



## Lael's Moon Garden

Plant Your Own Eden™

For the Birds

HMMMM, zip – zap - Hummers



We love our hummers and they love it here. Just visit us (especially early or late in the day), set a spell in the garden and watch or hear them whiz by. They arrive in late February or early March and stay with us till Labor Day. And unlike visiting relatives, we never get tired of them.

Each year we get fascinated with a new plant and last year it was penstemons. We tried several of them and found only some are happy here and many did not survive the winter. Whether it was the sudden and

prolonged cold or the seriously wet, we don't know, but we can tell you about some that were reliably hardy for us this past winter.

Penstemons like very good drainage, sun and require little fertilizer. They are drought tolerant once established. We also tested several penstemon-like plants and other hummingbird faves. Here are some of our favorite plants for the hummers.



Penstemon 'Catherine De la Mer' – A soft bluish purple flower that blooms early and for a long time...and it's evergreen. Likes sun or part-shade, grows 16" tall to 18-24" wide and its hardy in zones 6-11.

Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red' – reddish-bronze foliage, white blooms, tall and a little open, cut back for stouter thicker plants. Grows 30' tall x 18-30" wide. Hardy in zones 5-9.

Penstemon mexicali 'Red Rocks' –

Tall spikes pink-red flowers with white throats, foliage is narrow. Grow 15-18" tall x 15-18" wide; full sun to part shade, listed as semi-evergreen.

This year we've added Penstemon 'Garnet' and 'Midnight Blue' to our repertoire; we chose them because they're listed as Great Plant Picks, are evergreen and have pretty flowers. More at

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/display?id=2693&searchterm=penstemon> or

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/display?id=2696&searchterm=penstemon>

We're also carrying Penstemon Hopley's variegated (pictured) as it comes highly recommended and it's variegated – and we're suckers for that combination.

Scrophularia 'Red Birds in a Tree' – just look at this plant. Its name says it all. It gets tall in time so give it some room. It also survived for us in the winter of 2010. Grows 36-48" tall, hardy zones 5-10.



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Salvia Hot lips – First, we have to admit that it didn't winter for us. (Ciscoe raves about this plant and insists it is usually hardy.) We'll give it another chance because it is so pretty and the hummers do like it. Grows 24-30", rated hardy zones 7-10.

Crocosmia Lucifer – Tall Dramatic, deep red flowers on narrow sword like foliage. Strong upright, clumping habit. Another "Great Plant Pick" for the Pacific Northwest.

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/display?id=2392&searchterm=crocosmia>

Takes full sun and is very drought tolerant once established. Grows 3-5', hardy zones 6-9.

Crocosmia 'Bressingham Beacon' - This vigorous cultivar has arching panicles of bicolored, scarlet-orange and yellow flowers in summer. A favorite of hummingbirds, it adds an exotic touch to any garden. Grows 3-4' tall.

Note: Crocosmias should be mulched in the winter to protect the roots. If you have heavy clay or other slow draining soil, it's best to lift the plants in winter, store in a cool, dry place and replant in early spring; like dahlias.

Fuchsias – we prefer the hardy shrub ones that come back each year. They bloom all summer if regularly deadheaded. This year we are testing several varieties of hardy fuchsia. In past years Fuchsia magellanicas Aurea, Molinae and Pat's Dream have been hardy for us. Plant the hardy fuchsias slightly deeper and mulch in winter.

Orange carpet® hummingbird trumpet or California Fuchsia (*Zauschneria garrettii*) - A native of the Southwest, has gray-green leaves and grows 4-6" tall and 18-24" wide. Orangey red, tubular blossoms cover the plant in late summer and early fall. Likes full sun and very good drainage. Hardy in zones 5-9.

Weigelas – We like 'Variegata', 'Midnight Wine' and 'Wine and Roses' (surprise! another great plant pick <http://www.greatplantpicks.org/display?id=9269&searchterm=weigela>) The hummers like them all! Easy to grow in full sun to part-shade, pink or red trumpet flowers in spring and early summer, some rebloom mid-summer. Size varies with variety.

Keeping hummers happy also requires places for them to shelter and nest and a variety of plants that bloom at different times to feed them all season. A good article on hummingbird habitat, plants for food, feeders and such can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/hummingbirds/index.html>

## Rochester-Grand Mound Farmer's Market



Score some fresh local produce, get some unique handcrafted items, and visit with friends and neighbors right here in downtown Rochester. Support your local farmers and crafters!

