**SOME GARDEN PLACES I SHOP AT IN THE DURHAM REGION:**

***Please support our local nurseries so we don’t end up shopping at box stores!***

Below is a list of nurseries where I shop. If you know of anyone in this area that you would like to add, please let me know. For anyone reading this blog out of area, these nurseries are located in Ontario, Canada, zone 5, 5b or thereabouts, most of them in the Durham region where I live. I garden on 10 acres in Whitby Ontario, in zone 5b. *Sofie*

***Below are websites of garden centres that list all the plants they sell at their nursery or by mail order.* Most allow you to pick up your order if you do not want to pay for shipping. I refer to these websites to see if they carry the plants in my presentations and include them in my “Where to Buy” column. I prefer to shop locally in the Durham region. You may find the plants I feature at many other nurseries as well.**

[**www.gardenimport.com**](http://www.gardenimport.com) Mail Order Company, Thornhill, Ont. 1-800-339-8314 Pick-up allowed – Bayview Highway 7 area.

[**www.goldenbrookhostas.com**](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com) Blackstock, Ontario (located just east of Port Perry) Mail order (Canada only) + pick up. Great website listing a huge selection of hostas with photos, prices and latest varieties. Tour their garden to see many varieties for sale.

[**http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com**](http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com) – hostas, roses, heuchera’s, astilbe, some perennials. Varieties & prices listed on website – located in Port Perry, 1670 Coates Rd. W. phone 905-985-5462, cash or cheques only

[**www.masonhousegardens.com**](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) 3520 Durham Road #1(Brock Rd), RR 4 PO Box 886 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4, south of Goodwood Rd.  
905-649-3532 – New introductions, unusual plants, perennials, grasses, vines, shrubs, tropicals, succulents, vegetables + a huge selection of heritage tomatoes. *All varieties listed on their website – this is a family owned specialty nursery. You can tour the gardens as well.*

[**www.pickeringnurseries.com**](http://www.pickeringnurseries.com) Mail order company specializing in roses – hundreds of varieties available. Located in Port Hope, you can pick up your order if you wish – call ahead. Bare root spring and fall delivery, plus potted roses once the delivery season is over.

[**www.richters.com**m](http://www.richters.comm) Goodwood, Ontario Located on Highway 47, west of Brock Road. Mail order & pick-up. For all things to do with herbs in a greenhouse setting – plants, seeds, books, & a huge selection of dried herbs & teas. Sample for free various tea mixes. Check under events on the website for free seminars presented by guest speakers in the greenhouse. All lectures are now taped & available on the website if you cannot attend. You can also order or pick up a printed catalogue.

New addition to this site [www.annasperennials.com](http://www.annasperennials.com) 63 Shoreview Road, Lindsay, Ontario, 705-799-0062 Sempervivums, winter hardy cactus, sedums, perennials and shrubs. A huge list of sempervivums (hens & chicks), unusual perennials & shrubs and evergreens

New addition to this site: [www.canningperennials.com](http://www.canningperennials.com) Mail order only but they allow pick-up if you want to drive there. 955309 Canning Rd,

RR #22 Paris, Ontario Canada N3L 3E2 Phone: 519-458-4271. Many unusual perennials, shrubs, hostas, grasses, vines, etc.

***The following websites do not list their plants so I don’t know what varieties they have for sale.* Therefore, you won’t see them listed on my “where to buy” column even though they may stock the plant**s. I will include these nurseries if I have visited in person and know they have the plants for sale.

**Century Home & Garden Greenhouses** at 1431 Hwy 7a, Port Perry ON L9L 1B5, 905-985-2672.

**Country Market Garden Centre**, 2535 Taunton Rd. E., Bowmanville, L1C 3K2, 905-263-2090 – has a good selection of perennials, roses, trees, shrubs, conifers, annuals and tropical plants at very reasonable prices. Also local produce, baked items and giftware. He always has something unique every year. No website. Brugmansias sold here.

<http://www.garden-artifacts.com> –located in Uxbridge for pond supplies, fountains, fish, koi, water plants, pots and urns, lots of garden related things. Private setting with large natural pond.

[**www.kingswaygreenhouse.com**](http://www.kingswaygreenhouse.com) Oshawa, Ontario 905-434-3851 A family run business – Plants are not listed on their website, but they have some great varieties – some of their staff are master gardeners!

