

April 2024

# THE Gardener

## THE FLORAL ISSUE

Immerse yourself in our vibrant Floral Issue, brimming with practical garden tips, captivating featured arrangements, and glimpses of our rich history. Unearth exclusive deals and mark your calendar for unmissable events at Bayport Flower Houses.

### A LETTER FROM THE Floral Studio

Hello! As Co-Owner & Manager of Bayport Flower Houses' Floral Studio and third-generation Company, I am thrilled to welcome you to our world of beautiful blooms and inspiring designs. Spring is finally here! I am excited to share that our Floral Department has curated a new season of inspirational flowers and colors that will surely delight you. You'll find unique variety & colors like Ranunculus Tulips, Peonies, Chrysanthemums, and much more! At our studio, we are passionate about our flowers and customers. We take pride in creating and delivering the most beautiful blooms. Our flowers not only look stunning but also have a positive impact on your well-being. Flowers offer a natural way of therapy to boost your mood and bring joy to your busy life. Shop our designs for décor for home interiors and gifts, and treat yourself.

I am proud of the commitment our studio has made towards sustainability. We source our flowers from local growers and worldwide

farms that support fair trade and environmental & work concerns. Each season, you will find blooms grown right here from our greenhouses. Our belief in protecting our good earth motivates us to do our part.

Important! There are so many exciting celebrations coming up! Come visit us on April 22, 2024, Passover and Earth Day. We have a special treat and will give away a free bloom to everyone visiting our shop( while supplies last). It's our way of celebrating the beauty of our planet and showing our appreciation to our valued customers.

Celebrate Mother's Day with us! Our Floral Studio is blooming with ALL of your Mom's favorite garden flowers... gorgeous Peonies, Roses, Hydrangeas, and much more! We are creating and delivering fresh daily arrangements that say, "Mom, you are my Inspiration, Hero, Amazing, Caring, Gorgeous, Wonderful, Beautiful, and so Smart! Bayport's Best Designs can be found in the shop or 24 hours from our website, [www.bayportflower.com](http://www.bayportflower.com). Our Staff picks for gifts! – Bayport's Best Garden Classic, Grand Gesture, Perfect Sense, Precious Moments, and the ever-popular Beautiful Soul!



I am proud and honored to grow our family tradition of Bayport Flower Houses, Inc. designing joy since 1932. My favorite childhood memories of cutting fields of zinnias with my dad, Gisbert, and designing adorable Tussy Mussies with my grandmother, Maria. Today, our talented staff creates a fantastic array of floral designs & services, delivering Joy from Montauk to Manhattan. Thank you for choosing Bayport Flower Houses, Inc. for your floral needs. I look forward to bringing joy and beauty to your life.

Enjoy every moment,

*Christine Savoka*

**OWNER & FLORAL DESIGN MANAGER**

# Soil 101

UNDERSTANDING ITS COMPOSITION  
AND IMPORTANCE FOR YOUR PLANTS

How well do you understand your soil? It's more than just dirt, and the more you learn about soil, the better you'll be able to care for it to ensure a stunning landscape, a healthy lawn, and a productive garden.

## All About Soil

The four elements of soil are minerals, water, air, and organic matter. Different combinations of these elements create the four main categories of soil: sand, silt, clay, and loam. Of course, we all want loam—that rich, vibrant soil thriving with beneficial bacteria and a smooth but crumbly texture ideal for root growth. Unfortunately, loam soils are rare, especially when topsoil and heavy machines compact the remaining soil during construction or renovation.

Most of us have clay soil with finer particles that compact easily into a dense mass. Clay soils also retain more water and can quickly become too soggy or waterlogged for healthy plants. But just because your soil may be clay, it doesn't have to stay that way!

## Improving Soil

Improving the soil is relatively easy. Products like **Bio Tone**,

enhanced with beneficial microbes and mycorrhizae, add necessary minerals and organic materials to your soil. Bio Tone balances out the overall components of the soil's structure. It helps plants establish fast, grow deeper roots, and produce bigger blooms.

Before adding minerals, test the soil to determine its pH (acidity or alkalinity) and resolve any mineral deficiencies. Lime decreases soil acidity, gypsum adds calcium and helps break up heavy clay, and sulfur increases acidity. Other soil amendments to add to clay soil include sand, cottonseed meal, and peat moss, all of which will help improve drainage and structure.

Organic matter refers to plant or animal materials decomposed into compost or "humus." This residue comes from leaves, other plant materials, and particular animal wastes. We recommend purchasing finished compost made on Long Island, such as **SOS Compost**. However, if you want to do it yourself, you can use bins and combine materials until they decompose. Some ideal materials include grass clippings, paper, and certain decomposing food cans. The quality depends on the origin of the original biodegradable matter. Composting is a great way to

release nutrients that are essential for the growth of healthy plants. It also creates an environment that is rich in organic matter and is ideal for the growth of beneficial bacteria and microbes.

