneficial plant nutrient that when added to a growing medium can result in more vigorous plants. RESILIENCE is Sun Gro's brand name for patented growing mixes enriched with silicon. RESILIENCE mixes enhance plant quality resulting in thicker/stronger stems, compact growth, increased root mass; plus extended resistance to wilt.

**Controlled Release Fertilizer** is added to select potting and container mixes and soil amendments to provide a modest amount of fertilizer for several months. The fertilizer is "coated" which allows the fertilizer to release over time.

**Mycorrhizae** is a group of fungi which form a mutually beneficial relationship with many plants. These fungi grow either inside of a plant's roots or on the surface of a root. The fungi benefits from the plant's nutrients and in turn send their hyphae (like small roots) out into the surrounding soil to absorb nutrients and water. Sun Gro utilizes a proprietary 7 species blend which provides greater mycorrhizal establishment in a wider variety of plants.

Wetting Agents make potting mixes wet up evenly which ensures good water distribution throughout the root zone from day one and throughout the growth

of the plant. This is especially important for mixes which contain components that naturally repel water, such as peat moss.

**Organic Products** are ingredients that are carbon based, were once alive and are without the addition of synthetic chemicals. Some examples are peat moss, bark, organic fertilizers and organic wetting agents

**Natural Products** - Other components such as perlite, vermiculite, gypsum, limestone and RESiLIENCE (silicon) are defined as "Natural" which means they are not carbon based but they are obtained from natural deposits and processed without the use of synthetic chemicals – these materials are mined, ground up and screened, and expanded in the case of vermiculite and perlite.

#### Summary

The major role of a growing mix is to support the plant, while holding water and nutrients for the plant to use during growth.

Sun Gro is the largest supplier of professional growing media in North America. We also are the leading manufacturer of Canadian Sphagnum peat in North America.

We combine the best quality components such as bark, perlite and vermiculite, with our peat, to make up growing media for professional and consumer uses.

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reative SCREENING W a

Plants can be used to create an attractive screening solution for nearly every problem in the landscape. Weather your looking to hide an air conditioner or other utility areas, create a living fence (in order to love thy neighbor) or section off your compost piles, work areas, or vegetable gardens. Brock arms has a solution for you. But before you come in, take into account the overall purpose si e and location for the screening project.

s yourself the following uestions efore underta ing your s reening pro e t

**X** Do you want to screen an unsig ty view

**X** Are you looking for a little privacy?

**\*** Do you need year-round interest, or are you simply creating a oun ary etween articu ar areas of t e gar en

**X** Is it a large area or a small one?

**X** Is the area in question shady, or is shade what you need?

ext begin making a sketch of the area, jotting down important notes regarding growing re uirements and preferences of desired plant material. eep in mind that some screens may serve dual purposes, such as providing shade, privacy, and interest. Creating a layered screen is an effective way to enhance your landscape screen, especially if space allows. his method is easily achieved by using a variety of plantings that gradually step down in si e. or instance, place small trees in the back shrubs in the middle; and a variety of flowering plants, grasses, and low-growing ground covers along the front. taggering the plantings in groups rather than placing them in rows delivers the screen more depth and a greater interesting look. emember to keep the planting groups close in order to create an effective screen.

Properly located dense plantings also make effective windbreaks. Which could cut your energy consumption down by as much as 25%. A well-sited windbreak can do just that by filtering, deflecting and slowing wind before it reaches your home. his type of screen results in an insulated area that provides a more comfortable environment both indoors and out.

n choosing your screening plants it s best to use both deciduous trees and shrubs as well as evergreen plants. Evergreen plants will provide continuous screening and visual interest throughout each season.

If you are still not sure where to egin, ome in and see us at ro arms. Our staff is here for you to sup port all your lands aping needs. han you for your patronage and support.

