



Pumpkin Brook Organic Gardening, Inc.

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Some of the many uses of bulbs. Ask me how to incorporate them with your existing perennials.



Tulips with narcissus



Greetings,

I've been cramming in visits to other gardens this year whenever the opportunity strikes! If you are headed to Maine, plan to stop at the five-year-old [Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#) in Boothbay. An astonishing amount of building and planting has occurred here, including a delightful two-acre children's garden paradise. There is bountiful color and excitement at every turn for the entire family. Tower Hill Botanic Garden has a trip to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens planned at the end of August. Click [here](#) to visit Maine with Tower Hill.

In the Berkshires, of course, the place to linger is the [Berkshire Botanical Garden](#). There's an interesting container show staged throughout the garden right now that offers ideas aplenty for summer color and fun. Check out the raised beds of vegetables and the fruit garden, too.

Order Bulbs Now - Be Glad You Did Next Spring!

With the coming of August 15th on the calendar, that's the signal I need to open the bulb catalogues. I love bulbs, so this is a thoroughly enjoyable task. Luckily, I always keep notes and photos from spring as reference for those "holes" in your beds and borders. My goal is to finish the design work and place my orders by Labor Day. Waiting much longer than this runs the risk of "sold out" notice for the varieties I've so carefully chosen.

So please - [let me know](#) if I can help you with your spring garden! I'm happy to refer you to a wonderful website created by one of my vendors, www.springdisplays.com (password=shovel), where you can be inspired by many beautiful bulb photographs and list those that appeal to you. This list can be e-mailed to me, and after a bit of back and forth perhaps, an order can be placed. I'm also happy to meet with you and create your design the "old fashioned way", i.e. without computers!



Beautiful Spring Bulbs!

Bad Tick Season has Pumpkin Brook Adding



Tulips and muscari with tiarella



Naturalized daffodils

Additional Tick and Mosquito Applications this Year

Even if you haven't had Pumpkin Brook apply tick and mosquito repellent in the past, please take a moment to consider our Tick and Mosquito spray program.

Why Now?

A mild winter and increased activity has made this a particularly bad year for ticks and other insects. Since these pests are still very active, Pumpkin Brook plans to make additional applications of our cedar-based spray to help make your outdoor spaces more inviting and healthful.



Al applies cedar-based tick spray

Why Should I Have Pumpkin Brook Do the Application?

Outdoor pest products are available at the local home goods store but why not let Pumpkin Brook do this for you. We have done the research for the best available product and have the equipment and application knowledge. Our cedar-based product works because pests can't smell anything to feed upon in your yard, so they leave. This product does not deter beneficial insects such as bees. It also does not stop butterflies because bees and butterflies use sight, not smell. It does not harm children or pets. Repeat applications also promote a high carbon residual in the soil that enhances the microbial activity essential for healthy plant growth which complements our compost tea application.

If you haven't used our tick and mosquito program before, please [e-mail Carmine](#) to arrange an estimate for your property. Our August application will begin the week of August 20th. If you are a current Tick Spray customer and haven't contacted us yet to schedule additional applications, please let [Carmine](#) know right away.

Priscilla to Teach Nutrient Density Soil Class at Tower Hill

Join Priscilla as she shares her knowledge of soil amending on August 25 and September 8 at Tower Hill Botanic Garden.

Most soils are depleted and lack key minerals for vegetables and fruits to be truly healthful to those who eat them. Bring a soil sample to be interpreted at the second class. Click [here](#) to register.

The mission of Tower Hill Botanic Garden is to "advance the science and encourage and improve the practice of horticulture." From gardening practices to nature study and everything in between--Tower Hill Botanic Garden offers a full range of classes to fulfill that mission.



Priscilla in her greenhouse

Drought Resistant late
summer blooming
perennials



Veronia noveboracensis



Belcamada chinensis



Rudbeckia triloba

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Summer 2012 Heat and Drought Update

What a thrill to find 1.5" of rain in my rain gauge on BOTH of the past two weekends. I hope your property received this much or more. Our gardens need a minimum of 1" of rain per week to thrive. This gift from the sky eases the pressure to hand water or irrigate during the coming week. HOWEVER, those of you with vegetables and annuals or trees and shrubs planted since 2010 should still keep an eagle eye on your plantings. When soil dries out (more quickly in hot weather, of course), it's time to lay on the [water](#) again to keep newly-developing root systems well supported and growing.

Plants that can take the heat

Here are some of my favorite August and early September bloomers that really thrive in periods of high temperatures like we've been experiencing this year:

- Persicaria 'Firetail'
- Dahlias from the 'Karma' series
- *Joe Pye Weed, Eupatorium fistulosum
- Blackberry lily, Belcamada chinensis
- *Rudbeckia triloba
- *Veronia noveboracensis and its new dwarf cultivar 'Iron Butterfly'
- Calamintha nepeta

Better yet, nothing on this list is preferred by deer! The * above denotes a native plant, so that means an automatic lure for butterflies and hummingbirds seeking nectar at this time of year.

August Is the Time for...

- Dividing bearded iris and replanting
- Weeding thoroughly
- Deadheading spent perennials and annuals to encourage new bloom
- Foliar feeding heat stressed plants
- Finishing pruning of woody plants
- Ordering bulbs for fall planting
- Planning fall plantings
- Harvesting vegetables and filling empty spaces with fall crops such as lettuce and kale
- Remulching beds as needed to retain moisture and suppress weeds
- Retesting soil to plan fall fertilizing programs
- Renovating lawns

Don't forget to visit [Arnold Arboretum](#) in Boston, [Elm Bank](#) in Wellesley, and [Tower Hill](#) in Boylston. These offer nearby respites from the workaday world. All three are full of interesting plants and activities. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely,
Priscilla

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