

## Inside

3

Tomatoes  
& Peppers for 2001

4,5

New Annuals and a  
New Greenhouse

6

Spring Events

Lectures, Demonstrations,  
Garden Tours and more

7

Helmut Celebrates 40  
Years at Behnke's

8

Coreopsis  
'Sweet Dreams'

A Dream-come-true for  
Perennial Gardeners!



Coming in Late May  
to Behnke's at Beltsville:

## Farmer's Market

Choose fresh,  
organically-grown  
vegetables and fruits,  
homemade breads,  
pastries and more!

## Baysafe: Native Plants, Native Perennials

— by Larry Hurley, Perennial Plant Specialist

**G**ardening tastes, like others, proceed in cycles and the usual marketplace factors of supply and demand follow the cycles. In 1984, when I began my Behnke career as a grower of perennials at our Largo nursery, there was little demand for native plants, and not much product to fulfill the demand that existed. We had a relationship with a Maryland-licensed plant collector who rescued native plants from areas about to be bulldozed. In the fall, we potted a couple of thousand plants. In the spring we sold those that survived. Over the years, awareness of the value of incorporating native plants into our home landscapes has grown and there are now a number of small wholesale nurseries growing native plants. Many of these nurseries provide landscape and environmental restoration companies with plants to revegetate damaged lands; wetlands, mine dumps, and so forth. Others grow "starter" plants for other growers and "finished" plants for retail sales. The advantage is that these are nursery-propagated plants rather than wild-collected plants. The chances of survival are better, and the ethical dilemma of exactly where the plants were collected becomes moot. In developing our partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay—Bayscaping with Baysafe products—we have been working with some of these nurseries and our own production staff to increase our offerings of Maryland native plants. 2001 is our kickoff year for the program, and plants being what they are, they take time to grow. We expect a greater availability of species and higher quantities in 2002 and beyond. In general, those that are sun plants will be more available than shade plants, because many native woodland shade species are very slow-growing. Orchids or trilliums may take 5 or more years to reach flowering size, while asters or goldenrods will take only a season.

We hope you will join us by adding native plants to your landscapes. Natives have some advantages when compared to non-natives. When matched to the proper site, they are adapted to our climate and soils; plus, they provide food and shelter for native animals. Not just adorable little Disney-style birds and mammals, but also insects and other smaller critters. An important aspect of planting native plants is the idea of tolerance of some feeding damage to the plants. We don't want to coax native animals into our backyards and then annihilate them. (Identification of "feeders" should proceed any actions you might take. Gypsy moth caterpillars? Japanese beetles?? Heave ho! Monarch



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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**

Sonja Behnke Festerling

**MANAGING EDITOR:**

Judith Conway

**HORTICULTURAL ADVISOR:**

Larry Hurley

**LAYOUT/DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION:**

Lori Hicks

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:**

Mike Bader

Randy Best

Judith Conway

James Dronenburg

Lori Hicks

Larry Hurley

Helmut Jaehnigen

Melodie Likel

Steven Mott

Susan O'Hara

Gene Sumi

Chris Upton

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"BaySafe: Native Plants, Native Perennials" from page 1

butterfly caterpillars on your butterfly weed? That's one of the reasons you planted it in the first place.)

The broadest definition of a native plant is a plant that grew in North America before the European invasion. In our Baysafe program, we will be offering plant species that are native to Maryland. The plants are seed-produced or asexually-produced by cuttings or other means. Seed-produced plants, such as many of the trees, will be variable, while asexually-produced plants will be genetically identical to the parent plant from which the cuttings were taken. If your concern is to encourage genetic diversity, then you would wish to buy seed-produced plants. Where possible, we will obtain plant material from mid-Atlantic growers, because we live in the Mid-Atlantic region.

If you require a specific, predictable characteristic in a plant, such as red fall color in a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), then you may wish to consider a cultivar (or cultivated variety) of a native plant, such as *Acer rubrum* 'Red Sunset'. You will find many outstanding cultivars of asters, for example, in our Perennial Department. Our cultivars will not carry the Baysafe logo.