**John’s Perennials,** [**http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com**](http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com) 905-862-8175, Uxbridge, ON Perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs, trees, rare conifers + more.

May not be open every day, call ahead. Check his facebook page for weekly specials. These specials are not currently listed on his website.

[h**ttp://www.ottergreenhouses.com**](http://www.ottergreenhouses.com) 315 Medd Road, Port Perry, Ontario, L9L 1B2 | (905) 852-4187 Annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, - a family owned business

**Peter Keeping**, Bowmanville, Ontario – sells unusual & hard to find **clematis** as well as perennials at very reasonable prices– Peter imports clematis from Europe/England. Phone 905-697-7842, e-mail peterkeeping@hotmail.com. Call or e-mail for his list of current clematis for sale. Peter and Sheila grow over 250 clematis on their property. They also have assorted perennials and other plants for sale. Does not have a website.

**Pineridge Garden Centre** 2215 Brock Rd, Pickering, ON L1V 2P8 905-683-5952 No website. **This nursery will no longer be in business as of Sept. 28, 2014**

[**www.rekkers.com**](http://www.rekkers.com) Rekker's Garden Centre, 2258 Regional Highway 2, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K7 905-623-2300

[**www.sheridannurseries.com**](http://www.sheridannurseries.com) Whitby location, 410 Taunton Road West, Whitby, ON L1P 2A9 905 686-0844

[**www.vandermeernursery.com**](http://www.vandermeernursery.com) 905-427-2525 588 Lakeridge Rd. S., Ajax, ON (corner of Lakeridge and Bayley). They carry a huge selection of various plants – trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, seeds, giftware, etc.

It is Wednesday, August 27, 2014

**Garden Quote:** “A nickel will get you on the subway, but garlic will get you a seat.”  Author unknown (Did we ever pay a nickel to ride the subway!!??)

**This is a very brief presentation for August 27, 2014. Please check archived presentations dated August 28, 2013 and August 22, 2012. The August, 2013 presentation has an extensive listing of perennial hibiscus, including all the new longer blooming varieties, a list of several hydrangeas, phlox and other plant categories that excel at this time of the year. You will find a great recipe for lemon basil pesto in the August, 2012 presentation as well as a huge list of annuals and perennials still flowering late August and well into September.**

***And now for some sad news:***

Another garden centre will be closing its doors this fall. Pineridge Garden Gallery, located on Brock Road, north of Highway 2 in Pickering, has succumbed to surrounding development. The nursery will close forever on Sunday, September 28, 2014 and will not be re-locating elsewhere. I will miss it.

More bad news, the very large Sheridan flagship store located in Unionville/Markham on Highway 7 just west of Kennedy Road will close as well. This nursery is also surrounded by development and the land has become too valuable to stay. The good news is that Sheridan is trying to find another parcel of land to re-locate. The closing will likely happen next year in 2015.

***A new hosta site located in Coburg Ontario*.** I met the owner of this hosta nursery at We’re in the Hayfield Now” open garden in July. Check their website for a great selection and good photos. <http://simplyhostas.ca/>

***We’re in the Hayfield Now”*** had their last open garden this year in July, 2014. This nursery specializes in daylilies. Although they will not be hosting any more open gardens, they are still open for business at their location in Orono, Ontario and by mail order. <http://www.hayfield.ca/>

**Some good news hopefully/finally re dog-strangling vine.**

Dog-strangling vine: Taken from this website <http://bcinvasives.ca/news-events/recent-highlights/agriculture-canada-releases-moth-to-eat-invasive-dog-strangling-vine>

Agriculture Canada releases moth to eat invasive ‘dog-strangling vine’ Aug. 29, 2013

Agriculture Canada has released new European moths near Ottawa because they eat dog-strangling vine, an invasive European weed. A moth, brought to North America and bred by scientists at the University of Rhode Island, the Hypena opulenta moth is a known enemy of the vine, which is taking over gardens and especially pasture land in eastern North America. The vine is toxic to most grazing animals, so they leave it alone and it spreads unchecked. It is also known as swallow-wort.

