



## Farm News

### SUMMER EDITION JUNE 2015

#### Tips on Caring for Perennials

**These useful tips on plantings were written by Carol for our summer newsletter.**

- ❖ Monitor the plant during blooming periods and clip off dead blooms to encourage production of new flowers. Deadhead by clipping at the point where the flower joins the stem. Pruning directs energy to additional flower production instead of seed formation. Once the plant finishes blooming, tidy up the plant's appearance by clipping two to three inches of the flower stems to right above a leaf.
- ❖ Do not remove or cut back dead foliage in the fall. Allow the plant to die naturally while continuing to water the garden regularly. Roots continue development & still have the same moisture requirements during the cooler months. Apply a 3" to 4" layer of mulch over the dead perennial foliage in early winter as a blanket to protect against intense freezing.
- ❖ For those of us who enjoy hanging baskets, again, don't be afraid to really cut them back as they get spindly. They will look a little weak for a while but they will get generous growth back. If you absolutely can't stand the way they look, replace them temporarily with silk flowers. From a distance, no-one will really notice but will admire you for your green thumb.

- ❖ There are many day lilies here at Center Point Farm - When they get spindly or there is too much "yellowing" of leaves, flush cut them to the ground. They will grow back again during the same season but may not flower for the rest of the year. Looking at green leaves rather than yellow ones is so much better visually.

### **Some Great "Tricks" on Watering Your Plants While You're Away**

Are you travelling over the summer and don't want to bother people to water your plants....Fill recycled plastic bottles with water and pierce a small hole in the lids. Turn the bottle upside-down and bury it neck-deep in the soil next to your plant. The water will slowly trickle out over a period of time and will help 'water' your plant while you are away. Recycled bottles you can use: milk bottle, spring water bottles, soft drink bottles and juice bottles. The BIGGER the BETTER! Opt for 1 to 2 liter bottles if heading away for more than a week. Or, give them a bath - The bath tub can become a safe refuge for your indoor plants when you go away on holidays. Place your plants in the tub (still in their pots) and fill the tub with about 1cm of water. Plants should be able to live happily in this situation for as long as 3 weeks.

### **Fertilizing Your Lawn**

If you plan on fertilizing your lawn in addition to those provided by the landscaper, ensure you do not fertilize within 4-6 weeks of any other application. If you want to fertilize your plantings, you may wish to try Miracle Gro LiquaFeed. The applicator fits directly onto your hose so you can take care of fertilizing and watering at the same time. Speaking of hoses, there are so many different types of hoses, varying in weight, size, flexibility, regular hoses or hydraulic hoses; one has to consider its use and the amount of landscape you need to water, so this would be an individual decision.

**Following are some pictures of plantings around the neighborhood:**