I am not a purist. I will probably hold onto my hostas and with the same vigor that Charleton Heston holds onto his rifles. But, by removing or avoiding the more invasive non-natives, and planting a selection of natives in your garden, you will be helping to maintain native animals and also helping to maintain a local character to our gardens. Do we really want to see the same azalea in every garden from Birmingham to Frostbite Falls?

What are some good Maryland native perennials to start with? If you have a moist area, try royal fern, cinnamon fern, interrupted fern, or ostrich fern. In normal garden soil they grow very nicely, and up to three or four feet tall where the soil stays damp all of the time. They prefer afternoon shade, maybe a few hours of morning sun. (For full shade and well-drained soil, the evergreen Christmas fern is hard to beat. Consider placing them at the base of trees or as accents in a bed with non-natives, such as hosta.) (Note: our fern selection tends to be best in May and June.)

Break the English ivy habit! English ivy is an invasive nuisance in many situations: you really should avoid it if you live near a park or right of way. It winds up moving into the woods, climbing and damaging trees and creating a ground cover so dense that native wild flowers cannot penetrate it. We will be posting a list of suggested native and non-native substitutes for English Ivy on our web site, and also on signs at our nurseries. Or try wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*, which makes a dense ground cover, but is not evergreen. It also has an interesting flower, but it is borne at ground level and you have to hunt for it. It's great if you are an ant with a well-developed sense of aesthetics.

If you have mostly sun, purple asters and goldenrod provide late-summer color. As you no doubt know, goldenrod gets the blame for hay fever. Ragweed blooms at the same time as goldenrod, but the flowers are not showy, hence, goldenrod gets the blame. You may have similar stories to relate about your little brother when you were growing up.

For mostly-sunny, evenly moist areas, the cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*, is a great summer bloomer, and its red flowers attract hummingbirds. It also has a blue-flowered cousin, the great blue lobelia, *L. siphilitica*. Lobelias tend to be short-lived, but will self-seed. A great plant for butterflies is the swamp milkweed, or *Asclepias incarnata*, with showy pinkish-red summer flowers.

For more information you may wish to visit the website of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, [www.acb-online.org](http://www.acb-online.org). □

*Lobelia cardinalis*



## Early Pepper Varieties

— by Peter the Pepper Master

**Y**ou may feel overwhelmed by the selection of pepper varieties available at Behnke's this spring. Most American gardeners go right for the big bell peppers which are the most familiar. These blocky, thick-fleshed peppers take a long time to mature, but they're worth the wait. Their ripe colors of yellow, orange or red are gorgeous, and they're full of sweetness and flavor. We'd like to suggest that you also try some lesser-grown pepper types while you're waiting for your big bells to ripen. Plant diversity will help ensure success and give you more from your garden.

The early pepper varieties tend to be indeterminate types, meaning fruit is continually produced instead of maturing all at once. Pick fruit regularly starting with the largest pepper pods first to encourage continuing production of more fruit. Early varieties peak early and produce until the end of the growing season. The early peppers are great in salads and pickle well because of their thin flesh. They can be fried or grilled but will burn easier than a thick-fleshed bell. Thin walled, early fruits do not store as well and will dry out more quickly than the thick-fleshed peppers. The quick growing time means the fruits are lower in sugar than the slower-maturing fruit. These trade-offs, however, allow the gardener to enjoy sweet peppers earlier, and, with luck, just as your early varieties peak the later-maturing varieties will ripen and you can continue to enjoy delicious sweet peppers until fall.

All peppers and tomatoes must have warmth to grow. Plant no pepper (or tomato) before its time—which in the Washington D.C. area is late April to early May (earlier in the city, later in the suburbs). Planting too early may permanently damage plants.