It poses a second danger: It attracts monarch butterflies, which lay their eggs on the vine instead of on milkweed plants. The emerging monarch caterpillars can’t eat dog-strangling vine. “The eggs hatch and they die,” said Richard Casagrande, an entomologist at Rhode Island. And this has been an awful year already for monarchs as their population has dropped by an estimated 90 per cent. Casagrande is one of the researchers who brought the new Hypena moth to North America as a biological weapon. “The larvae (caterpillars) of this moth defoliate the plant,” he said. “They have a couple of generations a year and are specific to the two swallow-worts (i.e. two related types.) They eat both of them but nothing else in North America.”

He has been working with Naomi Cappuccino at Carleton University. Her research field is biological controls — the use of natural enemies to control pests. The insects released near Ottawa “were large larvae to start with. They fed for a couple of days. They pupated. They’re in the ground now preparing for your winter,” Casagrande said. (The pupa is the stage during which the caterpillar will gradually transform into an adult moth with wings.)

The moths are native to Ukraine and went through a series of quarantined tests in Switzerland and later Rhode Island to make sure that releasing them here won’t accidentally allow them to kill our native plants or farm crops. Releasing imported species is always controversial because some imports have spread out of control and caused environmental harm. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has not yet approved release of the moths there, but now that they’re free in Canada they are likely to fly south regardless. Ottawa naturalist Dan Brunton calls it “ecological Russian roulette. We’re told by promoters of biological control that there’s no chance of anything going wrong. Well, almost no chance. But we only have to get it wrong once to have a major, self-made ecological problem on our hands. And nature is constantly testing its limits — that’s how evolution works — so what limits a species today may not do so tomorrow, especially when circumstances change.” Finally, some plants to look for this fall. Fall is a great time to plant perennials, shrubs, trees and spring flowering bulbs.

**Here are just a few outstanding plants growing in my garden for you to be on the lookout this fall. Try purchasing at Vandermeer’s, John’s Perennials, Garden Import, Sheridan, Mason House to name a few, see the list above for addresses and phone numbers. I would call ahead as some of the plants listed below may be sold out.**

**Shrubs:** Weigela’s can be stunning when in full bloom but rather nondescript throughout the year. **Weigela “Wings of Fire”** is definitely one to look for this fall. It goes through a colour transformation from green in the spring to shades of green and coppery russet/red throughout the summer to entirely russet/red up to frost. A must have plant, especially for smaller gardens. Another new one on the market is **Weigela “Shining Sensation”** – sporting beautiful shiny blackish foliage. Others that I grow for their excellent foliage (all spectacular when in flower) are “Wine & Roses”, “Ghost”, “Ruby D’or”, “French Lace”, Goldrush, Merlot. [http://www.plantipp.eu/en/p/plants/heester/416/Weigela-florida-Wings-of-FirePBR/#](http://www.plantipp.eu/en/p/plants/heester/416/Weigela-florida-Wings-of-FirePBR/) <http://www.plantsnouveau.com/plant/weigela-shining-sensation/> *Try Vandermeer’s, Sheridan, Kingsway or John’s Perennials.*

**Physocarpus “Amber Jubilee”** – another shrub grown for its beautiful foliage. The leaves of this new shrub in my garden have gone through several colour changes since spring - from copper and gold to shades of green and burgundy wine. Flowers are a bonus. Worth looking for. <http://www.waysidegardens.com/amber-jubileereg-ninebark/p/36264/> *Got mine at Vandermeer’s. Try other nurseries as well.*

**Lezpedeza thunbergii “Gibraltar”** – this hard to find, late blooming shrub reminds me of the spring blooming bridlewreath spirea. It will die to the ground over winter, unlike bridlewreath spirea which has woody stems. Gibralter has beautiful arching branches covered in late August/September with pink flowers. Give it lots of room. It would be an ideal shrub if you have a high spot where it can cascade over the edge. *John’s Perennials usually carries this shrub and has a nice specimen growing on the property.* He usually sells out when his comes into bloom. <http://www.sustainable-gardening.com/plants/shrubs-and-trees/lespedeza-thunbergii-bush-clover>

