



## Shop Local Garden Centers This Spring

As you are reading this, here's hoping that the weather has improved and it is time to think about planting. Another growing season is upon us, and even though we do not have the longest growing season in the country, we certainly have many beautiful options of what we can plant and wonderful locations to purchase our plant material.

Just as the Grow Local and Eat Local movement is important to fruit and vegetable farmers, buying your plant material from local growers is important to keeping this portion of New Hampshire agriculture alive and well. We are lucky to have such diversity in types of horticultural businesses from large wholesale growers, to garden centers and small family greenhouse operations. New Hampshire Plant Growers include members that are national industry leaders as well as some great small greenhouses that grow just spring plant material. All of these businesses rely on this season of planting as the mainstay of their business.

The Garden Centers and greenhouses are full of plants that are ready to make your yard beautiful. If you have not visited one lately, you will be greeted with many tried and true plants and varieties, mixed with many wonderful new introductions that add diversity in color and plants for your planters or gardens.

Take the time this spring to go to your local garden center or greenhouse, enjoy the wonderful colors and ask your questions. They are more than happy to answer your questions and help you select the proper plant material for your location. Though it is a busy time of year for all of us, this is a great time to stop and smell the flowers, soak up the colors of spring and support your local grower.

### Locally Grown Beauty Awaits at Your Local Garden Center

## Maintaining Quality on the Stand By Veronica Lende Pleasant View Gardens

When you're all stocked up and ready to sell, here's a few helpful hints on maintaining high quality product for your customers.

Part of keeping inventory looking its best is proper watering. Follow good cultural practices by watering early in the day allowing plants to dry before nightfall. Ideally, keep water off the foliage if possible, by watering underneath. Know your plants~ which like a lot of water and which do not.

Give annuals and vegetables a balanced fertilizer once or twice per week. Herbs and perennials require much less, once every 4-6 weeks. Too much fertilizer on these plants can change the flavor of some herbs and alter desirable characteristics of some perennials. Remember, overwatering can be deadly. Never water an already wet container. Check the moisture level of the soil by poking a finger into the pot.

Space plants as much as your display will promote good air circulation.

When the warm and sunny weather encourages leggy or rangy growth on your hanging baskets or containers, light pinching to shape will help maintain its appeal. If you find you need a more aggressive approach, using scissors cut back leaving 4 to 6 inches of growth (longer for larger containers). Shape the plant into a dome. Expect 3 weeks for flowers to return.



Learn More about the  
NHPGA, visit [NHPGA.org](http://NHPGA.org)



## NHPGA Summer Meeting Announced

Tuesday, August 11th

Northeast Delta Dental Stadium

Manchester, NH

4-7 Meeting

7 pm Game Time

Vs. Akron Rubber Ducks

**Dr. Charlie Hall, Texas A&M  
Professor and Ellison Chair in  
International Floriculture  
will be our speaker**

Dr. Hall's expertise in the production and marketing of Green Industry crops is nationally recognized in academia and among the horticultural clientele he serves. His major research, teaching, & extension areas of specialization include strategic management, market situation/outlook, cost accounting, and financial analysis for Green Industry firms. He is an invited speaker at numerous regional, national, and international meetings of various industry-related associations and organizations. He is particularly known for the enthusiasm, passion, and intensity he exhibits when speaking.



### Brian Krug Leaves UNH CE

The NHPGA would like to thank Dr. Brian Krug for his last 7 years working at UNH Cooperative Extension as the Greenhouse and Floriculture Specialist. Brian got to know many of the growers in New Hampshire and was always available to help answer questions. Brian accepted a position at Pioneer Hybrids in Johnston, Iowa. The move allows Brian to be closer to his family. Brian's expertise will be missed.

