

# MSU IN BLOOM

## MSU HORTICULTURE GARDEN NEWS



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2021 Virtual Spring Plant Sale

Garden Member Sale

April 26-27

Public Sale

April 28-May 6

Plant Pickup

May 11-16

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

## Spring Beauty and Busyness

Our Gardens are starting to bloom. In Mid-March we began seeing our Hellebores bloom (pictured top right), as well as our spring ephemerals like Winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*; pictured bottom right).

And our staff are back to their usual busyness this spring: preparing for an online plant sale, growing plants for our display beds, starting some garden cleanup, and even starting propagation for our Fall 2021 Houseplant sale. During her work this spring, our Annual Trial Garden Manager, Daedre McGrath, has recorded some interesting clips and posted on our [YouTube channel](#). Recent clips include:

- Propagating the Vanilla Orchid
- Propagating Two Euphorbia and a Hattoria
- Unboxing and Sowing Seeds for the MSU Trial Garden
- Dividing Sansevieria Snake Plant
- Propagating Ficus Trees
- A Morning of Houseplant Propagation
- Propagation of Fancy Leaf Begonias
- MSU Teaching Greenhouse Tour



## Upcoming Events

Our Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner! This is our biggest fundraiser each year. The sale will be a “shop online, pick up curbside” event using Shopify as our shopping platform. Customers who are current 2021 Gardens’ Members can shop online early (April 26 and 27) and will receive 10% off their purchases. The sale will open to the public from April 28 through May 6. When you place your order, you will select a date and time for curbside pickup of your order. Pickup dates will be from May 11 through May 16.

## Projects

It seems like something is always breaking that needs to be repaired in the Gardens. This year our big repair is to restore our Liberty Hyde Bailey sculpture. This life-sized statue was placed in the Gardens in 1993 to honor the real Liberty Hyde Bailey, who is considered the Father of Modern Horticulture. For more information about Bailey, see page 4.

The Gardens have published our first book titled 'Espalier Fruit Plantings in Northern Gardens: Creating Fruit Trees as Art'. We direct published using Kindle Direct Publishing and it is for sale on Amazon. ALL proceeds from the book go directly to the Gardens. For more information, see page 8.

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## Capital Area Housing Partnership Tool Lending Library & Mobile Tool Truck

Missing a tool to complete your home project or in need of supplies for a community clean-up? Capital Area Housing Partnership's Tool Lending Library and Mobile Tool Truck is here to help! They have everything from drills and saws to rototillers and hedge clippers available to borrow. Whether it's a neighborhood-wide event or an individual project, they have you covered. Save money and tackle your project today!

[www.capitalareahousing.org/tool-library](http://www.capitalareahousing.org/tool-library)



# HONORING THE FATHER OF MODERN HORTICULTURE

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

Liberty Hyde Bailey (pictured bottom right) was one of America's greatest horticultural minds. Born and raised on a fruit farm in Michigan, he earned his undergraduate degree in Botany at Michigan Agricultural College (MAC; now MSU) in 1882. A few years later, he established the first horticulture department in the U.S. at MAC and served as its professor and chair. Bailey was a gifted and enthusiastic botanist, taxonomist, philosopher, writer, and teacher and is considered by most to be the Father of Modern Horticulture.

To honor this renowned 19th-century horticulturist, the Liberty Hyde Bailey Sculpture Plaza was established in the MSU Horticulture Gardens in 1993 by two generous donors. The plaza features a bronze life-size statue of Bailey (pictured top right) sculpted by a Michigan artist and is the largest and most prominent statue in our Gardens. Countless students, faculty, staff, and visitors take selfies with Bailey each year and often pick a flower in the gardens and place it in his hands.

Over the years, the Bailey statue has experienced extensive degradation of its finishes (pictured middle right). Of particular concern is the face and inside of the figure's trousers, where rivulets of water have left pronounced vertical streaks. Left unchecked, these oxidative mineral deposits will etch into the bronze, permanently disfiguring the statue.

