



CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER

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Short n Sweet Phlox



New Varieties Available

The traditionally tall garden phlox can feel a little overwhelming in a small space. New varieties are now shorter with that same bountiful bloomtime. In the words of Bob Barker, "Come on down," Bambini and Babydoll Phlox.

The Bambini series is a compact version of the beautiful flower. They prefer a part-sun to part-shade area. They can tolerate more sun with adequate moisture. Better breeding is showing more resistance to powdery mildew. Zone 3, 12" tall and 24" wide. Get them before they

are gone! I know I will!

The Game of Cut and Wait

Clematis Wilt

Have you ever had a Clematis absolutely loaded with buds and then WHAM! The next time you check it it seems to be withering and dying? What is happening?

Unfortunately, it sounds like a Fungus called Clematis Wilt. Clematis Wilt is a rather sudden fungus that attacks in the heat and humidity of our summer season. It can quickly attack, killing your entire vine in just a few short days. The odd part is, even though it will kill the vegetative growth for one season, the next year the vine can sprout normal green growth. According to the International Clematis Society this fungus will very rarely completely kill the plant.

We have several beautiful Clematis planted on our property and have noticed this problem before. We often clean the tops of the vine off and see new growth the following season. There is very little you can do to prevent this disease. It is always best to limit the disruption to the plant and clean out any infected debris if you do find a plant does have Wilt.

There has been mention of using a Copper Fungicide to aid in prevention although I have found conflicting evidence. For me, I always have the fungicide on hand, so a quick spray to **hopefully** prevent seems like an easy enough plan to me. And don't forget to **WAIT!** Next year your perennial vine should be just fine, so don't dig it up. Just be patient.





Prepping Your Garden for Small Fruits

We all know that Blueberries, Strawberries, and Raspberries are very different fruits. But did you know they are actually very similar to grow?

These delicious fruits all prefer to be planting in an acidic soil. If you test your soil for acidity it should read in the 4.5 range for blueberries, 5.5-6.5 for Strawberries and Raspberries.

You can amend your soil a few ways: fertilizers, soil amendments, and placement. Fertilizers are not only the fastest way to amend the soil, but also highly effective.

Jack's Classic Acid Special (17-6-6) is a fertilizer designed to reduce the pH in your soil allowing the plant to absorb more iron and other trace elements. We love the Jack's brand of fertilizer because it feeds your plant and your soil. Win/Win.

Miracid by Miracle-Gro is a quick synthetic fertilizer that will push a lot of new growth in a short amount of time (30-10-10). Miracid will you give you the quickest results, but will not provide long term results for your soil.

Soil amendments are a great way to give long term results, but do take a longer time to show results. Using pine needles as a mulch will help retain moisture and also decompose creating an acidic soil. The same idea is true for pine saw-dust.

The easiest way to put the small fruits in their correct pH soil? Plant next to evergreens! The soil is already acidic due to natural shedding of needles and their breakdown.

All three fruits do require full sun, plenty of well-drained moisture, and a little spring care.

Raspberries will need to be de-caned every year. The first year canes do not produce fruit. The second year they produce fruit and then it dies out, thus needing to be cleaned at the end of the season.

A **strawberry** patch needs to be cared for in the spring as well. We suggest removing the flowers the first season so the energy goes to the root system rather than fruit production. On June-bearing strawberries the runners should be removed as well.

The second year they can have the freedom to run as much as they wish. For day neutral and everbearing strawberry plants, the removal of buds and runners should occur until July 1st of year one (strawberryplants.org). They naturally don't put out as many runners as June-bearers. Instead, they focus their energy on producing multiple strawberry harvests. A strawberry bed should always be mulched to help retain moisture and help with weed suppression.

Blueberries need to have 1-2" water per week for best fruit production. Keep the birdies out of your fruit by netting them just before they ripen. If you feel the need to due a ge

Thank you joining us on Open House and Mother's Day weekend! Don't worry, if you had to miss out we will refresh again this week!

Lots of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs are still on their way!

All Cole Crops Buy Two Get One Free!



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