## Tomatoes for 2001

Spring is on its way and tomato gardeners are anxious to select the varieties for this year's garden. Behnke's growers have started an early crop of tomato plants for those of us who like to make our choices early in the season. These varieties will be available the second week in April. Some are in limited supply and may sell out early.

**French Rose** - A variety that our customers rated number two at last year's Tomato Taste-Off. The early-maturing, large pink fruits have the distinctive taste of heirloom varieties.

**German Giant** - Huge, heirloom, beefsteak-type, deep pink tomatoes. The fruit are larger, earlier and more plentiful than Brandywine with a rich, sweet flavor.

**Green Grape** - Back by popular demand! Large cherry-sized, amber-green fruit grow on short, compact vines. The flavor is sweet and juicy, perfect for snacks or salads.

**Sioux** - Introduced in 1944, this sweet yet tangy slicing tomato is gaining popularity again with the interest in heirloom tomatoes. It is a prolific producer that is perfect in salads and sandwiches.

**Azoychka** - A Russian heirloom, deep yellow beefsteak with a surprisingly delicious, tangy citrus flavor.

**Vita-Gold** - Salad tomato with loads of beta-carotene. Vita-Gold matures early and yields lots of fruit on a compact plant with excellent disease resistance.

**Red Currant** - The tiniest, red tomato that we've ever tried. Though only a third to a half inch in diameter, these little beauties are filled with sweet tomato flavor. The plants are tall and loaded with fruit that holds very well on the vine.

**Fargo** - Sweet, little, yellow pear/plum tomatoes that will add color to any salad or provide a handy snack for hungry gardeners. Fargo grows on shorter vines than most cherry types and still yields baskets full of tasty fruit.

This year we will also offer tomato varieties that we have grown from seed imported direct from Italy. These varieties will produce a true taste of Italy at your table. One of our favorites:

**Principe Borghese** - The traditional, Italian sun-dried tomato. The small egg-shaped fruit have a wonderful blend of sweet and tart flavors that are concentrated when they are halved and allowed to dry in the summer sun or in a food dehydrator.

All these varieties, plus fourteen others, including our very own Belgian Giant tomatoes, will be available starting the second week in April at all our locations. Starting the third week of April our entire selection of 44 varieties will be available!



# Change is In the Air at our Be

Until fairly recently, the world of annual bedding plants was pretty sedate. Seed companies continued to produce better varieties every year: pansies that were more heat tolerant, begonias with bigger flowers— but it was hard to work up a lot of enthusiasm. That has changed with several trends: specific to annuals, we have the appearance of a number of cultivars that are propagated from cuttings rather than seed; throughout ornamental horticulture, we are seeing a tendency toward “branding” plants.

Branding is the attempt by a company to better define itself in the marketplace, to get its name known by the consumer and make its particular product stand out. The Flower Fields and Etera are two companies that have spent a lot of money trying to make themselves household names to the gardening public. (If you know who they are and what they do, they have succeeded). At Behnke’s, we do this ourselves: we grow the best poinsettias in the world, as far as we are concerned. We offer them as “Behnke Signature Poinsettias”. We may discuss this further some time: there are all sorts of additional things wrapped into branding, including the patenting of plant cultivars, and trade-marking plant names.

Cutting-propagated plants are genetically identical, and will have advantages in some species where uniformity or propagation by seed is a problem. “Proven Winners” is a collection of plant varieties which originate with specialty breeders. They are trialed, and if judged successful, they are sold to growers around the country. Many are sold specifically to be attractive when used in hanging baskets and patio containers. How a grower (such as Behnke’s) chooses to produce the Proven Winners once on site will ultimately affect the quality of the plant offered to the gardener. They all “start equal,” but superior growing yields superior product.

New this year from the Proven Winners Series include:

The full line of Million Bells (*Calibrachoa*) petunias. These are extremely floriferous and bloom right up to frost. But, best of all, these petunias are self-cleaning (this means that the spent flowers drop off cleanly). Look for these in shades of yellow, red, pink, terra cotta, purple and white.

