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Pumpkin Brook Organic Gardening, Inc.

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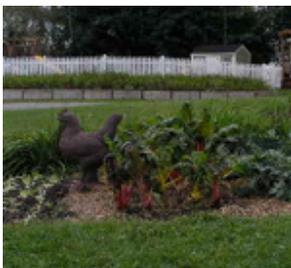
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It's time to order organic seedlings! Our 2012 order form is [attached](#). Seedlings must be ordered before March 17th.



Dear Friends and Clients,

It is heartwarming to watch the steady groundswell of enthusiasm for all things organic. For most of my life I have been speaking, writing and working to spread more knowledge about organic gardening methods. Now we have many new clients who are just starting families and buying homes, hungry for accurate information and already on board with organics. In this issue we expand on this theme and allude to some of the cutting edge products and services that we'll be offering this season.

February Is National Cancer Prevention Month

Sadly, 1 out of 3 Americans will develop cancer over the course of their lifetime. The good news is that one's lifestyle choices can go a long way towards preventing cancer.



Working in the landcare industry, we are shocked to see how many people are still applying chemical fertilizers and pesticides on their lawns and gardens. By now many of us are aware that pesticides and herbicides are harmful for the environment and human health. Alarming, many still continue to use them. Click [here](#) if you would like to read the statistics we have compiled in our complete article.

PBOG is working to eradicate these signs from the landscape.

What is important for you to know is that every season there are more and more products and methods to support us on the organic path. For example, we use cedar oil as an effective repellent against ticks & mosquitoes. Read more about our product offerings on our [website](#). We stand ready to help you in the transition from conventional to organic, so please feel free to [contact us](#) right away!

Why We Prune in the Dormant Season

It's time to start our dormant season pruning. Dormant season pruning refers to pruning during



Check your e-mail.
Our 2012
Spring Mailing
is coming before 3/1.

the time after the leaves have fallen in autumn, and before new leaves emerge in the spring. This is an excellent time of year to get out and prune for a number of reasons. We explain those reasons as well as why pruning is so important in the complete article which you can access by clicking [here](#).



Crabapple tree ready for dormant pruning.

Our crew is lining up work for days when the weather is right. A warmer day with some snow cover is ideal. We won't prune if wood is frozen, as it is brittle and can create an environment for damaging cuts. [E-mail](#) us now to schedule a visit for dormant season pruning.

You may be interested in

An Afternoon with Karen Bussolini, Co-Author of "Elegant Silvers: Striking Plants for Every Garden"

On Sunday, March 11, author and photographer Karen Bussolini will be speaking on naturescaping the garden at the Groton Country Club. Her step-by-step approach will teach gardeners to understand their own natural habitat and to nurture the native eco-systems that exist in their yard. The payoff is huge. By simply becoming aware of the natural wonders in the backyard, anyone can gain a more beautiful garden and take a big step toward bringing nature home.



This free presentation starts at 2 pm and is sponsored by the Groton Garden Club and the Commissioners of Trust Funds and is open to the public.

February Is the Time for...

- Finishing seed orders
- Ordering seedlings
- Reviewing plans for our landscapes services for 2012
- Pondering design issues
- Looking, observing, note taking
- Applying horticultural oil sprays to trees and shrubs, only when temperatures are above freezing for a couple of days
- Pruning deciduous shrubs, fruit trees and small trees - thinning the oldest wood, removing broken branches and creating an open structure
- Continuing to clean up damage from last October's storm
- Fertilizing houseplants with a weak solution of fish fertilizer every other week to encourage strong new



Curled Up Viburnum Leaf

Horticultural oil applied now helps control snowball aphid damage in April on viburnums.

growth

Ready for Spring? Take in a Bulb or Flower Show

I think we all long for color as winter drags on. What better way to cheer up than to make plans to attend one of the local bulb and flower shows opening soon! I've been known to drag around a camera, notebook and pen so I can keep a record of varieties and inspiring color combinations. But then I usually make an extra pass through for pure enjoyment.



Photo from Mt. Holyoke Bulb Show

You may enjoy attending one or more of the following:

[Smith College](#) Bulb Show at Lyman Conservatory in Northampton features over 5,000 bulbs in bloom. Vignettes are arranged in the cool rooms of the facility and will include some South African bulbs. This is a lovely tradition dating back more than 100 years. The show runs from Saturday, March 3 - Sunday, March 18 from 10 am - 4 pm. There are special evening viewings on two Fridays, March 9 and 16 from 6 - 8 pm. Suggested donation \$2.



Smith College
Bulb Show

[Mt. Holyoke](#) Bulb Show at Talcott Greenhouses in South Hadley has the same dates and times as Smith. However, no evening hours. This is a slightly smaller space than at Smith but is usually jam-packed with plants, color and scent! Often it's a bit less crowded since not as many people know about it. Donation at the door.

[Boston Flower and Garden Show and Blooms 2012](#) will be held Wednesday, March 14 - Sunday, March 18 at the Seaport World Trade Center on the waterfront. Hours are 9 am - 9 pm all days except Sunday when they will close at 6 pm. You'll see complete landscapes created by some of our region's top designers, along with flower arranging, photography and amateur horticulture competitions. Admission is \$20 per person, free to members of Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Priscilla

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