



Dream Landscapes, One Garden At A Time

April 2009

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Featured Perennial

**Featured Perennial:**

*Hakonechloa macra*  
'Aureola'

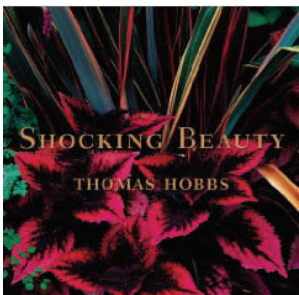
The 2009 Perennial Plant of the Year®. This ornamental grass is native to Honshu Island, Japan. Blades are 1/2" wide and bright yellow color with very thin green stripes. In the cooler days of autumn the golden foliage becomes tinged with shades of pink and red. It is used mainly for its golden foliage, although it does produce tiny, inconspicuous flower spikes from late summer through mid autumn.



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**Recommended Reading:**

"Shocking Beauty" by Thomas Hobbs. Hobbs raises the bar with stunning, jaw dropping photos of vivid plant combinations that add drama to gardens and containers. His surprising plant compositions, striking colors, and unconventional garden scenes will bring your standard of gardening to a new level.



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## LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN TIPS

April is the time to get out in the garden and care for your plants with pruning and fertilizing. Do these tasks early to have a great garden later in the season.

- Evergreens and acid loving plants benefit from a treatment of Hollytone. Dogwoods, Hollies, Magnolias, Hydrangeas, Azaleas, Pieris and Rhododendrons can benefit from a dosage. Simple scratch the recommended amount in the soil around the perimeter of the plant base and let the rain wash the nutrients in.
- Cut back roses before bud break if you haven't already. Also Liriope, Iris, Grasses and Sedum 'Autumn Joy' Should be cut to the ground. Partially cut back Lavender and Russian Sage .
- If you compost, apply a few handfuls of nutritious compost around the base of your perennials.
- Assess winter damage to trees and shrubs. Carefully prune dead, diseased and damage wood to the first lateral branch.
- Inspect your conifers (Junipers, Spruces, Leyland Cypress and Arborvitae) for bagworms which eat the needles. Remove their cases by hand. For more information about bagworms, go to: <http://www.pestproducts.com/bag-worm.htm>
- If your Rhododendrons, Cherry and Skip Laurels and Hollies have dropped leaves, don't panic. They are most likely suffering winter burn. Apply fertilizer and give them time to push out new leaf growth.
- If you haven't already...get ready for gardening. Clean, sharpen and oil your pruning tool and shovels. Organize your garden supply area.
- Plan and assess: Are there areas of the garden you'd like to enhance? Perhaps more spring interest, a bolder bulb display or adding a new plant you've been admiring? Cherry Trees, Forsythia, Quince, Fothergilla, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Iris, Peonies, Phlox



Spring Blooms of Purple Allium and Primrose among Heuchera 'Obsidian', Spruce and Iris.

and Candytuft just seem to herald the season. Now is the time to plan for additional plantings.

- Plan for next years spring bulb display by taking photos of the garden now and determine where you'd like additional bulb displays. We are available to do bulb planting plans should you need help.
- For size control if needed, prune back flowering shrubs after they bloom.
- Divide perennials such as Hostas and Daylilies.
- Be patient with the emergence of Coreopsis, Plumbago, Balloon flower and Crape Myrtle.

For those short on time or motivation, consider calling us for fertilization, pruning and fine gardening maintenance services this spring. 215-836-5145.

## EVENTS

Designing Outdoors with Containers

Maria is teaming up with City Planter, Philly's premier provider of containers, to offer container garden design consulting on May 16th. Geared for city/urban and suburban dwellers. Bring your entryway, courtyard, deck and garden photos and Maria will recommend suitable containers to add instant impact & compliment your home. Attendees will receive 25% off merchandise purchased that day. The event will be 10:30-12:30 at 814 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia PA. For more info call City Planter at 215-627-6169.

Garden Site Visits

Proper care ensures your gardens success. We are scheduling visits to evaluate the progress of your recently installed garden, to check the plant material and offer care tips. To schedule your walk through call 215-836-5145.



We are honored to be Editors Pick in Philly Mags 'The List' for the 2nd year in a row.