



Wilson's Nursery

Closed Labor Day 9/4/23



It's August 31st already! Labor Day weekend? Where did the time go?

It feels like just yesterday we were welcoming our team back to the nursery to start potting up perennials, uncover plants on the shrub pads and undertake the rest of the hard work needed to get the season going.

It's amazing everything that goes into a production nursery throughout the season. Today, we've got teams out trimming trees, lining the fields with evergreens your clients will love, people pulling and loading your orders for pickup or delivery, drivers rolling all over the state and beyond. Then we've got our office staff that works on turning emails into orders, calling our customers to make sure they have been getting the service and quality they deserve, planning for the Fall and beyond, and working on our systems to only get better and better as we grow

and evolve.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your go-to when you are planning for your customer's plant material needs. Please let us know how we can assist you for the remainder of the season and those to come!



Wilson's Nursery's Customer Appreciation Day!

Thursday, September 28th

We are all very excited to see you here for some lunch, conversation, and some unforgettable tractor tours! If you can sneak away from the jobsite or the garden center, please come on by!



Connie's Corner

Bee the Change!

by Connie Kratzke

Today was crazy busy until about the last half hour. Knowing I needed to write this column, I decided to take a breather and search for inspiration. I toyed with a few ideas, none of which I embraced. My cruise journey led me to pad four, where my eyes gravitated towards the largest groups. I gazed past the Rudbeckias and Nepetas towards a sparkling mass of dainty white flowers. Calamintha nepetas! I have become quite fond of these plants. Now that they are on their second year in my garden, I feel good about their reliability, too. Shout out to the folks at Field Outdoor Spaces for buying these terrific perennials in droves, thus sparking my curiosity.

As I approached the gorgeous group, I immediately caught a whiff of the sweetest mint scent. That's honestly my second or third favorite thing about them. I really love the textural combination of dainty white flowers and tiny shiny leaves. What is truly amazing about Calaminthas, though, is the noise they make! For those who don't already know what I mean, I invite you to visit our crop and experience the phenomenon yourself. These plants buzz! Loudly! The number of bees they attract are insane! That got me wondering why they aren't in any of my bee books, so I did some Googling. I have concluded that European origins are to blame. (Most of my resources share a strong preference for natives). That's probably why the European Honeybees are so fond of these little sweeties! Like many fragrant plants, Calamintha nepetas are deer resistant. Partial shade and occasional drought won't phase them. Standing at around 18 inches in height, these flowers are good, mid-section fillers. Complimentary to all of their garden buddies, Calaminthas are easy to integrate into any landscape and you should use them because they're cool 😊

The whole bee observation got me a little side tracked and I began to notice other large-scale bee magnets on the pad. 'Medusa' Alliums (PP28701) were going bee-serk! I honestly think they're just great plants anyway. Spiky purple spheres stand tall above wriggly, gray-green foliage. Plants appear to slither in the breeze. Deer and rabbit resistant due to their chive-y odor, there isn't much 'Medusas' can't handle. Reaching two feet in height and similar width, these plants also offer pretty good value. Alliums thrive in all but damp, alkaline soils. While tolerant of light shade, they are best in full sun.

Good old Russian Sages also stood out as bee bait. Perovskias actually are in one of my Xerces Society guides- "Attracting Native Pollinators." They are recognized as a non-native workhorses that can thrive in tough areas, like parking lot islands and foundation plantings. Rugged beauties thrive in the heat, demanding little water. Like both the Alliums and the Calaminthas, Perovskias attract bees and repel herbivores. Single plants occupy shrub-sized footprints and it doesn't take many to make a statement. While plants may die back close to the ground over winter, they rebound very quickly in the spring.

All three of these plants are non-native energy sources for bees that bloom late in the season. Arguments are frequently made by purists as to why we should plant only natives. I like to believe the bees know what they are doing when

they gravitate towards certain things. In order to properly promote the concept of planting for pollinators, we have to make it palatable for the average homeowner. That means demonstrating that landscapes can be both visually appealing and ecologically beneficial. There's no need to alienate the neighbors with your yard gone wild. Tidy, carefully placed groupings of nectar sources can look almost as clean as the Boxwood border at the Johnson's. Using some non-natives and hybrids to capture a larger audience makes sense to me. Asters and Goldenrods have their places too- many of which are in my gardens.





Green Tag Summer Sale! **Up to 50% off Selected items!**

B&B Trees - Grade 1 & Park-Grade Available
Container Evergreen and Shade Trees
Container Fruit Trees
Shrubs
Perennials

[Check out our Sale List
here!](#)

Follow us on Social Media:

Please take a look at our handcrafted social media pages! It's a mini-tour of what we have going on around here. Once you've had a look, please give me a call and we can take a little walk around the farm!



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Summer Hours of Operation
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm
CLOSED LABOR DAY

Open House (save the date!)
September 28th

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