



Westside Greenhouse



Prairieland Gardens

Arthur... Destination Green

(Continued from Page 1) which includes a new main entrance. Inside the front of the store you will find many supplies for your gardening needs along with pots, planters and baskets. The store also carries HyR Brix Fertilizer which is an all-natural, organic fertilizer that comes in many different formulations for tomatoes, sweet corn, fruit and all kinds of veggies; once a year application is all that is needed.

They have a large variety of tomato plants including heirloom varieties. Inside you will also find a colorful selection of flowers and bedding plants. They have large potted geraniums as well as "tropical" which include ferns.

The hanging baskets are truly some of the best around. They will even custom make your basket or floral displays for you. The wide variety of plants, the colorful selection and cus-

tomized help make Graber's a great place to shop for your gardening and landscaping needs.

Prairieland Gardens - If you turn down Prairie Street going west at the north edge of Arthur you will find a great greenhouse with a wide variety of plants and flowers about a half mile down the road. "We go to flower shows each year and love to bring back new things," says owner Alma Stutzman.

A walk down their nice wide aisles in the greenhouse and you will immediately see what she means. Colorful flowers fill the large space. From petunias and geraniums to coleus and calla lilies you will find many varieties and colors to use in your hanging baskets (they have those too), pots, planters and flower beds.

"With the changeable weather we've worried about our strawberries but the tomatoes always seem

to do fine as long as you "keep their feet warm".

Westside Greenhouse - This greenhouse was opened in 2001 and in 2011 moved into their present location just on the west side of town across from Eberhardt Park on Route 133. Westside has

one entire area dedicated to just geraniums and when you first walk in, you will say "wow"! The colors in this part alone make for an amazing display.

They also like to introduce new items of flowers and vegetables here plus they

have a nice selection of yard décor and the tools to help you keep your garden growing and producing.

You can also find a wide variety of flowers such as portulaca (rose moss) and dahlias. Hanging baskets and planters abound here as well. Westside is also well known for their friendly customer service and advice.

Why hassle with the crowds in the big box stores over limited selections. For hardy, healthy plants for your garden, beautiful hanging baskets and planters (some can be custom made) as well as a huge variety of flowers in all colors the Arthur area's unique greenhouses are the place to be. Come enjoy spring with us!



Draw inspiration from those budding crocuses and daffodils pushing through the last remnants of snow and employ these tips to prepare for the upcoming gardening season.

Get ready: Early spring landscaping tips

During the cold months of winter, many people stare longingly out of the window dreaming of spring and time spent outdoors. For those with green thumbs, images of tending to the garden and other aspects of their landscapes no doubt dominate such daydreams.

Draw inspiration from those budding crocuses and daffodils pushing through the last remnants of snow and employ these tips to prepare for the upcoming gardening season.

One of the first steps is to apply a preemergent weed killer to get a head start knocking out weeds that can plague the lawn during the growing season. Killing weeds at the roots early on can mean far fewer hassles in spring and summer, and may prevent new generations of weeds from cropping up each year.

While it may be tempting

to take a prematurely warm day as a sign that spring is in full force and purchase a bunch of annuals, it's better to know the last of the possible frost dates (check "The Farmer's Almanac"); otherwise, you may waste time and money planting flowers or vegetables only to have them zapped by another frosty day.

Amend the soil so that it is the right consistency - just crumbling when lifting it. Soil that is too muddy after spring thaw can harden, making it difficult for plants to flourish later on. Speak with representatives at a local lawn and garden center about which types of amendments you can add to the soil in your particular area to enrich it.

Lawn and garden experts at The Home Depot suggest filling in bare patches of lawn now by mixing a few shovelfuls of soil with grass seed. Then apply this patch to the bare areas, water, and continue to care for the area until the spot fills in.

Spend a day in the garage or shed tending to the lawn mower and other gardening equipment. Clean all tools and ensure that everything works, repairing parts as needed.

Give outdoor entertaining spaces a good scrubbing, clearing away dirt and grime that may have accumulated over the winter. Use a leaf blower to blow away any leftover leaves.

Check if the front porch, railings or decking need painting and/or staining. Tackle these projects when the weather is cooler so everything will be ready for those peak spring days.

Think about any annuals you might want to plant in the landscape this year that will complement any existing shrubbery or perennials. Come up with a theme so that the entire yard is cohesive.

Before homeowners know it, winter is gone and it is time to once again enjoy long days spent outdoors. Get a jump start on spring lawn prep as soon as you can.

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