**Perennials:** **Bergenia “Dumbo”** – This perennial is an excellent alternative to hostas. Dumbo has huge, perfectly round, hairy leaves for shade or part shade. This plant is unlike other bergenia’s, which have smaller, smoother leaves, not as round as Dumbo. Recently planted this summer, it shows no sign of slug damage. It is one of the most talked about plants amongst growers according to John from John’s perennials. Not a great picture on this website as the leaves are much larger on a garden grown plant. *Available at John’s Perennials and Vandermeer.* <https://www.flickr.com/photos/33037982@N04/13155236053/in/photostream/>

**Coreopsis “Mercury Rising”** – I planted this variety in 2013. It is very hardy, having survived our cold winter of 2013/14. It sports red flowers with yellow centres. Although this plant is “sprawly” (up to 3 feet?), the flowers stay upright and can weave in and around surrounding perennials, unlike other floppy plants that need staking. It has been blooming non-stop all summer with many more buds forthcoming as of late August. It is sterile so no seeding about. I am very impressed with this plant and plan to plant several more in the red garden if I can find them at any of the nurseries above. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=2224>

**Coreopsis “Red Satin”** – this coreopsis has fine, threadleaf foliage with red flowers that stay red throughout the summer. It is supposed to bloom from summer until frost without seeding about as it is sterile. This is the first year for this plant in my garden and I am looking forward to another long blooming perennial, hopefully until frost (joining other exceptionally long bloomers like geranium “Rozanne”, geranium “Azure blue”, groundcover persicaria “Firetail”, clematis “Inspiration”). <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=2327>

**Heuchera “Frosted Violet “** – this is a wonderful medium sized heuchera (slightly bigger than “Rave On” in my garden) that survived last year’s severe winter and has been blooming for a long time. The tiny flowers are shades of olive green at the base, pink, and white at the tips, giving them a “twinkly” appearance or pink seed pearls as the following website suggests. Beautiful “frosty” foliage. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/view/?plant=386>

**Heuchera “Rave On”** – very aptly named, this heuchera has been blooming since mid-May and although winding down slightly, still blooming the end of August. It is excellent for smaller gardens, as it forms a neat small mound of pewter/grey leaves with green veining, with bright pink flowers. Try to plant 3 for maximum effect (look for one with lots of crowns that can be split). *Available at Vandermeer’s.* <http://www.terranovanurseries.com/gardeners/heucheraraveon-p-157.html>

**Perennial Hibiscus** – please see the presentation dated August 28, 2013 for an extensive list of the wonderful perennial hibiscus, listing many new varieties that bloom along the length of the stem, not just at the top as in older varieties. I just planted several varieties last year (2013) and am now enjoying the blooms. I have to say my favourites are “Jazzberry Jam” – with exquisite deep pink blooms (they are not magenta as suggested in the website listed below), “Cranberry Crush” – with gorgeous clear red blooms on the blue side, “Heartthrob” with deep reddish blooms with black undertones. The emerging buds of Cranberry Crush and Heartthrob are black or very deep purple depending on the light! “Blue River 11” is a very long lasting bloomer with huge pure white blooms. Be mindful that all perennial hibiscus are very late to emerge in spring – many people pull them out thinking they are dead – be patient – they are very hardy and although not necessary, will thrive in moist locations. You will find all of these favourites on this website listed on two pages -<http://www.waltersgardens.com/search/?searchterm=hibiscus&searchtype=all> Available at Vandermeer’s and other nurseries. *Most of the hibiscus listed above plus other hibiscus cultivars mentioned in the Aug. 2013 presentation are available right now at Vandermeer’s at sale prices and even higher discounts as the season progresses into fall.*

**Hosta “Rainbow’s End”** - This hosta is always admired by visitors. It is a smaller hosta, with beautiful, shiny, streaked leaves, but what I noticed today (Aug. 25th) were the bell shaped flowers – so beautiful. Normally, I do not care for the flowers of hostas, but this one is an exception. This little plant stands out in the garden. Definitely one to try to find this year. Go to the last picture on this website to see the flowers. *Try Goldenbrook hostas and John’ Perennials.* <http://www.hostaparadise.com/rainbow's-end/1983/hosta-details.aspx?hostaid=1983>

