

March 2024



THE Gardener

THE SPRING ISSUE

Spring Awakens! Dive into our blooming Spring Issue, filled with green secrets, featured blooms, & community spirit. Explore exclusive deals & unmissable events at Bayport Flower Houses—your gateway to a vibrant season!



A LETTER FROM THE Greenhouse

The trees are setting buds, the birds are chirping, & the snow-drop flowers are appearing. That can only mean one thing.... Spring is on the horizon. Our Bayport Flower Houses team is buzzing with excitement. But that's not all—the real news is our recent expansion! We've acquired a 1-acre greenhouse property across Gillette Ave, now known as Bayport Flower Farms. This expansion allows us to enhance production & offer an even wider selection of stunning plants.

Let me introduce you to some of our new varieties. **Erysimum**, an annual, boasts striking blue-green foliage that sets the stage for its beautiful flowers. Blooming in shades of pink, white, yellow, & purple, it's a true showstopper among our early-season annuals like Pansies, Primrose, & Ranunculus.

On the perennial front, we're thrilled to include **Bleeding Heart**



(Dicentra spectabilis) in our greenhouse cultivation. While not entirely new, this marks our first time growing it within our greenhouses. Picture heart-shaped flowers hanging from arching stems—a perfect addition to your spring garden.

And don't miss our Tropicals selection! These plants have gained popularity in outdoor landscapes over the years. Who wouldn't want their backyard to become a South Sea paradise? Our home-grown **Mandevilla**, available in vibrant pink, white, & red, produces massive showy blooms. Add a touch of the tropics to your garden or containers with this delightful vine.

We have a lot more new variet-

ies in store for this year, but if I told you all of them, they wouldn't be a surprise! We look forward to continuing our service to the Long Island community, just as we have for the past four generations. Most importantly, we cannot wait to see you in our store.

If you are interested in a "backstage" tour of our production greenhouses, join us for our Spring Open House on March 23rd & March 24th to indulge in live music, refreshments, blooming plants, storewide sales, & more. Our Open House event is the ideal occasion to embrace the Easter spirit with our delightful array of Easter bulbs & flowering plants. Be sure to visit our store & explore our selection. I even heard a rumor that Peter Cottontail himself may be visiting! I wish all of you a Happy Easter & a very blissful spring!

See you soon,

John Auwaerter

HEAD GROWER & PART-OWNER

Early Bloomers

8 HOME-GROWN FLOWERS TO GET YOU IN THE SPRING SPIRIT

Winter is finally fading away, & Spring is peeking around the corner, arriving on **March 19th**. We've got something special to match the season: our homegrown early spring flowers! They come in assorted sizes, starting from small 4.5-inch pots, & they bloom in all sorts of colors. Whether you want to brighten up your yard or give a cheerful gift, our spring flowers are just the thing.



Tulips

A spring favorite, our tulips with their showy, trumpet-shaped flowers are available in a wide variety of colors.



Hydrangea

These stunning shrubs flaunt large globes of flowers in various shades, from pink & blue to green & white.



Pansies

As cool weather plants, these heart-shaped blooms are a great start to the season. Available in beautiful combos of yellow, purple, & more.



Daffodils

These cheerful blooms symbolize renewal & hope. Their trumpet-shaped flowers appear in early spring, & they thrive in well-drained soil.



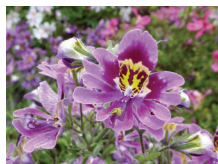
Hyacinth

With intense fragrance & bright tubular flowers, hyacinths are easy-to-care spring bulbs. Available in pink, purple, & white.



Grape Hyacinth

Also known as Muscari, these small bulbs have tight clusters of blue flowers resembling grapes.



Schizanthus

These annuals have delicate, orchid-like flowers and feathered foliage that make them a delightful addition to any garden.



Dianthus

These perennial herbs produce fragrant, fringed flowers in colors like pink, red, & white, often with contrasting patterns on the petals.

Understanding Indoor Plant Care

With We The Wild

Nurturing your indoor plants goes beyond mere aesthetics—it's an investment in their longevity. By understanding the essentials of plant nutrition & mastering the art of plant care, you can ensure that your green companions will thrive. We know that embarking on the journey of plant care can indeed feel overwhelming, especially for newcomers.



That's why our team loves **We The Wild**, a beacon of simplicity & quality. Let us show you how their essential products can make nurturing your green companions a breeze.

Grow

Contrary to widely held belief, fertilizer is not plant food. Plants already make their food using sunlight & water through photosynthesis. Instead, think of fertilizer as a vitamin boost—a necessary supplement that ensures our plants receive the vital nutrients needed for sustained, robust growth. We The Wild's Grow Concentrate is a fertilizer packed with essential nutrients & microbes to promote vigorous growth. Spring is the best time to apply as your plants are in an active growth state.