SunScape daisy, *Osteospermum* ‘Orange Symphony’: a daisy that looks like orange sherbert. Perfect to get the summer garden off to a great start. These daisies like the cooler weather of spring. The SunScape daisy is also available in yellow and creamy white.

*Torenia* ‘Summer Wave Blue’, a free-flowering torenia that cascades beautifully. It will perform well in shade to full sun.

Mounding helichrysum (straw flower) in a soft, bright yellow is another addition to our palette. Available in ‘Gold Sundaze’, ‘Lemon’ and ‘Pink Sundae’, these are better summer performers than others we’ve grown in the past.

From The Flower Fields:

A new Bacopa line that perform beautifully in both semi-shade and hot sunny areas. Try the new ‘African Sunset’ in a vivid red, and ‘Olympic Gold’, white flowers with yellow foliage!

A Bacopa-type flower called Sutera is available in ‘Candy Floss’ and ‘Penny Candy’. These plants will produce a mass of color that will cascade all summer long.

Verbena - A favorite in the garden for generations, we are pleased to be able to offer the new ‘Twilight’ verbena, with huge, variegated flower clusters, available in light pink and light blue — both with white eyes.

Portulaca (moss rose)- Everyone’s favorite for hot, dry areas — we are offering a large, double-flowered, ‘Double Yubi’, in white, pink, and the warm colors of yellow, orange and reds. The delicate flowers of the ‘Double Yubi’ series have a fluffy, pom-pom center.

But not all great new annuals are “branded.” Other introductions to our offerings for this season include some of my favorites:

An expanded line of the popular, sun-loving coleus. The collection includes such colorful varieties (and colorful names) as ‘Cranberry Salad’, ‘Inky Fingers’, ‘Florida Sun Splash’ and ‘Black Beauty’.

Variegated Artemesia makes its debut this year. This plant has bright green and yellow variegated foliage, unlike the traditional silver-grey of dusty miller.

‘Gallery’ dahlias have some of the largest flowers I have ever seen on semi-dwarf plants. These plants, available in an array of bright colors, are great for both the mixed border and for containers.

Dahlietas are silver-dollar sized miniature dahlias on small plants.

These could be used in the front of the border, or think what charming centerpiece they would make!

A new vinca vine with a bright yellow-gold leaf that sports a bright green margin will add a spark of color to shady containers.

A new sweet potato vine is called



# Beltsville Store in Spring of 2001

'Ace of Spades'. This vine has a dramatic black leaf shaped like an ace of spades. This can't help but add drama to any planting!

...and, last but not least, trailing snapdragons will be available in shades of pink, yellow, rose, primrose and white. These are excellent for window boxes and porch/patio container gardens. □



## New Sunny Annuals Greenhouse

— Steven Mott Seasonal Plant Department Manager

The Seasonal Plant Department is thrilled to have a spacious new greenhouse that is ideal for sunny annuals. This new greenhouse features easier access for shoppers. The crystalline glazing and higher ceiling create an airy atmosphere. We have already seen much success with the pansies that have enjoyed their new winter home. They have produced huge blossoms.

The glass façade is welcoming to visitors and offers a wonderful view of a myriad of flowering plants. Nearby access to parking allows for easy shopping. With the addition of check out stands in the spring this will be an ideal place to acquire those plants you've been dreaming of all winter!

This new facility will allow our annuals to be consolidated by their growing requirements. All sunny annuals will be available in this new greenhouse and the open area adjacent. All shady annuals will be consolidated in the main greenhouse area. This will make finding a particular sun or shade plant much easier.

The new greenhouse features Lexan, a lightweight, space-age plastic developed by G.E. laboratories. This plastic is very strong for its weight and completely transparent. This plastic is similar to that which is used in bulletproof vests. The clear glazing allows for maximum light penetration that sun-loving plants require.

