

GARDENS Four Seasons

GARDENDESIGN
MAY/JUNE 2018

The Fun of ANNUAL GRASSES!

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*“Gardens heighten the experience of  
living.”* - Adrian Higgins

(true Adrian - but a MAJOR understatement don't you think?)



## The Fun of ANNUAL GRASSES!

Our Gardens are such fun - aren't they?

& there is always room for more fun - so - if you have never tried Annual Grasses - well - as a famous Mexican once commented on Mexican food - *No, NO, NO-O-O-O-O - you cannot LIVE until you've tried....ANNUAL GRASSES!*

They allow you to experiment with the use of Grasses without committing to the forever kind - Perennials!

Besides - how many of us, right this minute, have spaces in our yards where something has failed to flourish & we now must find a replacement. Or possibly you have a newly planted shrub or perennial border with lots of room to fill until everything matures - an annual grass is perfect!

Honestly, I seriously have no more room or need for any more plants but I can always find room for another - an addiction I'm told! :)

& it is not too late to grow a little 'Romance' in your garden! Like their perennial cousins - they move in the breeze adding a certain *je ne sais quoi* & an often needed spiky, upright effect.

So off we go to check out some cool Annual Grasses that are available in Saskatoon.

Everyone notices the incredible annual pots the City of Saskatoon sets out on the streets each year & I think the Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum*) is one on the most spectacular annuals they use.





Here we have RED Fountain Grass - imagine the possibilities - I can tell I've got you thinking!



Millet is not only a tasty treat for birds but creates a bold statement planted in ground or in containers.



Just LOOK at the size of those seed heads - almost makes me want to be a songbird!



There are a variety of different types of Rush such as the Blue Rush below -



or the uber striking Corkscrew Rush - reminds me of how I feel when I get excited about a plant!



Rush need a little more moisture than most grasses since they originate in boggy, wet areas. Take it from me, the little extra TLC pays out big time!

Another water loving 'grass' type is the Papyrus - they come either short or tall - the Short (Baby Tut) reaches about a foot or less while the King Tut can tower over other plants at 4'-5'.



Now if that doesn't say *Tropics on the Prairies* - I don't know what does!



oh, wait! - Here is another that is reminiscent of *La Isla Bonita*.

Trailing bamboo lures you in & you *always* want to touch it.

Incredible as a single, full specimen but can still garner a lot of attention as a trailer in a tall pot. Just ensure you have enough time to water this guy, they do not recover well from being allowed to dry out.



Equally stroke-able & tactile is the Mexican Feather Grass. I swear it is like running your fingers thru' your own hair & nary a tangle in sight. How do they do that?!



& our grand finale is a really super playful looking Fibre Optic Grass - enough said!



There are so MANY more Annual Grasses than what I've shown here - head to your favourite nursery & check them out!



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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Saskatoon Horticultural Society Annual Passport Tour**

Sat. July 21 from 12 noon - 4pm (rain or shine!)

Limit of 250 passports available from Dutch Grower's or Early's - \$15/person with children under 12 free.

Further info - call Chris - 306-281-8921 or email  
[saskatoonhortsociety@sasktel.net](mailto:saskatoonhortsociety@sasktel.net)

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## **HORT WEEK**

### **University of Sask. - July 7 - 13, 2018**

“Take a free tour, take one class, or take a whole bunch!  
Hort Week is July 7-13 this year with daily, evening & weekend  
workshops throughout.”

Further info -

<https://gardening.usask.ca/public-workshops/hort-week.php>

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## GARDEN TIP

Just had to comment on those RAVISHING Peonies blooming everywhere you look these days!



If you like to use them as cut flowers (I do, all the time!) use this neat trick to get rid of the ants.

Clip them in the evening & place in a vase of cold water. Next set them in a spot outside where there is morning shade. When you retrieve them the next morning - they should be ant free!

Love. love, love 'em!

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### KANGAROO APPLE

Here is current darling of the Horticulture scene in Saskatoon - everyone wants one! It can reach a height of up to 3' - 4' over the Summer - mine started out in mid-May about 8" tall & now it's already 2' high! Loves full sun or part shade & regular watering.



The foliage is very interesting - deeply cut leaf sections. It produces purple-ish dainty flowers & later green, eggplant shaped seed balls. Once these 'fruits' ripen to a dark orange or red they can be eaten fresh for a sweet taste. Take **NOTE** however, the **unripe fruits are inedible & poisonous.**

They are available from most nurseries but I know for sure 2 of my favourite places carry them.

MOTHER EARTH NURSERY on the highway to Clavet has a fair number in stock. ( & btw - currently all annuals, baskets & containers are 40% off! Hurry, since they will be closing for the season soon!)

SUTHERLAND GARDEN MART on Central Ave. in Sutherland also have a few on hand.

Grab one before they're gone!





PS - if you have aphid problems & want some Lady Bug Intervention - Sutherland Garden Mart has little refrigerated packages of 250 for only \$13.99!

One of the owners makes the release of them in her yard a real *Lady Bug Party* for her grandchildren.

Nothing will tickle you more than having these helpful little critters crawling & flying everywhere in your own back yard - gobbling aphids as they go!



In fact - that is on my list of things to discover with my own little grand dude! :)



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## DESIGN BRILLIANCE

Well here I go tooting my own horn again! (I think we all need to do that on occasion!) Recently, I had the awesome opportunity & privilege to come up with a Landscape Design for a new Event Centre being constructed a bit past the east side Costco .

The owners put their trust in me & together we came up with a plan that fulfilled their vision (& one I believe is BRILLIANT!) Altho' it won't officially open until March 2019 - **THE BARN at WIND'S EDGE** Event Centre will be a true prairie gem & is booking up fast!

More details to come - meantime be sure to check out their facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/thebarnatwindsedge/>



*- artist's rendering of the Front Entrance*

Btw - Now that the Spring Rush is thru' I am currently booking only a week or so in advance.

What a great wedding or birthday gift - a Landscape Design appointment with yours truly!

Reach me at 306-244-0049 or check out my website at [www.gardensfourseasons.com](http://www.gardensfourseasons.com) for more info & pricing

You can also click this link for city pricing & an image of what each service gets you.

<https://www.gardensfourseasons.com/city-design-services/>



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Come the **July/August GARDENDESIGN** we add a little warmth to your outdoor living space!

**FIRE will be the topic!**

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## **BACK ISSUES**

Last year I did an article on **GARDEN DECOR** - just let me know & I will shoot it on over!



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Feel free to forward this to any friends!  
*(or they can email me to request their own copy!)*

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**DID YOU KNOW? - I never, Ever, EVER share my email list - NEVER! :)**

\* to UNSUBSCRIBE from GARDENDESIGN please reply to this email with NO THANKS!

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