## The Magic of Mulch

Mulching is another technique that can be used to add biodegradable materials to the soil. Materials such as **Hampton's Estate Mulch**, evergreen needles, tree leaves, lawn clippings, and chicken manure can be used as mulch and then worked into the soil for decomposition. This process can help to improve the spaces between soil particles and rearrange the sand, silt, and clay to produce an optimal soil structure. This improves the balance of water retention and drainage, making nutrients more available to plants.

When soil has proper structure and sufficient nutrients for healthy plants, optimum health has been achieved, and great soil will lead to great landscaping, turf and gardens. Congratulations and keep on growing!

NEW FOR  
2024!



**COAST OF MAINE** \$8.99  
**SOILS (20 QT)**

- ROSES & FLOWERS
- ACID-LOVING PLANTS
- TOMATO & VEGETABLE



# Celebrating Motherhood



## THOUGHTFUL FLORAL GIFTS TO SHOW YOUR LOVE & APPRECIATION

As Mother's Day approaches, we've put together a special collection of beautiful flowers. Whether you're celebrating your own mom, a friend, or someone who's like a mom to you, these floral gifts express your love and gratitude. Let's honor the amazing women in our lives with petals that speak volumes.



*Grand Gesture*



*Homegrown Combination Pots*



*Garden Classic*



*Champagne Brunch*



*Garden of Seasonal Blooms*



*Beautiful Soul*



### PLANT OF THE MONTH

## Gerbera Daisy

At our nursery, vibrant Gerbera daisies, originating from South Africa, bloom in various colors and classes after 14 to 18 weeks. Thriving in sunny spots with rich, acidic soil, they bring a burst of color and fragrance to gardens. They also make a great addition to any floral arrangement to make it bright and cheerful.



# From Wholesale To Retail

A JOURNEY THROUGH OUR HISTORY AS LONG ISLAND FLOWER GROWERS

At Bayport Flower Houses you may know us for our home-grown seasonal plants – from our Tulips that welcome in the Spring season to our Poinsettias that bring warmth and joy to the holidays. As a retail grower for 92 years, we have been able to carve this unique path – straight from our greenhouses to your homes. It's a historical approach that sets us apart, especially on Long Island where such practices are rare. But let's look at the past and show you how we have been able to make this possible.

Back in the early years, Bayport Flower Houses was all about wholesale flower cultivation. It was a slower pace; our original greenhouses and eastern fields were filled with flowers destined to be sold as cut flowers in the bustling New York City flower markets. In these days, growers at Bayport Flower Houses had to follow the patterns of the seasons – no artificial heat and no out-of-season blooms. Take mums, for instance—they were daylight-sensitive, blooming only during shorter days. Come early fall, we'd harvest them for Thanksgiving and the autumn markets. It was a natural cycle, a symphony of growth.



*Snapdragons growing in our original greenhouses for wholesale in NYC markets - circa 1960s*

That is until Cornell University came into the picture.

In the 1950s, Cornell University's Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture began working with the Auwaerter family to develop techniques for daylight manipulation. Suddenly, mums could bloom year-round, even in the heart of summer. That revelation sparked an idea: why not open a retail flower shop? And so began our direct-to-market journey.

Through these experiences, we tapped into what mattered most: you, the customer. We became trendsetters, attuned to the desires of our community and the wider gardening world. Our community guided us, helping to shape our offerings and pushing us to innovate.

Today, Bayport Flower House thrives as a bridge between nature and your home. So next time you admire a bouquet or tend to a potted plant, remember—it's more than foliage; it's a piece of our journey, rooted in passion and nurtured by the seasons.

From cut stems to flourishing gardens, we're here because of you!



*Mums growing for wholesale in greenhouses before day light manipulation technique - circa 1960s.*



*Mums growing in our Eastern field before day light manipulation technique - circa 1960s.*



*Beginning of direct-to-market flower sales - circa 1970s*



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Joann Mancusi-Slack**  
 FLORAL DESIGN ASST. MANAGER  
*Growing With Us Since 1999*

Joann, an integral member of our floral design team since October 1999, brings boundless creativity to her craft. From curating joyful everyday arrangements to weaving dreams into reality for special occasions, Joann's touch transforms Bayport Flower Houses.

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

I joined on October 6th, 1999, seeking a fresh start after a divorce with two kids. With 9 years of floral design experience, I met Gisbert Auwaerter, who would become my boss and mentor. His motto, 'Having more fun than we are allowed to have,' made every day an adventure. Now I work alongside Karl and Christine, Gisbert's children. Christine, my manager, is a dedicated worker, committed to bringing cus-

tomers' inspirations to life. As she often says, 'Let's get it done.' I'm lucky to have been a part of the fourth generation in this family-run business.