Other features include louvers at the peaks of the roof that allow for cooling air circulation and the removal of excess heat. The new greenhouse also employs louvers at either end, adding in cross ventilation. These benefits will allow us to create ideal growing conditions to maintain beautiful plants, and more comfort for our customers.

The new greenhouse is a very pleasant place for casual seminars and demonstrations. With the added square footage it's ideal for displays to spark creativity. The wider aisles and new ramps make for smooth operation of shopping carts.

The new sunny annual greenhouse is a welcome addition to Behnke's Beltsville. It will help bring Behnke's high quality plants to successful gardeners. Come see the new greenhouse soon!

## New Checkout Area at Beltsville

As part of our remodeling efforts to facilitate traffic flow and make your checkout experience more expedient at Behnke's in Beltsville, we have relocated our cashier stations to the Shady Annual Greenhouse. We have arranged it so that you will be able to take your purchases to the next available cashier during the busy spring season, rather than queuing up for a particular cashier, and we believe that this will make every purchase go more smoothly. In addition, the exits by the registers lead directly to the South Parking Lot. An added bonus — while you are waiting to check out you'll be surrounded by our beautiful Behnke-quality flowers. Our "Mall" area will now contain garden accessories, plants, cut flowers and arrangements in the European market style. If all of this rearranging seems confusing, our familiar information station will remain in the center of the mall to answer questions and point you in the right direction. Visit us early (and often!) to see all the new items Behnke's has to offer.



## Free Spring Garden Talks

Join us for these informal talks on many interesting topics. Simply drop in at your convenience and meet in the described area.

### *In Beltsville*

#### **HARVESTED HERBS IN THE HOME**

*Saturday, March 31, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Tips for harvesting, drying and storing herbs for fragrant tea, sachets, and potpourri.  
Talk and demonstration.

#### **A HOW-TO-PLANT PRIMER**

*Saturday, April 7, at 8AM, with Gene Sumi*  
Meet at the Main Nursery Entrance. Basic bed preparation and planting techniques will be demonstrated.

#### **FLOWERING BULBS FOR SUMMER COLOR**

*Saturday, April 7, at 9AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet in the new Sunny Annual Greenhouse adjacent to the perennial area (follow the "green vine" on the floors). An informal talk will introduce a color calendar to use as a planting guide.

#### **BAYSAFE TOUR**

*Sat, April 14, at 8AM, with John Peter Thompson*  
Meet in the BaySafe Area of the Woody Plants Department. Discover the diversity of native plants that will help protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **THE LANGUAGE OF ROSES**

*Saturday, April 21, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet in the Rose Area. The proper care of roses will be discussed, as well as an interesting history of the meaning of rose colors.

#### **A COLOR CALENDAR OF PERENNIALS**

*Saturday, April 28, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet in the rear of the Perennial Area. Stagger long-blooming perennials to span the entire growing season.

#### **HEIRLOOM TOMATOES**

*Saturday, May 5, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet in the Vegetable Area on Wicomico Avenue. Learn to grow heirloom tomatoes, considered by many to be the best-tasting tomatoes ever.

#### **ATTRACTING BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES WITH NATIVE PLANTS**

*Saturday, May 12, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet at the Flowering Shrub Gazebo. Attract wildlife while supporting our program to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE ORGANIC**

*Saturday, May 19, at 8AM, with Gene Sumi*  
Meet in the Perennial Information Area. Identify beneficial insects in your garden. Control the destructive pests with methods that are not harmful to the environment.

#### **PLANTS FOR POTS AND BASKETS**

*Saturday, May 26, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet in the Perennial Information Area. Many annual and perennial plants work especially well in containers. We'll identify them for you, and demonstrate design and planting techniques.

#### **CLEMATIS**

*Saturday, June 2, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet in the Perennial Information Area. Achieve success with the "Queen of Flowering Vines," and learn about many different varieties.

#### **EXOTIC EDIBLES**

*Saturday, June 9, at 8AM, with Randy Best*  
Meet in the Perennial Information Area. Have fun with horticulture! Grow delicious, yet obscure crops, such as paw paw, figs, and kiwi.

