



# Monthly Newsletter *March 2010*

We will be hosting a “Designer Series” here starting March 20<sup>th</sup> and happening every Saturday through May 1st from 10am-12pm. Come out and get inspiration and great advice from people who know their stuff! Speakers and topics will be posted on our website’s event page as they get closer.

March 20<sup>th</sup>- “The Five Minute Makeover”

Kathy Brooks of Bloomin Gardens is a designer and past president of The Virginia Society of Landscape Designers (VSLD). Bring pictures of your property and Kathy will transform your landscape!

March 27<sup>th</sup>- “Creative Container Gardening”

Karen Welch of Nature by Design- designer and member of The VSLD will be talking about using trees, shrubs and perennials in containers. Container gardening is ideal for small spaces or accents around the yard or house. Bring your own pots or choose from our great pottery selection.



## Featured Plant

Viburnum Tinus Compactum  
Spring Bouquet

A great evergreen shrub viburnum with handsome foliage and beautiful white and pink blooms. Small dark berries in fall. Good for hedges and screens.

Height: 4-6 feet

Habit: Dense, rounded, upright.

Exposure: Part to full sun.

Water: Medium

March is a transition month here in Virginia. As we move (hopefully) out of the snowy winter season and into the spring, use this month to clean up and prepare for the glorious mayhem that is April and May in the garden. Take a walk around your property (trying to stay off of soggy lawns) and survey the damage. What didn't make it through the snow should soon become apparent. Look for winter damage on trees and shrubs. Take note of where mulch has been washed away and needs replacing.

Consider keeping a garden journal this season. Use it to remember successes and failures, record bloom times and weather patterns, keep track of fertilizer applications and pruning and jot down valuable gardening info you pick up along the way. Write down names and locations of new plants in case you ever want more. Try your hand at drawing leaves or blooms or simply collect some and press in the pages of your journal.

If you're starting your landscape from the beginning, now is the time to plan. For large projects its best to work with a designer and/or landscaper, but small projects are manageable yourself. Pay attention to the sunlight and moisture in your yard. Decide if you want to go for a formal or more natural look. Consider colors and textures as well as mixing evergreens and deciduous plants and plants that bloom at different times. Get a book from the library, look online or just take note of other peoples yards. Take pictures of plants you like if you don't know the name. Come walk around the nursery and get ideas!

Glen Allen Nursery  
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[www.glenallennursery.com](http://www.glenallennursery.com)

## Monthly To Do List

- ~ Prepare new beds by smothering grass and weeds with layers of cardboard or newspaper covered with mulch.
- ~ Dig and pull up perennial weeds as they arise, before they get a chance to spread.
- ~ Feed bulbs as green shoots get up and going.
- ~ Prune deciduous trees and shrubs while they are dormant. Remove suckers and water sprouts. Wait until after bloom time to prune spring flowering shrubs like lilacs.
- ~ Later in the month you can start vegetable seeds, such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, indoors under a compact fluorescent light. Some cold season crops can be started outside later in the month such as sweet peas, kale, spinach and swiss chard. Keep in mind that the average last frost is mid to late April around here. Come check out our selection of organic vegetable and flower seeds.
- ~ For a sneak peek of what's to come, force branches of spring blooming trees and shrubs such as quince, pussy willow, forsythia, apples and cherries. Once buds begin to swell, cut the branch at an angle and put indoors in water. The closer to the bloom time the more success you will have.
- ~ Appreciate what is blooming now: Lenton Roses, Which Hazel, Winter Daphne, early spring Camellias and Sarcococca to name a few.