## **SOME PLANTS TO CONSIDER...**



Eastern White Pine Tree



Douglas Fir



Spruce



Leyland Cypress



Crape Myrtle



Nellie Stevens Holly



Cherry Tree

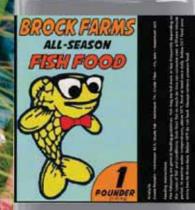


European Hornbeam



Purple Plum

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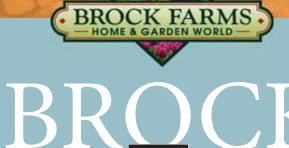


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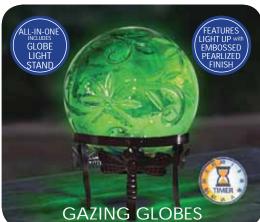


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Brock Farms owners (from left) Ed Brock Sr., Jean Brock, Ed Brock Jr. and Linda Brock-Arcoleo are inviting the public to attend a series of special presentations at their locations in Colts Neck and Freehold Township.

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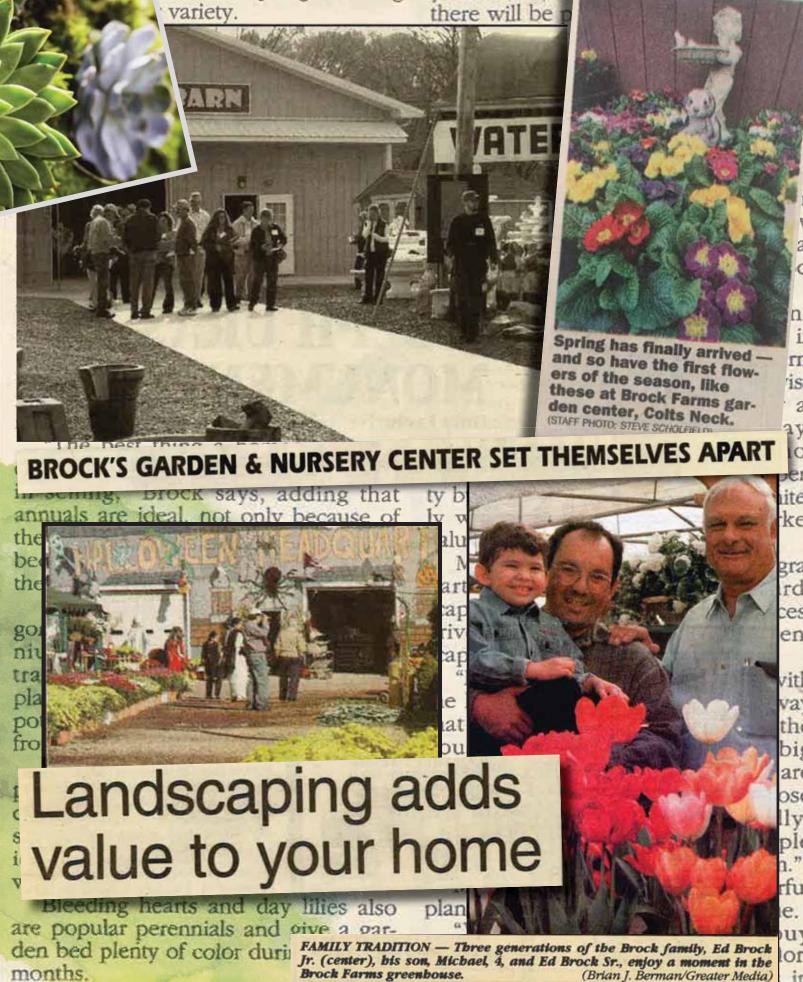
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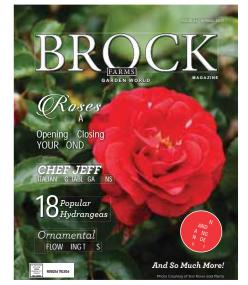


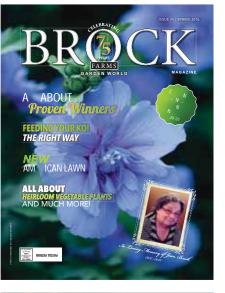
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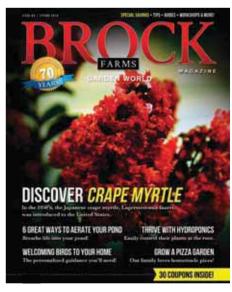


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