



**CEDAR RIVER GARDEN CENTER**

2889 PALO MARSH RD PALO, IA 52324

**319.851.2161**

[WWW.CEDARRIVERGARDENCENTER.COM](http://WWW.CEDARRIVERGARDENCENTER.COM)



## Employee Picks

On yet another cold and cloudy day I was struggling to find inspiration to write about, so I asked my fellow co-workers to inspire me. Below is a list of staff favorites for annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees.

### Sun Annual

#### **Portulaca**

Sandy - cashier/gift department

This tough plant loves the heat and it blooms all summer! It is great around my pool.

Pro-tip: Prefers a sandy soil, although it can handle any well-drained soil.

## **Bidens**

Tess - annual/perennial department - container designer extraordinaire

The bright yellow blooms are heat tolerant, bold, and vibrant. The plant mounds and flows well in containers. It combines great with Black and Bloom Salvia.

## **Shade Annual**

### **Dragon Wing Begonia**

Molly - annual/perennial department

Molly's favorite color in this family is pink. She loves this plant best in hanging baskets. She said they fill out beautifully, bloom forever, and don't get enough credit!

## **Sun/Shade Annual**

### **Coleus**

Jen - hard goods buyer, cashier, vast knowledge in tropical plants

The textures and colors are great. They can go sun to shade depending on the variety.

## **Tropical**

### **Bromeliad**

Jen - hard goods buyer, cashier, with a vast knowledge in tropical plants

Jen loves the Bromeliads for the way they reproduce. The side shoots are called pups. They come in a variety of colors. The softer leaved Bromeliads prefer a filtered sunlight. Did you know that the Pineapple is the one and only edible Bromeliad?

## **Sun Shrub**

### **Lilac**

Dave P. - tree/shrub department

Dave is a sucker for the beautiful scent and pretty blooms. He also appreciates how low maintenance they are.

### **Miniature Snowflake Mockorange**

Heather - landscape designer, manager, author of the emailer

This incredibly fragrant shrub blooms in late May. The white flowers glow in the moonlight. In full hot sun, you may want to give it a drink in a drought year, otherwise it is cold hardy and very adaptable to sun or shade. Trim immediately after flowering. Deer resistant.

## Sun Perennial

### **Betony**

Heather - landscape designer, manager, author of the emailer

The tidy plant looks great in full sun to part-shade. It is a true June bloom lasting up to four weeks under the right conditions. The Dwarf Betony is a reliable cold hardy perennial that keeps its leaves through the winter providing a bit of late season green. The bloom color is a pinkish purple.

### **ALL LILIES**

Tracy - annual/perennial department, Lily addict

"The blooms give me joy." On a more practical note, the Lily family is super easy care and very durable. Tracy has over 75 varieties of Daylily, Oriental, and Asiatic Lilies. She views the Daylilies as an indestructible go anywhere type of perennial. She was also quoted as saying, "There is more than Stella De Oros, people!" It sounds to me like she wants to talk Daylilies with some customers. Stop in to share her passion.

### **Bearded Iris**

Loretta - perennial buyer

The scent and wide variety of colors make this family a favorite.

### **Bearded Iris**

Sandii - veggie department, perennial department

The wide variety of colors draw in Sandii too! She loves the deep purple that looks almost black.

## Shade Perennial

### **Hosta**

Linda - annual/perennial department, Hosta lover

With over 100 varieties of Hosta, it is safe to say Linda is hooked! She loves how each one is unique. It could be varying sizes, colors, textures, blooms etc. She also belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution and enjoys

collecting Hosta's that have historic names relating to her theme.

### **Solomons Seal and Bleeding Heart**

Molly - annual/perennial department, refuses to stick to the rules of choosing one plant :)

The textures of the blooms and toughness of the plants draw her in. Molly lives in the country and needs hardy plants. The blooms of the Bleeding Heart remind her of an Egyptian Princess. Both plants are also deer resistant.

## **Produce**

### **Goliath Jalapeno**

Paula - veggie department

Paula uses this larger sized Jalapeno to draw in her family during visits. She loves to mix up her "stuffing" for her poppers and bake it in a dish and use the fresh halved peppers as the cracker. She said it is great to have a beer with and just visit. No need to individually stuff each pepper, serve the cream cheese mixture in the dish and enjoy!

### **Highlander Onion**

Cindy - veggie department head (Veggie Queen)

Although Cindy isn't much of a fresh onion eater, she loves this variety in cooked dishes. They are reliable producers of softball sized bulbs with great taste.

### **Red Oxheart Tomato**

Conni - veggie/annual/perennial department

This tomato is great for salsa and other canning recipes.

### **Juliet Tomato**

Bev O. - cashier

This plant is highly productive and great for drying. I love adding the dehydrated fruit to my salads in the winter. The flavor intensifies when you dry them.

Conni and Cindy both agreed they also love the flavor of Chefs Choice Orange Tomato!

## **Tree**

## Ginkgo

Larry G - tree/shrub, certified applicator, freelance professional photographer

The beautiful gold leaves all fall on the same day making for easy clean-up and amazing photo opportunities. This tree is also virtually disease and pest free. Its been around since Jurassic times.

## Burgundy Belle Maple

Doug R - tree/shrub, yard

The shape of this tree cannot be beat! The fall color is outstanding.

# Sun Annual



*Bidens*



*Bidens*



*Portulaca*

# Shade Annual



## Shade Perennial



*Solomons Seal - shade perennial*



*Monkshood*



*We carry a wide variety of Hosta in all shapes and colors.*



*Bleeding Heart*

# Sun Perennials



*Speedy Lily*



*Brunello Lily*



*Bearded Iris - nominated twice for employee pick*



*Betony*

## Sun/Shade Shrub



*Miniature Snowflake Mockorange*

# Tree



*Larry's beloved gold leaf of the Ginkgo.*



*Burgundy Belle Maple with the perfect shape and fall color.*

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## Bumps on a Log

### Tomato Root Initials

Have you ever noticed tiny bumps on the stem of your tomato? Good news! It is okay. The little bumps are called Root Initials and are a symptoms of a few culprits. Typically these bumps are accompanied by yellowing and curled leaves. With those extra hints, can you guess what the cause is? If you guess excessive moisture, you are correct. We figured we should pass this information along now, because HELLO Mother Nature has been giving us plenty of rain. The root initials will turn into full roots if they are able to touch soil, so don't despair. If possible, mound soil up around the stem and they will be just fine.



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