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with the Littleton Garden Club

Catalog madness

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Littleton Garden Club

Basketball has "March Madness," and gardeners have their "Catalog Madness" in January. Once you are in the queue, it can start in December. Thank goodness they're still arriving in January. This is when you pay attention to pea shoots under grow lights and dream about tilling the spring garden.. We get a lot of help with this dream from catalogs.

I moved to New Hampshire from the Mid-Atlantic, and there, Burpee was king. It is still of value in the North Country. Much value is starting plants that need a longer growing season and start under grow lamps.

In the North Country, I prefer to use a catalog from a nursery in a colder climate. My favorite catalog is Johnny's Select, which is employee-owned and located in Maine. The catalog

is full of advice about products. They let you know what is available, sold out, or most popular. Another local nursery is Pinetree, which is in Maine. Their catalog is well organized and celebrates organic seeds, good flowers, and tool offerings. If you are adventurous and a little sentimental, get a catalog from R.H. Shumway's, in Wisconsin. They are 155 years old and pages are newspaper quality in black and white. Makes good Sunday morning browsing. Also from the Midwest is Jung Seeds and Plants. If you want to try growing popcorn or oriental corn this is your source. John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds, located in Connecticut, does not sell any GMO seeds.

The focus of this article has been on the vegetable garden. The first garden activity in the

spring in New Hampshire comes from bulbs. John Scheepers has a catalog that advertises bulbs in smaller quantities than the parent company Van Engelen, Inc., from Connecticut. Sometimes buying 50 bulbs at a time and planting en-mass is just what's needed in March. Remember that the planted area cannot be mowed for about two months as bulbs get their nourishment for next year. Before we leave Connecticut, please look to White Flower Farm for a lovely gift, flowers of the month, wreaths, and handmade pottery. Find a gift to impress. Last and maybe the best source of bulbs is Brent and Becky's, of Virginia. They have the largest selection of bulbs, including everything needed to plant a display called 'Hot and Cold', designed and grown in

2020 at Keukenhof (the famous Tulip Garden in Holland).

A garden needs structure and a plan. Think about trees you want to plant. We took an area of lawn and planted a small orchard. To define your garden, Chief River in Wisconsin might be the answer. They sell Forestry Plugs, plug planting augers, bare-rooted conifers, hardwoods, fruit trees, and shrubs. Flowering shrubs can be found at Spring Meadow in Wisconsin. The plants that do well in our area are Hydrangea and Arctic Fire. You are safe buying anything they offer for zone 3 or maybe 4.

Dream away as the catalogs fly in.

Littleton Garden Club welcomes new members! For more information about our club or our meetings, visit: <https://www.littletonnhgardenclub.org/>.