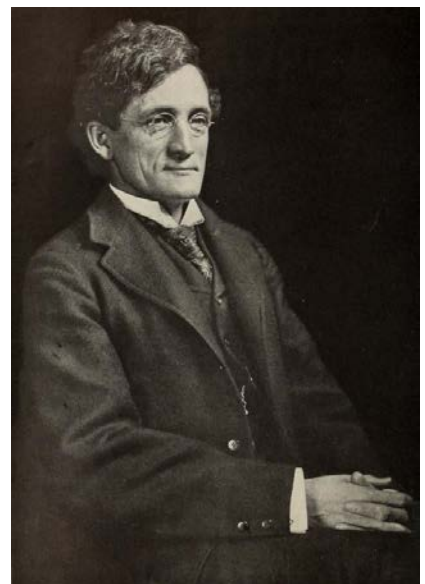
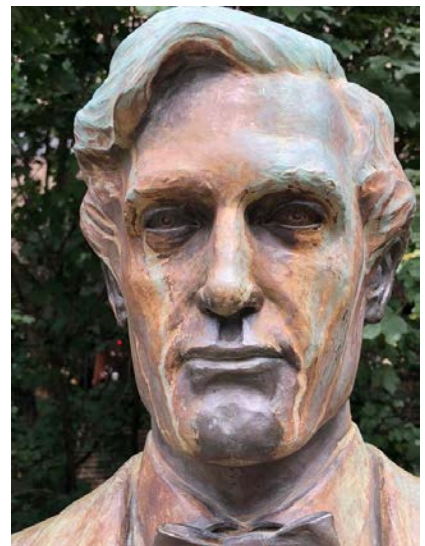
We are seeking support to restore this treasure. We are running a CrowdPower campaign (which is MSU's version of GoFundMe) to help raise funds needed. All donations through this campaign will go directly to fix the sculpture.

The restoration of Bailey includes an art restoration firm cleaning, repatinating, sealing, and waxing the bronze. This will protect the metal from further corrosion, give it better overall visual continuity, and make it much easier to maintain.

To donate, scan the QR code with your phones camera or visit:

<https://givingto.msu.edu/crowdpower/horticulture-gardens-bailey-sculpture>.

Thank you for your consideration!



# NOTEWORTHY ANNUALS IN THE SPRING PLANT SALE

BY DAEDRE MCGRATH, TRIAL GARDEN MANAGER

It has been two years since I've been able to do an article like this! We are excited to gear up for our first-ever online spring plant sale. We hope to raise some much-needed funding for the gardens while providing you with some fantastic plants in the process! Here are some of my favorite varieties on offer:

## **Impatiens walleriana 'Beacon' series**

I generally don't get particularly excited about Impatiens, but the Beacon series is a game-changer! Prior to the spread of Impatiens Downy Mildew (IDM) around 2013, Impatiens walleriana (often referred to as seed impatiens) was a staple shade annual. In fact, they were once the third-highest value floriculture crop in the US, behind Petunia (#1) and Pansy/Viola (#2). However, once IDM reared its ugly head, both greenhouse growers and consumers shied away from seed impatiens. Since 2013, plant breeders have been



**Impatiens walleriana 'Beacon' series**

working behind the scenes, developing IDM-resistant cultivars. We know that our soil at the MSU Gardens still harbors the IDM pathogen. During the last two trial seasons, we evaluated two new series of IDM-resistant seed impatiens. When planted alongside older, pre-2013, varieties, the difference in survivability and performance was like night and day! If you've been itching to get seed impatiens back in your shade garden, the time has come!



**Ornamental Millet 'Jade Princess'**

## **Ornamental Millet 'Jade Princess'**

Jade Princess is an annual ornamental millet variety with mounds of chartreuse foliage and flamboyant reddish-brown flower plumes. If you know me as a gardener, or have ever attended one of my talks on garden design, you know that I love chartreuse in the garden! It's a color that goes well with everything and can really brighten up bland combinations. I've also started to branch out more in my use of annual ornamental grasses during the last couple years. I used to stick to mostly Pennisetum varieties (like the highly popular purple fountain grass), but I have more recently found an appreciation for ornamental corn and ornamental millet, as well as some of the smaller annual grasses such as the many colorful and texturally diverse Carex varieties.

## Caladium

Caladium provides a tropical look in your garden with their large showy leaves. Some are sun-tolerant, while others need a shady spot, so make sure you pick a variety that suits your location. We have only offered this plant a couple of times in the last 8 years, so make sure to get some of this specialty item while you can! Greenhouse-grade Caladium tubers must be ordered many months in advance and are usually cost-prohibitive for us to purchase. However, we were able to acquire some extra tubers from a researcher on campus and are happy to pass our good luck along to you!