Protect

Now that your plants have been fertilized, it's essential to safeguard their leaves. We The Wild's Protect Spray is a powerful solution. It combines Neem oil with a special blend of microbes to tackle even the most stubborn problems. This spray acts as both a fungicide & an insecticide, shielding your plant from common pests & diseases. Plus, it doubles as a leaf shine for that extra touch of green brilliance.

Article continues on page 3 >

Enrich

Lastly, We The Wild's Enrich Powder is like a power-up for your plant roots. Made by earthworms, it's the ultimate root builder & soil conditioner, ensuring your roots grow strong & resilient.

The Plant Care Essentials kit aims to equip you with the necessary tools to recreate your plant's natural habitat, ensuring its thriving growth. If you have further questions or want to delve deeper into indoor plant care, our knowledgeable staff at Bayport Flower



Houses are always available to help! Feel free to visit us in-store or give us a call at (631)-472-0014.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Easter Lilies

Lilium longiflorum

These blooms embody spring's revival & are beloved during Easter. At Bayport Flower Houses, we have cultivated them for decades. They thrive in morning sun & afternoon shade, gracing gardens & homes with their elegant white flowers & sweet fragrance.

**Available in multiple sizes starting at 6"*

MARCH 23 & 24

Spring Open House

JOIN US FOR OUR LARGEST EVENT OF THE SEASON!

Live Music, Refreshments, Workshops, Raffles & Storewide Sales!



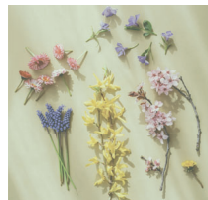
FREE CLASS

*What's **New** in The Garden?*

Sat. March 23 at 1 pm
& Sun. March 24 at 10 am

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

To secure your spot register online at shop.bayportflower.com, by phone at (631)-472-0014 or in-store 7 days a week.



Spring Blooming Basket

SAT. MARCH 23 AT 10 AM
OR SUN. MARCH 24 AT 1 PM
\$60 PER PERSON



Kid's Blooming Basket

SAT. MARCH 23 AT 3 PM
OR SUN. MARCH 24 AT 3 PM
\$25 PER CHILD



*All About Trees & Shrubs –
Your Questions Answered!*

SAT. APRIL 20 AT 10 AM



*Mossy Earth Kokodema,
Celebrate Earth Day!*

SAT. APRIL 20 AT 1 PM
\$20 PER CHILD

Spring Open House

20% OFF
ENTIRE PURCHASE

Valid In-Store at Bayport Flower Houses from March 23 & 24 2024 Only. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past purchases.

Blooming Community

PROUDLY GROWING FLOWER BASKETS
FOR OUR LONG ISLAND TOWNS



Every spring, Long Island towns come alive with vibrant flower baskets adorning lamp posts & planters. But have you ever wondered how this enchanting transformation occurs? At Bayport Flower Houses, we hold the answers.

Our journey begins long before May. Working closely with beautification committees across the Island, we meticulously plan, grow, & install these floral displays. In January, within our greenhouse facilities at Bayport Flower Farms, our dedicated team prepares our eco-fiber baskets— a material that helps conserve water. These will be the very vessels that will soon burst forth with blooms.

Sustainability is our commitment. We store these baskets during off-seasons, ensuring their reuse for years to come. Our ultramodern potting benches fill the baskets with nutrient-rich soil, providing an ideal environment for growth. Then comes the exciting part: planting! Our team carefully places five geranium young plants into each basket

But our process doesn't end there. Head Grower John Auwaerter designs meticulous care plans, mon-

itoring growth until the day these baskets grace our towns, robust & brimming with life.

In May, the magic unfolds as our team at Bayport Flower Houses springs into action. Laden with vibrant baskets, we adorn the cozy main streets of Long Island towns before the hustle & bustle of morning commuters & walkers takes over. It's a labor of love—a tradition that we hold dear.

General Manager Karl Auwaerter encapsulates our sentiment:

"We take pride in leaving a lasting impact & contributing to the unique atmosphere of our towns. This cherished tradition reflects our unwavering dedication to enhancing the beauty of our Long Island communities."

This year, our blooms extend to several Long Island towns: Bayport, Blue Point, Babylon Village, Town of Babylon (West Babylon to Lindenhurst), Sayville, Great River, Massapequa, Amityville, Woodsburgh, & Port Washington. Keep your eyes peeled this spring for Bayport Flower Houses' signature blooming town baskets!



