

A seed hidden in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible. ~Welsh proverb

ML's Greenery in Motion! — 2009

WOW !!!! What a winter and spring this has been!!!! For anyone living in Central Massachusetts, especially in that hard hit core of about 1,000 feet plus, it's been reeaallllyy challenging. The level of tree destruction is one not seen in our life times – and hopefully not again ☺ Then the snow and cold came – and stayed – and stayed. Then there's the economy both local and national – oil prices surging in 2008's summer and then settling back. And finally – for some of us - knee replacement operations in the middle of all of it. Whew!!

It's time for COLOR!! Life, energy, green grass and flowers – NOW!

So here we all are, looking towards the summer and wishing it were here already. Now is the time to be planning what kind of color you want to have. Every plant on the enclosed list has an outstanding track record for performance with a minimum of fuss and follow up. I use most of these in gardens that I plant and manage and only rarely have I had to step in either to dead head or to nurse maid any of them. Of course that means that the soil has to be in good shape too and you don't forget to water ☺!

And let's not forget the trees – the trees that took such a hit in December. Many will feel that they have to fertilize the trees to help them come back faster – DON'T!!!! Get all of the pruning done that needs to be done for safety and then for aesthetics but - after that – stand back and let the tree's stored energy find it's own way out through bud breaks and latent buds hidden in the bark. Too much nitrogen will make the new growth weak and vulnerable to all kinds of future problems. If you want to do something that will help the trees – think about re-mineralizing the soil around the trees – refreshing the entire soil integrity (see below). This has been shown to do a lot for tree health and internal integrity (work done in Germany and elsewhere). If you do decide to add a new tree, there's a list of smaller trees and a recipe for a "rooting" mix for woody plants that might make your selection and planting more successful.

From conversations with many of you I know you've all survived. Your gardens may look different this year, so don't hesitate to call.