**What is a memorable moment for you from Bayport Flower Houses?**

Among my many memorable moments, one stands out. Picture this: some colleagues were on vacation, while others were away due to maternity leave. Meanwhile, we had a flurry of weddings scheduled for a September weekend. Panic set in—I wondered how we'd manage it all. The solution? We decided to work through the night. And guess what? We did just that. From dusk till dawn, we labored tirelessly, fueled by adrenaline and determination. As morning light filtered through the windows, I couldn't help but exclaim to everyone, 'I can't believe we're still at it, working through the night and into the next day!' It was a first for me.

**What are some of your favorite cut flowers & floral designs?**

I love more of a garden feel in designs - peonies (my favorite), ranunculus, hydrangea, lilac, veronica, viburnum, and clematis are great for this style.

# Welcoming Entry

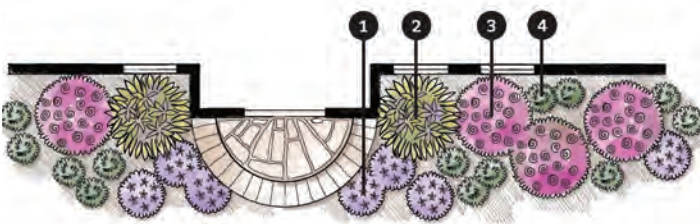
SMALL WEEKEND PROJECTS BY MONOROVIA WITH A BIG IMPACT



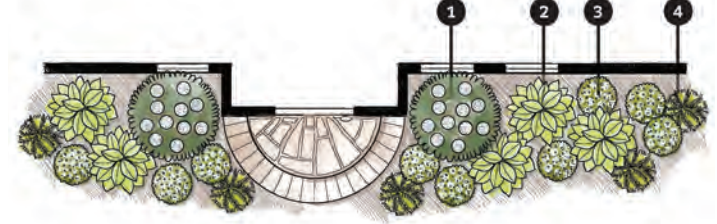
Colorful flowers and evergreen shrubs provide a vibrant, year-round display. Bright purple and pink blooms add an energizing touch.



Create an elegant entrance with a refined green-and-white plant palette for a serene and upscale atmosphere.



1. ARCTIC FALLS™ BELLEFLOWER 2. BANANA SPLIT® DAPHNE 3. EAU DE PARFUM™ BERRY ROSE 4. BOXLEAF EUONYMUS



1. SEASIDE SERENADE® BAR HARBOR HYDRANGEA 2. FRAGRANT BOUQUET HOSTA 3. SNOWSURFER™ FORTE CANDYTUFT 4. GOLDEN CREEPING JENNY



Arctic Falls™ Bellflower    Banana Split® Daphne    Eau De Parfum™ Berry Rose    Boxleaf Euonymus



Seaside Serenade® Bar Harbor Hydrangea    Fragrant Bouquet Hosta    Snowsurfer™ Forte Candytuft    Golden Creeping Jenny

All 'Welcoming Entry' materials and plans are created by Monrovia and adapted to fit this format.

Specials & Event Calendar

# April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
14	15	16  National Orchid Day	17	18	19	20 FREE ADULT CLASS 10 AM <i>All About Trees &amp; Shrubs</i> KIDS CLASS 1 PM <i>Mossy Earth Kokodema, Celebrate Earth Day!</i> \$20 P CHILD
21 FREE ADULT CLASS 11 AM <i>All About Trees &amp; Shrubs</i>	22  Earth Day! Passover Begins	23  Full Pink Moon	24 Administrative Professionals' Day! 	25	26 Arbor Day! 	27 ADULT CLASS 10 AM <i>Spring Flowering Porch Pot</i> \$65 PP
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

# May

1 <i>National Wildflower Month</i>	2 	3 Garden Meditation Day 	4 KIDS CLASS 3 PM <i>Mother's Day Tea Cup Hanging Basket Planting</i> \$30 P CHILD Bird Day! 	5	6	7	8	9	10 Public Gardens Day 	11
12 Mother's Day!	13	14	15 Bring a Flower to Someone Day 	16 National Love a Tree Day 	17	18				

For more details or to register for specials, classes, and events please visit us online at [shop.bayportflower.com](http://shop.bayportflower.com), by phone at (631)-472-0014 or in-store 7 days a week.

Thank you for being a part of our community. May your days be filled with *blossoms!*



*Celebrate Earth Day!*

**FREE CUT SEASONAL BLOOM**

Valid in-store at Bayport Flower Houses from April 22, 2024  
Only. Limit 1 unit per customer. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past purchases.

SKU: NLA1



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

**Spring Hours:**

Monday -Saturday : 8 am – 6 pm  
Sunday : 9 am – 5 pm