Join us Saturday mornings at the Rochester Middle school on Hwy 12, 9 AM to 2 PM. More info and pictures go to:

<http://laelsmoongarden.com/gardenshows/farmersmarket.html>

Or visit the facebook page and like us for regular updates.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rochester-Grand-Mound-Farmers-Market/141012039309684?sk=wall>

### **Plant Selection Lots of Plants! Including Edibles – Berries, grapes, figs, nuts and Fruit Trees**

We have lots of plants-hopefully some that you are looking for. We still have a fairly good selection of blueberries, grapes, elderberries, some strawberries and cane berries and a few Desert King figs. We have some apples, cherries, pears, plums and a few nut trees left - all are in containers. Plant now to have established plants for next summer.

You can find a partial list of our plants at <http://laelsmoongarden.com/inventory.html> (Scroll down to the section labeled Plant Inventory July 2011 and click on the links to the right to open the files)

This is by no means a comprehensive list of our plants. We have over 1,000 kinds of plants; the website list is merely the ones we've had time to catalog.

If you're looking for something not on the list, visit, call or email us and we'll let you know if we have it or can get it for you. We start ordering now for next spring so it's a good time to send us your wish lists.

### **Garden Tasks for July**

- Water, water, water then mulch and water some more. We may sound like a broken record but plants need water, especially newly planted ones. Mulching and improving soils with organic matter will help soils to retain moisture and slow evaporation.
- Other tips for watering:
  - Use specialized sprinklers to target the root zone, drip irrigation and soaker hoses.
  - Water deeply and slowly
  - Provide an inch of water a week as rains taper off.

- See the WSU Publications for more watering tips at: <http://laelsmoongarden.com/gardentips/tipshowtoplantwater.html>
- Plant fall perennials such as; asters, actaea (cimicifuga), toad lilies (tricyrtis).
- Deadhead perennials at regular intervals to prevent setting seed pods and prolong bloom time or promote reblooming. Cut back ones that are leggy.
- Stake tall-growing flowering plants such as delphinium, and lupine. Stake tomatoes, as needed – we like the cages best.
- Dig spring bulbs when tops have died down; divide and store or replant.
- Prune shrubs after flowering (lilacs, forsythia, rhododendrons, and azalea for example)
- Dig up older clumps of irises when they finish flowering, and divide them (put two forks in the centre, back to back-then force the handles apart), cut the foliage down to about half its previous height and replant the clumps or share with a friend. Irises flower better if they are divided every 2 or 3 years.
- Plant beets, bush beans, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, kale, and peas in midsummer for fall and winter crops.
- Pick ripe strawberries regularly to avoid fruit-rotting diseases and pilferage by birds.
- After normal fruit drop of apples, pears and peaches in June, consider thinning the remainder to produce a crop of larger fruit.
- Cover blueberry bushes with netting to keep birds from eating the crop.
- Encourage birds in the garden for help with insect control.

### Specials

**Stella d'Oro Day lilies** (Hemerocallis) - Reblooming golden yellow flowers on green grassy foliage, makes a great groundcover or edging plant. Likes full sun to part-shade; perennial - comes back every year. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Easy to grow, adapts to most soil types. Cold hardy in zones 5-9. We offer potted plants in a #2 container about 12-15" size

\$6.50 each; 10 or more are \$5.50 each  
(Seen at Costco in Tumwater for \$9.97)





**Rock Garden Plants** - Sedums, succulents, hens and chicks, saxifraga, lewisia, campanula, arabis, thrift, blue-eyed grass (sisyrinchium), penstemons, sunroses (helianthemums) and more. Wide selection of plants available. Make your own planters or try one of ours.

Most 4" pots are \$2.99 each or 10 for \$25;  
A few are \$3.99 each or 10 for \$35

Gallons are \$5.99 - \$8.99

#2 gallons \$6.99 - \$8.99



**'Queen Fabiola' Blue Fools Onion (Triteleia laxa)** - A cluster of purple-blue, 2 inch long star shaped flowers are held facing upright atop 18 to 24 inch stems in late spring early summer. Full sun to light shade, may go dormant late summer. Tolerant of dry summers does not like to be too wet in winter. So plant in well-drained soil or dig and store in the winter. Hardy in zones 5-9. And it's yet another great plant pick; read more at

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/display?id=9406&searchterm=tritel>

#2 Pots, 3 plants per pot \$6.99

#### **Change our Email address**

Please note our email address has changed. Our new nursery email address is [laelsmoon@gmail.com](mailto:laelsmoon@gmail.com), update your mail settings to continue receiving our edifying epistles.

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Plant Your Own Eden™

Largest Selection of Outdoor, Hardy Plants in the Area.

Located near the corner of St Hwy 12 and Moon Rd, 6 miles west of I-5, exit 88.

Open Thursday through Monday 10 AM to 6 PM. Other times by appt.

See web site for more details, nursery pictures, hours, directions and more.

[www.laelsmoongarden.com/](http://www.laelsmoongarden.com/)

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