John Auwaerter & team caring for the town baskets!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Arthur Randazzo
SENIOR HORTICULTURIST

Growing With Us Since 1984

As a skilled horticulturist, Arthur has graced our team since the spring of 1984. Whether meticulously tending to our outdoor garden sanctuaries or sharing his vast plant wisdom with customers, Arthur's expertise spans the green spectrum—trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials—you name it! Recently, we had the privilege of delving into Arthur's journey & his enduring legacy at Bayport Flower Houses.

Tell us about when you started at Bayport Flower Houses...

When I started in the Spring of 1984 I was working after school & on Saturdays. It was so different back then – we were more of a flower shop with greenhouses growing cut flower varieties & a few seasonal annuals. There was no nursery like today. On my first day, I can still remember cleaning geraniums & tidying up the stock room.

What has been the most memorable parts of being at Bayport Flower Houses?

There were so many memorable moments but some include meeting the girl, who later became my wife, at a BFH party in the Autumn of 1990. That was truly the best. Also having the joy of watching the Auwaerter family grow. That truly tells how much time has gone by. I was there when Karl was learning from Gisbert. Now I'm watching Karl help his son John as he has taken over the growing department. So many good years have gone by. I am incredibly lucky to have a job I look forward to going to. I've been blessed with two wonderful families. My own, & my flower house family. The business has grown so much & it's been great being a part of it.

What are your favorite blooming shrubs?

I have always had a love for old-fashioned shrubs like weigela, abelia, & a unique variety of deciduous azalea 'cornel pink.'

What are some of your favorite annuals?

Anything purple or pink! Especially "spikey" flowers like annual varieties of salvia & celosia.

Tips for Making Your Cut Flowering Bulbs Last!

FROM THE BFH FLORAL STUDIO



As much as we love our Spring bulbs in our gardens, we also love them in flower arrangements to bring some of the fresh air indoors. If you happen to pick up some fresh-cut tulips or daffodils this season for your home here are some tips from our Floral Studio on how to make your fresh-cut bulbs last:

1 Keep Them *Out* of the Kitchen

Keep your flowers away from heat & direct sunlight. Kitchens, with their higher temperatures & occasional smoke, can harm the flowers. Also, the ethylene gas from ripening fruit makes flowers age faster. So, choose a spot outside the kitchen!

2 Remove *Excess* Foliage

Removing any wilted petals & excess leaves keeps the water clean & prevents decay.

3 Change Their Water *Often*

Stagnant water has harmful bacteria & toxins, which are damaging to flowers & create unpleasant odors. Regular water changes maximize the life of your flowers.

Party-Perfect Presents

GIFTS THAT SAY, 'THANK YOU' WITHOUT WORDS

As the warm weather arrives, so do more holidays, parties, & dinners. With those occasions comes the delightful task of selecting host gifts. Fear not! At Bayport Flower Houses, we're here to ensure you never arrive empty-handed. Our carefully curated guide features the perfect party gifts that express both your gratitude & impeccable taste.



Timeless Tulips Bouquet

Our signature Spring bouquet! Handcrafted & thoughtfully wrapped by our experienced floral designers, this timeless bouquet highlights our colorful Dutch tulips.



Primavera Soap & Dish Set

Available in plum blossom, peach blossom, & red currant, this Spring Blossom Collection celebrates the joys of Spring & Summer. With vibrant colors & fresh fragrances, it's a luxurious & thoughtful gift for any occasion.



Shore Soap Co. Candle

As a community by the sea—Shore Soap Co. candles capture that vibe with scents like Warm Sand & Mermaid Kisses. Plus, it's thoughtfully crafted, clean burning, & comes in a reusable tumbler glass. A delightful gift for any host!



Blue Q Groovy Flower Tote

Blue Q Tote bags are made of 95% post-consumer recycled material, making them both beautiful and environmentally friendly. They are great for hosts and are also convenient for carrying food, drinks, and other treats to your spring party.



Scout Mini Suncatcher

This mini suncatcher is the perfect host gift—it may be small, but its vibrant rainbows bring immense cheer. Inspired by our best-selling Suncatcher collection, it's ideal for brightening car journeys or adding prismatic color to any window.

Celebrate the Spring Season!

\$10 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE

Valid at Bayport Flower Houses from April 1 to April 15, 2024 Only. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past purchases.

Thank you for being a part of our community. Wishing you a *blooming* season ahead!



Bayport Flower Houses
940 Montauk Hwy, Bayport, NY 11705
(631) 472 - 0014

Spring Hours (starting March 24th):
Monday -Saturday : 8 am - 6 pm
Sunday : 9 am - 5 pm

