

Flower & Vegetable Gardeners Alike Win; Weekend Coupon

Vegetable Growing Contest Winners

We were delighted to field a contest in two categories, Vegetable Oddities & Largest Zucchini, in our first-ever Vegetable Growing Contest last weekend. Overall we had 17 entries and hope the contest grows next year. Everyone had fun seeing what you grew and thanks for entering!

Vegetable Oddities

[1st - Catie Forstner Guyer, beet](#)

2nd - Gene Gilman, Armenian Cucumber

3rd - Learning Center Montesorri, North Mankato, Armenian Cucumber

Largest Zucchini

1st - Richard Resch

2nd - Lori Dittner

3rd - Jean Blanck



Gene Gilman entered Armenian cucumbers.



Lori Dittner shows off her winning "Greyzini."

Best of the Bunch 2010

Donna Quick's combination was the winner of a \$40 gift card and the Winner of the [Best of the Bunch](#) title for 2010. To be eligible for the contest, you need to participate in our Make & Take Workshops last spring. We had a whopping 34 entries this year and had a tough choice voting.

To see the other winning combinations, click the link above to see photos of the containers. Donna's combination really makes use of a variety of colors and textures to last all season.

For her shade combination, Laurie Flaspeter won second place. This container must take up plenty of room on her front porch! It's been a great year for caladiums, the centerpiece of her combination.



Valerie Blumenschein captured third place with her sun combination using Proven Winners' new Supertunia Pretty Much Picasso. This plant got a lot of attention this year and it certainly has worked for Valerie.

Laurie won a \$20 gift card and Valerie won a \$10 gift card for their work. All of the photos are on display at the store for you to view and we're already planning next year's Make & Take Workshops for mid-March.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the growing season. Thanks to all of you for coming and entering the contest.



We had an unusual visitor at the store September 2. [Check it out at our blog.](#)



Plant Spring Bulbs Soon

We have a great selection of spring bulbs in the store now from tulips (above) to crocus (below), allium and daffodils.

If you want color in your garden in early spring, get your bulbs now and get planting soon.

Also, if you want to force bulbs indoors this winter, fall is the only time they are available purchase.

You can shop for single colors and varieties or combinations sure to be a hit in your garden.



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[For tips on bulb gardening, check out the ideas at VanBloem Gardens.](#)



Get control of the bugs

Before you are bothered by the fall gathering on boxelder bugs or Asian Lady beetles, we have a few suggestions.

Help control entry to homes by caulking around windows and doors and sealing other potential entry areas like cracks and holes.

You can also use insecticides to control these insects outdoors and some insecticides may be used indoors.



New on our shelves this year is a natural bio-insecticide, Box Elder B-GONE. This is an indoor/outdoor application. One of our staff members has used this successfully. It's labeled to kill on contact.

We also continue to carry the effective Enforcer BugMax for indoor and outdoor application. This product has a long carryover and so has extended control killing on contact and after the spray has dried.



Extend the Flowering Season

Extend the season of your flowering containers by adding grasses, pansies, mums and other fall color.

You can also, of course, take them indoors until they tire out or cover them in the case of cold weather. Both of these options are a bit of a hassle.

Try something new this year with a product that came on the market last year, FreezePruf, that improves plant cold tolerance by up to 9.4 degrees.

This frost protector product works on ornamentals as well as edibles. Make sure you apply it when temperatures are above 50 degrees and 8-12 hours before an anticipated freeze.

We trialed it here last fall and were pleased with the results.



Enter the Salsa Contest

Bring in your best recipe, canned or fresh, and see if it wins our Salsa Contest. We've had so many wonderful participants through the years.

There is no entry fee, we have great prizes and entries are due by 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27. Sorry, samples are not available.

Half off perennials for Growing Rewards members

[Click here for a 50% off perennials coupon](#) you must print & present to the cashier at the time of sale. This offer is for Growing Rewards members ONLY until Tuesday, Sept. 7 when the sale will open to the general public. Sorry, mums are excluded from the sale.

Can't print? Please click through for a code to present to the cashier.