**Caladium Pink Beauty**



**Caladium Tapestry**

# KEEP CALM! THE SPRING PLANT SALE IS ALMOST HERE!

BY AMY MCCAUSEY, WEDDING, EVENT & PROGRAM COORDINATOR

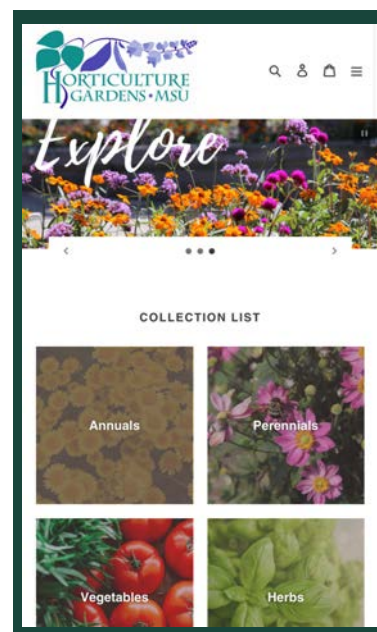
I know you are all ready for the 2021 Spring Plant Sale! We are almost there! Here are a few tips to make your plant sale purchase smooth and easy! Our new shopping platform is user-friendly and beautiful (pictured right).

The Plant Sale link will be posted on the [Spring Plant Sale website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) on the evening of April 27.



If you are a Garden Member, you will receive an email on April 25 with early access to our inventory beginning on April 26! Not a Member yet?

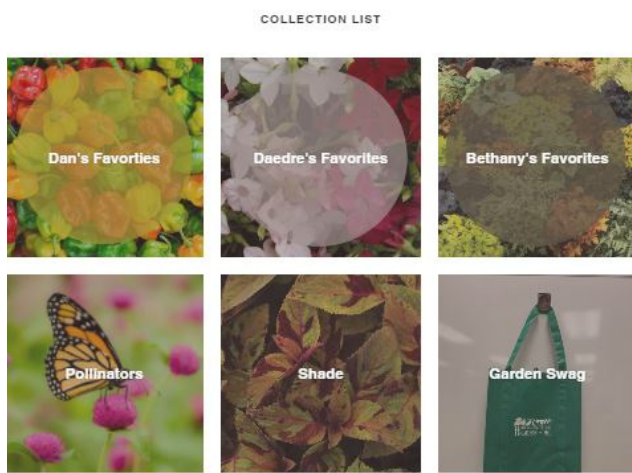
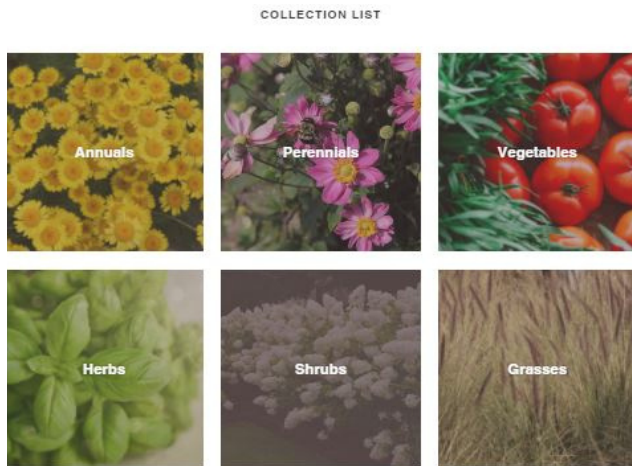
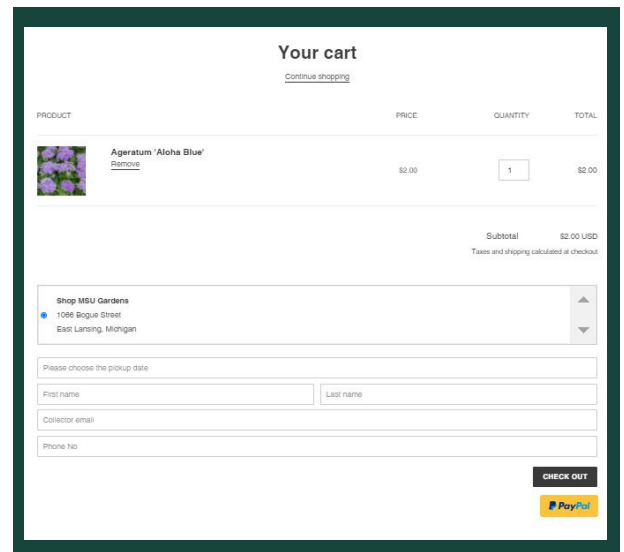
Become a Plant Sale VIP here!  
([www.hrt.msu.edu/join](http://www.hrt.msu.edu/join))



