

Hello and happy spring!

It is that wonderful time of year again when I get to wish you a very happy spring and share, with much excitement, the list of seedlings that I'll be growing this year. I'm dreaming of August already and big juicy tomatoes hanging red ripe from the vine.

Now that Grow Pittsburgh, the urban agricultural nonprofit I co-founded in 2005, is off and running with its very own executive director, I actually had time to dive into three books this past winter and they greatly influenced my 2007 variety choices.

Grow Pittsburgh is doing some great work and in particular I'm very excited about the Edible Schoolyard project underway at two Pittsburgh Public Schools. I'm dreaming of a school garden, with associated curriculum, at every school in the Pittsburgh District! What a way to connect kids to nature ensuring their sense of stewardship of this planet we all call home. More information about this exciting project can be found at www.edibleschoolyard.org. Now... back to the matter at hand, our gardens!

The books I read this past winter are: *A Celebration of Heirloom Tomatoes* by Roger Yepsen, *The Tomato Festival Cookbook* by Lawrence Davis-Hollander, and *100 Heirloom Tomatoes for the American Garden* by Dr. Carolyn J. Male.

After being inspired by these books, I joined the Seed Savers Exchange in order to get seed for a few varieties I just had to try, but couldn't find in catalogs. Seeds Savers Exchange is a very cool organization. Members, worldwide, grow varieties they love in order to preserve and spread their seed. These folks are helping to prevent extinction of over 11,000 varieties! Anyone can join and membership is just \$30. More information can be found online at www.seedsavers.org. Non members can buy seed too, but the list is just smaller.

So enjoy perusing and deciding, or should I say wrestling over what to plant this year, because as we all know, all of our gardens are too small no matter how big they are.

Although I still have some seed left, I decided not to grow: chianti rose, mountain princess, costaluto fiorentino, red calabash, principe borghese, wapsipinicon peach, yellow plum, black prince, golden sweet, matt's wild cherry, and sweet gold. If any of these are an absolute favorite of yours then email and let me know. If I can I'll plant at least a few. I wouldn't want you to go without.

Orders will be available for pick up at Garden Dreams, on Saturday May 12th and Sunday May 13th from 11 am – 4 pm each day. If that doesn't work for you then we can make other arrangements.

All plants are \$2.75 each (includes tax), unless otherwise noted. Natural & organic gardening supplies do not include tax. Please add 7% tax for these items. Use the attached order form to send in your order along with payment made payable to Garden Dreams. Orders are processed as received. I'll substitute a similar variety if I'm out of what you ordered.

I'm working on my new website (www.mygardendreams.com) and hope, in the near future, to have this catalog up with hyperlinks to longer descriptions and pictures as well as directions to the farm. I inadvertently let my subscription to my old URL

(yourgardendreams) lapse, thus the website name change. For now, here are links to the companies I order from most:

<http://www.rareseeds.com/>

<http://www.fedcoseeds.com/seeds.htm>

http://www.sandhillpreservation.com/catalog/seed_menu.html

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/home.aspx?ct=HG>

<http://store.tomatofest.com>

<http://www.tomatogrowers.com/>

I'll also be hosting a Memorial Day Plant Sale at Garden Dreams on Sat May 26th & Sun May 27th from 11 am to 4 pm. Print out more copies of this catalog for fellow gardening buddies and let folks know about the Memorial Day Plant Sale.

Here's to a great season and I look forward to seeing you. As always please feel free to call or email with any questions, comments, suggestions, etc.

Warm regards,

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