**Monarda “Raspberry Wine”** – a most beautiful, very tall monarda (4 feet), with raspberry red flowers for most of the summer. Even the top leaves below the flowers are shades of raspberry/green. It is planted in an area that is shady in the morning and sunny in the afternoon. While it has some mildew, nothing like the other monarda’s in my garden. It has “out-flowered” all the other monardas as well – still going strong late August. It spreads but is easy to pull out. It stands out from a distance and I wouldn’t be without it. Here is a great description - <http://www.rhonestreetgardens.com/2011/02/year-in-life-monarda-raspberry-wine.html> A spray for mildew that works but must be done before the mildew takes hold – 1 part skim or 1% milk, 9 parts water in a spray bottle (using a one litre plastic spray bottle - this works out to just under ½ cup of milk, then fill the rest of the bottle with water). Spray once a week on all mildew prone plants. *Came from Mason House, not sure where you can buy it now.*

**Clematis:** **Clematis Purpurea Plena Elegans:** - each burgundy flower reminds me of a double flowering chrysanthemum. Growing several feet into an Austrian Pine tree, it is one of the longest flowering clematis vines in my garden. As of this date, it is still loaded with delicate, 2inch diameter flowers. I will keep track to see when the flowers will end. <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=580> *May be available from Peter Keeping – see info. above.*

**Clematis Mrs. Harvey:** - another very long blooming clematis, flowering all summer. The drooping blue/purple flowers are quite unusual, the tepals twisting at the ends. <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=3338> *May be available from Peter Keeping – see info. above.*

**Clematis Inspiration:** - flowering since June, this is a non-climbing cultivar with pink flowers growing in tall, sturdy tomato cage. Last year, it bloomed until frost, continually producing new buds on clean, mildew free foliage. I think I like it better than my beloved “Durandii”, which has stopped flowering for the time being. *I got mine at Vandermeer’s last year and another one this year.* <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=969>

**Roast Vegetable Medley**

**I make this recipe several times a week using various combos as listed below. I never get tired of it.**

In a large bowl, put in any combination of your favourite vegetables. Drizzle with a swirl of oil, sprinkle with sea salt and pepper and toss about so all the vegetables get coated with the oil. Transfer the vegetables to a large rimmed cookie sheet, lined with parchment paper. I make sure the vegetables do not touch so they roast on all sides. Roast in a pre-heated oven at 400 degrees for approx. 30 minutes. I always use my convection oven for this recilpe, but a regular oven will do just fine. (Convection oven: temperature at 375 for 20-25 minutes).

Some ideas – any combination of: potatoes and/or sweet potato cut French fry style, halved brussel sprouts, quartered carrots or parsnips, mushrooms left whole or large ones cut in half, sliced zucchini, whole banana or cubanelle peppers or bell peppers sliced in strips, one inch thick sliced and quartered eggplant, okra, quartered red onions or cooking onions, 2 inch cubes of peeled butternut squash, sliced tomato or split cherry tomatoes, etc. Note: Parchment paper keeps veggies from sticking and makes for easy clean up.

**Lemon Basil Pesto**

**This recipe was included in the Aug. 2012 presentation but here it is again. The recipe came from this website.** [**http://thefithousewife.com/2012/05/lemon-basil-pesto.html/**](http://thefithousewife.com/2012/05/lemon-basil-pesto.html/) **It is very delicious and can be eaten without the parmesan cheese. If you freeze it, add the parmesan after thawing. I love this recipe as it only uses 2 tablespoons of oil. I grow my own garlic, planted mid to late October and harvested the following year around the end of July. I also grow my own basil.**

3 cloves garlic

¼ cup of pine nuts (I used walnuts)

3 cups fresh basil leaves

Juice and zest of 1 lemon

½ tsp. sea salt

1/8 tsp. pepper

2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil (I pure olive (combo of olive and canola oil)

¼ cup freshly grated parmesan cheese

1. In a food processor or blender, pulse garlic and pine nuts until chopped. Add basil, lemon zest, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Blend.
2. While food processor is running, slowly stream in olive oil until pesto is blended and fairly smooth. (You may have to stop the processor and use a rubber spatula to scrape down the sides.)
3. Add Parmesan cheese and gently blend until all ingredients are combined.
4. Cover and refrigerate for up to one week. (*I freeze mine, serving size, squished flat in small freezer bags which can be stacked to save space.)*