

## Wilson's Nursery







## The snow has been falling, but the season is underway!

Photos above taken by our Inventory Manager, Call Inman, displaying a heel-in pre and postsnow. The other is of one of our greenhouses now full of perennials.

Please take the time to read Connie's article this week. She does a great job explaining where we are at in the season and what it takes to get started up.

Let us know what we can do for you this season! We are looking forward to a great 2024 with all of you!



## Connie's Corner

As Sure as Spring Snow by Connie Kratzke

Today, I am writing from my couch, where I'm reclined after a couple hours of shoveling. I cleared the adjacent neighbors' sidewalks, too. Someone did ours yesterday. That's how we roll. While I was out there I ended up chatting with several friends and neighbors. I'd have to say it's been a proper snow day and one I'm most grateful for.

Perennial Potting started last Monday and we've been going at it full bore. Other crews are spading, heeling and grading. Trees are coming in and going out. Spring has sprung! Along with that comes the initial adjustment fatigue. Bodies and minds must acclimate to their seasonal reality. Things are off to a good start, though.

All of our seasonal veterans are back and ready for action. Wilson's O.G.s whose friendly faces have greeted guests for decades are working hard to replenish plant supplies and stock the yard. Working alongside them are Nick and Brianna, who just joined our team last year. Soon, Visa workers from Mexico and South Africa will be arriving to aid in our efforts. Once school is out for summer, a few more familiar folks will trickle in to help with fulfillment and other tasks. We're building up reserves for what we hope will be a productive and rewarding season for us all!

Last week I worked hard to facilitate a smooth process for the potting team. Everything goes better when the plugs are organized before and after potting. Over the winter, I mapped out each greenhouse by genus. As we receive each order, flats are organized alphabetically in the greenhouses where they will be grown. Bare-root plants are sorted in the cooler. Each greenhouse has a potting plan that shows the order in which plants should be potted. Potting quantities and dates are documented on this sheet, which shows exactly what we should be receiving from who. I can be a very tedious being. That said, I have seen the frustrations that arise when people don't feel confident in the tasks they are performing. Lack of systems and procedures are keenly observed by those giving their all to the tasks at hand. Proper planning is essential to efficiency as well. Everything is going according to plan so far. That's really the best one can hope for. The overwhelming majority of plant materials arriving look fantastic and our first, filled greenhouse is a beautiful patchwork of colorful Coral Bells. Pine bark perfume adds to the ambiance, hanging in the heavy air.

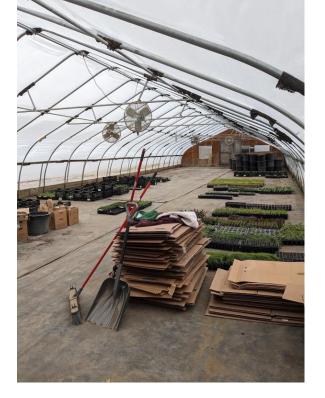
Tasks are going better in the fields and yards this year, too. Our season got off to an early start, but we were ready. Trees that needed to come out are above ground, sorted and heeled. That is preferable to cleaning up the wreckage after frantically scrambling to spade everything. Whenever Mother Nature gets weird, it's important to remember how much goofier she can get. This year isn't going too badly. The snow was a given. Things are right on track. At least we're getting some moisture.

Over the weekend, I placed my vegetable transplant order with Territorial Seed. Those first batches of tomato sauce and pesto are going to taste so good!. This year I'm growing three different types of Basil that I'm eager to compare. I don't start any seeds indoors unless I do zucchinis or squashes. Cheating and buying plants of the slow stuff and direct-sowing the easy stuff is my key to keeping things manageable. I'm super excited about the outdoor growing season, even though I never really take a break from plants.

All winter, I have been doting on the floral residents of our home. I am dabbling in hydroponics (my husband would laugh at my choice of words, because it's more of an obsession) and propagating succulent plants. Soon, I will be transplanting some of my long-time companions. That statement reflects my optimism, as I will likely wait for the next 65 degree day when I can keep the mess outside.

I have putzed around the yard on every nice day. Some gardens have been tidied and a few plants cut back. I wait to do the bulk of that after the bees wake up. The first, blooming Crocuses were captured on film. I'm glad I did that, too, because their dainty petals likely froze. The Daffodils are in bud, though and I think they will bloom beautifully after a good drink. A couple of weeks ago I put some bone meal down, so that should give them a good boost.

Life is busy, but balance exists. Some credit must be given to this minor, seasonal set-back. We all know that all hell will break loose like it always does. In our haste to get going and pushing and earning, we must remember to make time for sanity. When life doesn't give us snow days, we can still make time for hobbies and dates. We must take hikes, bikes and road trips. That's how we make memories that bring much needed smiles while we're making money.







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