Greetings!

I would like to thank everyone who attended and supported The Arboretum as part of our annual Summer Garden Party fundraiser. It was a successful event and a lovely evening in celebration of an organization we all love!

As we move into September, the month marks a time of transition. The Arboretum’s gardens look their best as our native plants are at their peak growth. Many are still in flower while others are starting to set seed and show early signs of fall color. September’s warm days remind us of summer while the cool and lengthening nights hint at the winter to come. As Gina, our Greenhouse Manager, outlines below these transitional conditions create an ideal planting time.

If you are looking to add a few more plants to your garden before the season’s end, then I invite you to our Fall Plant Sale this Saturday, September 9th during our exclusive member only time from 9am-11am. This sale will also feature plants grown by Lily of the Field (See their website here for more information). We will have a nice selection of perennials, grasses, and groundcovers
grown by our horticulture staff right here at The Arboretum or by Lily of the Field who is also based in Flagstaff. Since the plants are grown locally, you can be assured that they are fully acclimated to our conditions. If you can’t make the sale, then come out and visit The Arb’s nursery during our open hours Wednesdays- Sundays 9am- 4pm.

This Saturday September 9th, we will also be hosting our final concert of the season. Get your tickets here to enjoy the music from local favorite Ryan Biter! To learn more about Ryan and his music see his website here.

In other news, I am excited to announce that we will be embarking on repairs to our Horticulture Center this fall. Loven Contracting will be tackling the damage to the roof and fascia from our record-breaking winter while Another Plumbing Company will be removing the antiquated and broken broiler and installing a new energy efficient system. These repairs were made possible by in-kind contributions from our contractors, insurance funds, and generous donations from you! Thank you again for your support!

With gratitude,
Nate O’Meara
Executive Director

The damage to our Horticulture Center roof and fascia from this last winter’s historic snow and the broken broiler system inside the building.
September is a wonderful time to plant perennials for abundant Spring and Summer blooms

9AM-11AM Members Only
11AM-3PM Open to Public

Free Admission All Day!
10% off plants and gift shop purchases for members

Click Flyer Below to Purchase Tickets!

MOUNTAIN MELODIES CONCERT SERIES

September 9 5:00PM Food Trucks & Beer

RYAN BITER

Doors open at 4:30PM
Non-Members: $25  Members: $20
Ages 3 – 17: $10.00  Children under 3: Free
Bring a picnic or enjoy food trucks and beer

Sponsored By:

Edward Jones

FOUNDBATION
Benefits of Fall Planting
by Gina Goegan- Greenhouse Manager

While it is irresistible to plant throughout Spring and Summer, Fall is an ideal time to get perennials in the ground for next year’s garden. With our seasonal climate, the heat of summer will finally start to shift into cooler days, while the soil will remain warm enough to promote healthy root growth. In fact, 80% of a plant’s root growth happens in the late Summer/Fall. So, while you won’t see much above ground growth before the plant goes dormant in Winter, you can rest assured knowing that all the action is happening below ground. With a strong root system established, your perennials will be ready for vigorous growth come Spring. Better yet, you won’t have any transplant shock in your Spring garden- just well-established, resilient beauties. In addition to having strong plants next year, Fall planting also has the benefit of using less water. Don’t get me wrong, you will still need to water in order to establish your new garden additions, but Fall plantings will require much less watering given the days are so much cooler. Another perk, Fall brings fewer weeds and pests! Need I say more?

Plants spaced out in a Flagstaff garden for fall planting

Thank you to our Bristlecone Benefactors!

Summer Sunrises Just Got Better.
Growing Plants at the Arboretum
by Sarah Armanov- Gardens Manager

The Fall Plant Sale at the Arboretum is happening this Saturday. In preparation for this last chance to plant for the season, and general behind-the-scenes knowledge, I’ve interviewed our Greenhouse Manager, Gina Goegan. Read on to hear what Gina has to say about growing and planting nursery plants.

Q: Why do you use special soil to grow the nursery plants in? What are those little white balls in the soil?
A: We grow all our plants in sterilized soil to ensure that we are starting plants in weed, disease, and pathogen-free dirt! While it would be great if we could dig up dirt from the earth [...] it wouldn't have the proper drainage required for propagation. Speaking of drainage, those white balls are perlite (which improves drainage and helps aerate the soil).

Q: Since you're growing native plants in the Arboretum nursery, why do you fertilize the plants?
A: While native plants in the wild have access to the nutrients they need, our little native plants in those one-gallon pots need extra nourishment to keep them looking their best. We use fish fertilizer every other week and slow-release fertilizer pellets in spring to give them that little boost without pumping them with harsh fertilizers that might kill them once transplanted.

Q: How long does it take for a plant to go from propagation to being sold? How do you know when a plant is ready to sell?
A: Depends on the plant! Some are super-fast growing, like Datura or Monarda which will be ready for sale in 3 months during peak growing season and some take up to two years like most Penstemons. I deem them ready to sell when they are fully rooted to the bottom of the pot.

Q: What's the most important thing to consider when planting a plant from a nursery?
A: Ah, there are so many things, I could write an essay on this. I think the most important thing to consider is where the plant came from. It is all too easy to go for the inexpensive, flowering showstopper at the big garden centers. The folks that are growing those plants are likely getting paid extremely low wages to pump chemicals into the plants to ensure they bloom profusely so they are more 'sellable' with zero consideration for the longevity of the plant [...]. Another thing to consider, it's best to get plants into the ground before they bloom so they can establish a root system before seed production. If your new purchases have flowers, it's best to cut them off before transplanting.
Thank you to our 2023 Summer Garden Party and Season Sponsors!
Please Note: Opting out of this email will also opt you out of all communications from The Arb including membership renewals and future newsletters.