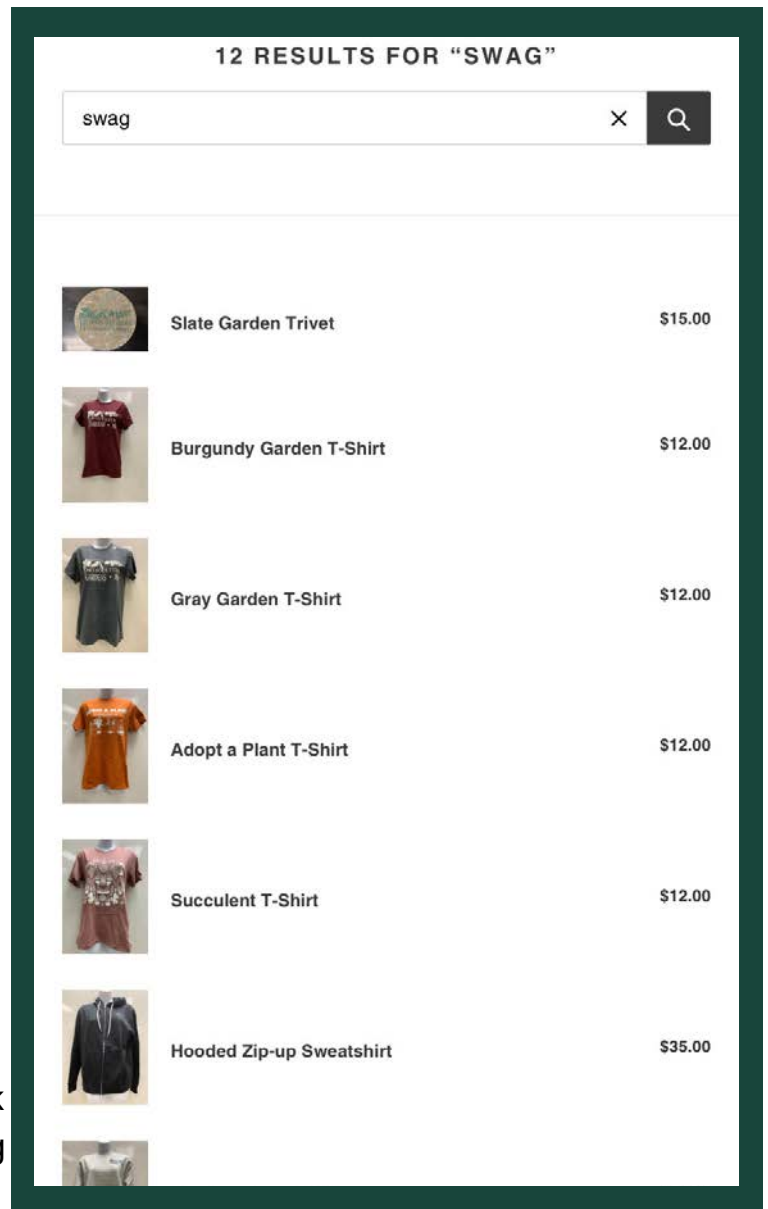
During the checkout process, you will select a pickup date and time (see right). Due to the volume of orders we anticipate, you will not be able to change your pickup time online. You will need to email [hgardens@msu.edu](mailto:hgardens@msu.edu).

There are 32 ways to filter items in our store. We know you will enjoy looking for and finding exactly what you want (and then some)!

Our collections will help you find specific types of annuals, grasses, perennials, or vegetables. We will even have some Garden Swag for you to grab (see below)!



We appreciate your patience as we work through any hiccups we encounter during this epic online sale!



# OUR GARDENS' FIRST BOOK

BY KRISTIN GETTER, DIRECTOR OF THE MSU HORTICULTURE GARDENS

We are excited to announce our first book publication titled 'Espalier Fruit Plantings in Northern Gardens: Creating Fruit Trees as Art' written by Dr. Ron Perry and Dr. Kristin Getter. It is available on Amazon's Kindle store for \$9.99. ALL proceeds go directly to support our Gardens. We thank Dr. Ron Perry for using his extensive fruit tree experience to write this book and his willingness to allow all proceeds to go directly to the Gardens.