### *In Potomac*

#### **BAYSAFE TOUR**

*Sat, April 21, at 8AM, with John Peter Thompson*  
Meet in the BaySafe Area of the Woody Plants Department. Discover the diversity of native plants available that will help protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

### *In Largo*

#### **BAYSAFE TOUR**

*Sat, April 28, at 8AM, with John Peter Thompson*  
Meet in the BaySafe Area of the Woody Plants Department. Discover the diversity of native plants available that will help protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

## NEW! Delightful Garden Tours

Behnke's is pleased to announce a new opportunity for gardeners! We've teamed up with Elaine Evans, of **Delightful Garden Tours** ([www.delightfulgardentours.com](http://www.delightfulgardentours.com)). Elaine has been taking landscape professionals and avid gardeners on tours around the world for years, always getting rave reviews. She selects each garden (many are private gardens) based on its quality of design, distinctive style, character and extraordinary plant combinations.

#### **A DAY OF GARDENS**

Join us for a day-long feast for the senses with other gardening enthusiasts as we tour some of our area's most inspiring gardens. You'll return exhilarated with new and exciting ideas for your own garden.

*Wednesday, June 13, 2001, 9AM to 4:30PM*  
\$70.00 per person\* (maximum 40 guests)

#### **GARDENING BY DESIGN**

Do you feel your yard could use a serious make-over? Do you want to learn the basics of good garden design? This workshop offers an entirely new approach to understanding the essentials of good garden design. Visit three private gardens and discover how to:

- evaluate a site
- balance hardscape and plants
- divide space into different garden rooms
- create a unified artistic design

This 6-hour workshop analyzes how a garden's style uses the design tools of focal points, textures, contrast, movement, perspective, and symmetry.

*Wednesday, July 18, 2001, 9AM to 4:30 PM*  
\$85.00 per person\* (maximum 40 guests)

\*Tuition includes bus travel to the various gardens from Behnke Nurseries at Beltsville, Maryland, and a delightful box lunch.

Please register as soon as possible by calling 301-937-1100.



## Gartenmeister Helmut Jaehnigen Celebrates 40 Years at Behnke's

**H**elmut was born in a small village near Berlin, and grew up during the frightful years of World War II. Says Helmut, "Memories of nightly bombing raids and battles all around us are etched in my memory forever."

Helmut completed an apprenticeship at a local nursery in the early 1950's and continued his education, with the goal of becoming a *Gartenmeister*, in West Germany, Switzerland and Sweden, and attended a Horticultural Meister School in Heidelberg. After receiving his degree, he desired to spend at least one year working in the U.S.A. before embarking on his career.

"That's how I came to Behnke's in the spring of 1961. There were only about 3-6 full timers and some part-timers, and everybody did just about everything —from plant propagation and growing to selling. I liked the selling best, the contact with customers. At the time, both the general landscaping of homes and the plant selection at nurseries were meager. But all that changed as the economy grew and as the Washington Beltway opened —bringing more and more customers to Behnke's."

After some time, Albert Behnke gave Helmut the opportunity to select and buy the plants the Nursery could not grow for lack of space. Helmut used the opportunity to broaden the selection of plants, making it more interesting for his customers.

"Behnke's became my second home. I could hardly wait to get to work in the morning. During the slow season Mr. Behnke offered me the chance to travel all over the United States to seek out more interesting and unusual plants which we could offer for sale. I thoroughly enjoyed these trips, and I am very proud of the selection of woody plants that Behnke Nurseries has carried for the last 30 years.

