



SAXTON'S™

FLOWER CENTER

FINALLY FALL

Ahhhhh – fall. Wait....when was summer? I usually dread hot August weather and long for the day when I can finally pull my jeans out and welcome fall. However, this cool summer has me counting on the seasonal flower swap to know autumn has arrived! I have a few fading flower pots that are *dying* for a change to my favorite, fall mums. (Especially the one I forgot to water on my front porch!)

Saxton's Flower Center opens its' fall shop Thursday, September 10th. It will be chock-full of *your* fall favorites, including- pumpkins, straw, gourds, pansies, assorted perennials, hanging baskets, mums and much more!

OUR FALL HOURS:

Monday-Saturday: 9am – 8pm
Sunday: 9am – 5pm

PANSIES -A COOL FAVORITE

Pansies are a fantastic fall flower; they can be used in containers, as bedding plants, or in hanging baskets.

Pansies prefer cooler weather and tend to do well until mid June; re-blooming when things cool off again in the fall. Many varieties are also bred to make it through our cold winters and pop up again in the spring!

Pansy blooms are single, with five petals that are rounded in shape. Pansy flowers have one of three

basic patterns; *clear*, *penciling* or with a *face*. Clear pansies are just one color and have little or no dark markings. Penciling is more typical for the pansy



parent, viola, it means there are thin dark lines drawn from the center of the flower out. The most popular pansy pattern has a face, or dark splotches in the center of the flower.

Another interesting quality is their fragrance. Some pansies have a delicate perfume-like aroma (the yellow and blue flowers seem to have the strongest scent). Pansies come in a huge variety of colors, sure to suit any garden. Select plants that are stocky with dark green foliage and have both buds and blooms.

Pansies perform best in a location that receives morning sun and has well-drained soil. Always remember moving the pansies from the container to the garden is stressful; it is crucial that they receive plenty of water during this adjustment period!

WHAT NOW?

Here are the top FIVE garden tasks for fall:

1. Keep watering!
2. Cut back, divide, transplant, and plant perennials.
3. Pull out faded annuals and replace with a mums, pansies, asters, kale etc.
4. Plant bulbs.
5. Take pictures and make notes to plan next year's garden.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SAXTON'S FLOWER CENTER GO TO
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Fresh Pumpkin Pie

"Pumpkin Pie using fresh garden pumpkins. Best served barely warm, with freshly whipped cream on top of each serving. Use the remaining pumpkin puree in any recipe that calls for canned pumpkin."

- 1 medium sugar/pie pumpkin
 - 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
 - 1 recipe pastry for a 9 inch single crust pie
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 4 eggs, lightly beaten
 - 1 cup honey, warmed slightly
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
1. Cut pumpkin in half, and remove seeds. Lightly oil the cut surface. Place cut side down on a jelly roll pan lined with foil and lightly oiled. Bake at 325 degrees F until the flesh is tender when poked with a fork. Cool until just warm. Scrape the pumpkin flesh from the peel. Either mash, or puree in small batches in a blender.
 2. In large bowl, blend together 2 cups pumpkin puree, spices, and salt. Beat in eggs, honey, milk, and cream. Pour filling into pie shell.
 3. Bake at 400 degrees F for 50 to 55 minutes, or until a knife inserted 1 inch from edge of pie comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

From Allrecipes.com

TO PRUNE OR NOT TO PRUNE

That is the question. Flowering shrubs can be tricky this time of year especially if they have grown out of bounds. Flowering shrubs can bloom on new wood, old wood or both, so before you snip here are some tips:

1. Properly identify the shrub you plan to prune. Remember just because one type of Hydrangea blooms on new wood doesn't mean they all do. Knowing the genus (Hydrangea), species (arborescens) and even the cultivar ('Annabelle') will give you the most accurate cultural information.

2. Find out what type of wood your shrub blooms on

If it blooms on old wood it must be pruned shortly after blooming. The flower buds are set soon after blooming and any pruning done after this stage will likely remove any chance for flowers next year. (If you don't care about the flowers- go ahead and prune now, it will flower again the spring after next.)

If it blooms on new wood you can prune later this fall or even better early next spring before any new growth begins.

If it blooms on new and old wood have no fear! Prune when you want, just be sure not to stress the plant too much by taking off a lot of foliage in the peak of summer or in other times of stress.

3. Remember the 3-D's. You can always prune out Dead, Damaged, and Diseased wood.

This is a basic overview for pruning, but for a more in depth review I highly recommend the book American Horticultural Society Pruning & Training by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce.

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