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*100% of the proceeds from this book go  
DIRECTLY to support the Gardens.*

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## Description

Espalier is the practice of pruning and tying branches to a frame or trellis, in formal or informal patterns, flat against a structure such as a wall, fence, or trellis. It is an ancient art that allows the skilled gardener to train shoots in various designs and angular patterns often creating symmetry and artistic value while concurrently providing fruit for the table. In espalier, a design is developed which provides a roadmap for branch growth, development, and training. The gardener then actively directs growth to adhere to a selected or created design. Fruit production is not as important as the visual creation. The intrinsic value of espalier is that designs are an expression of artistic creativity and skill in gardening. Drs. Perry and Getter provide experienced gardeners with the information needed to successfully create an espalier planting. Learn about espalier and tree fruit terminology, species selection and fruiting requirements, site establishment and preparation, proper planting and care practices, training, management, and pruning.





# BETHANY'S FAVORITE PERENNIALS

BY BETHANY TROY, PERENNIAL GARDEN MANAGER

Our plant sale is back in full force this year, and we know you missed us! While my sale stock is a little more limited, I am still growing some amazing perennials that you absolutely want for your yard, or to gift to a fellow plant lover. Here are some you don't want to miss!

## **Brunnera macrophylla 'Queen of Hearts'**

Brunnera is essential in any shade garden, as it lightens up the garden floor with shades of silvery-green leaves with baby blue flowers in spring, while providing unique textures. 'Queen of Hearts' is unique as these characteristics are even more pronounced, and you still get the joy of the baby blue flowers in spring.



**Brunnera macrophylla  
'Queen of Hearts'**

## **Origanum 'Drops of Jupiter'**

This stunning perennial incorporates ornamental aspects of oregano while still giving you that relaxing smell as you work around it in the garden. The foliage sports golden shades while the flowers pop above, attracting an array of pollinators. Flowers are long-lasting and violet, providing great contrast against the foliage. We can't wait to add this plant from Walter's Gardens into our collection!



**Origanum 'Drops of Jupiter'**

## **Penstemon digitalis 'Mystica'**

I'm not sure why, but I never really gave Penstemon the time of day as a horticulturist. Something about it never really excited me, until one recent fall I looked behind my shoulder and saw a magnificent display of deep red that caught the attention of both myself and my student. We walked over and I realized what it was - Penstemon digitalis 'Mystica' (sometimes I can forget what I have planted - it helps to keep good notes!). The foliage holds on until deep fall, too, making it a long lasting, multi-seasonal perennial. The flowers are adored by bumble bees, making them fun to observe as they do their work!



**Penstemon digitalis 'Mystica'**

## **Buddleia 'Grand Cascade'**

Another lovely perennial from Walter's Gardens, this buddleia is truly a sight to see! Large lavender-purple flowers spill over silvery-green foliage, creating a stunning display and attraction for pollinators of all kinds. Truly a great addition for those who are looking for a different kind of specimen in their garden. Great as a backdrop or as a specimen, 'Grand Cascade' will provide hours of enjoyment as you observe butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds visiting their sweet flowers.



**Buddleia 'Grand Cascade'**

Of course, please check our complete inventory for even more plants! We have great varieties of Lavender, Dianthus, Achillea, Hosta, and more! [Check our complete inventory!](#) Thank you for supporting our gardens.

## **SPRING IS BITTERSWEET**

**BY AMY MCCAUSEY, WEDDING, EVENT & PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

While spring is my favorite time of year, it is also a bittersweet time for me. I love seeing the flowers come up and the birds return to the area. Spring is also the time of year that our baby goats are born! On the other hand, Spring is also the time of year that I lose my invaluable students.

Haley Talaski has been with the Gardens since August 2020. She has been immensely helpful in juggling the Garden events and tours, she has helped me get our brick program in order by cataloging every commemorative brick in the Garden. I have been very fortunate to have had Haley as my assistant. She is an amazing, energetic, and kind person and she will be greatly missed!

Upon graduation, Haley will have earned her Bachelors of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource Education. After graduation, she will be assisting her mentor teacher for the remainder of the public school year and will start her student teaching in the fall. Haley is planning to be an FFA teacher!





**May:**  
**All About  
Seeds**

**JUNE:**  
**All About  
Flowers**



## **Michigan 4-H Children's Garden 2021 Family Discovery Series**

Each month this summer the garden will have a new StoryWalk book, take home activities, themed scavenger hunts, and much more!

**JULY:**  
***All About  
Insects***



**August:**  
**All About  
Summer  
Fun**