"Even more enjoyable was watching Behnke's grow from a small family business to one of the most successful garden centers anywhere. Nurserymen from all over the world have come to visit Behnke's. "But best of all are the personal relationships I've made with MY customers over the years. I've helped people select plants for their first, second, and even third homes — and their children's homes! A few people who have moved out of the area still make a yearly trip back to Behnke's for the superior service and selection. It's always such a pleasure to see them, and very flattering that they still want to buy my plants. As large as the company has grown — now three locations with over 300

employees in season — I shall never forget that my success, and the success of Behnke Nurseries, was only possible because of our customers' loyalty.

"I've had a most rewarding and fulfilling life here at Behnke's. But now, after 40 years, the next generation will take over the buying of plants, and I look forward to being more available for customer service in Beltsville. Come and see me!

"As I slow down, I'll have more time to spend with my wife, Linda, and do more of what I've always enjoyed — traveling all over the world in general, and hiking and mountain climbing in particular. In other words, it's time to smell the roses!"

*Editor's Note: You're invited to congratulate Helmut on his anniversary, Friday, May 4, at a reception in his honor at Behnke's Beltsville location. Enjoy light refreshments as you reminisce with Helmut. Please plan to join us.*

*Helmut is always happy to wrap the big ones!*

*Helmut and Albert Behnke in a rose test garden.*



*Beltsville: 301-937-1100 • Potomac: 301-983-9200 • Largo: 301-249-2492*

## Sweet Dream Baby, How Long Must I Dream?

— by Randy Best, Perennial Plant Specialist

**N**ot much longer! Behnke Nurseries has found what we believe is one of the most beautiful perennial introductions in years, *Coreopsis* 'Sweet Dreams'. I discovered it at the Perennial Plant Association meeting in Toronto. 'Sweet Dreams' was among the trial perennials being shown by Adrian Bloom at his *Blooms of Bressingham* booth. When I saw them I did a classic "double take" —the plants just jumped out at me. I had never seen such an exceptional, large flowered variety of coreopsis, and they looked magnificent grown in containers.

I "wheeled and dealt" and was able to obtain a small number of these exceptional plants to debut at Behnke's last fall, to the rave reviews of area gardeners. We bargained a bit more, and were able to secure sufficient numbers of 'Sweet Dreams' this spring to provide you with what we believe is one of the best perennial introduction in years.

What makes it so special? Well, the combination of colors in the flowers and foliage make a dramatic statement. The large daisy-like flowers stay open all day long, and the flower starts out with a raspberry-red center with white petals. As the flower matures it gets more and more of the raspberry stippling, until the entire flower is almost a deep pink with a raspberry center. This changing of flower color makes for masses of raspberry, pink and

white all over the entire plant at one time — an exciting color palette throughout the season.

The very fine texture of the crisp green foliage really adds another dimension to the garden landscape, and works well with many other annuals and perennials.

### *Growing 'Sweet Dreams'*

*Coreopsis* grows in full sun and does well in our hot summers. Once established they are very drought-tolerant. The fast-growing clumps will fill in quickly and in one season may easily double in size, forming a dense, two-foot wide plant.

*Coreopsis* 'Sweet Dreams' will bloom from late spring to midsummer in this area. After the initial blooming season is finished, around mid-July, they can be sheared back, and will give you nice clean foliage that adds a textural interest in the garden. 'Sweet Dreams' will flower again in the fall.

### *Designing with 'Sweet Dreams'*

I would suggest using it in a mixed border of colorful annuals and perennials. Its height makes it ideal for the front or middle of the perennial border. I might suggest a nice combination of 'Sweet Dreams' with black-eyed Susans, perovskia, *Echinacea* 'Magnus', 'White

Swan' or 'Finale' for height, and blue-flowering plumbago in front. Or try combining 'Sweet Dreams' with garden sages, cosmos, white marigolds, blue ageratum, and blue lobelia. And, as an added bonus, remember that they are outstanding plants for the container gardens on your porch, patio, or deck. It makes a good, fairly long-lasting cut flower for bouquets. Use it to fill out bouquets with fine foliage and multiple blooms. □



Beltsville, MD

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**Coming In Late May**

**Farmer's Market at the Beltsville store...**

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