

Rare Plant Sale, Indoor Ag-Con and Darwin Perennials Day

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Tuesday, April 30, 2019

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COMING UP THIS WEEK:

Trade Secrets Rare Plant Sale
Indoor Ag-Con
N'tl Lawn & Garden Show
Darwin Perennials Day
Griffin MA Expo

Stormy Weather

After a dusting of snow (or slush, to be exact), we in Illinois are hopefully back on the road to spring. And spring rains are falling. So, I'm trying to ignore this dreary weather and focus on the season (and events) to come. If you're in the same boat as me (or even if you are somewhere where the seasons make sense ... lucky you), you should check out what's coming up the next couple of months—rare plants, new perennials and lots of opportunities to grow your business.

Trade Secrets Rare Plant Sale and Garden Tour

5/18/2019 - 5/19/2019

Connecticut and Massachusetts

The Rare Plant and Garden Antiques Sale will be held at LionRock Farm in Sharon, Connecticut, with up to 60 vendors showing their rare and unusual plants and garden antiques. When you are done adding to your plant

collection, take a self-guided tour of four beautiful private gardens located in Falls Village, Connecticut, and nearby Ashley Falls, Massachusetts.

And your plant purchases will go to a good cause (as if you need more reasons to buy plants), as since 2001, Trade Secrets has supported the work of Women's Support Services in Sharon, Connecticut, whose mission is to create a community free of domestic violence and abuse through intervention, prevention and education.

But don't take my word for it—Martha Stewart loves this show too:

"One of the few events that goes on to my calendar a year in advance is Trade Secrets Rare Plant and Garden Antique Show in Sharon, CT. Why? Because I find amazing varieties of plants, meet all kinds of extraordinary gardeners and find many antiques and tools for my own garden. It's exciting, very beautiful and benefits the Women's Support Services in Northwest CT—a most worthy cause."

While I can't promise that you'll see Martha there ... it's a possibility. I love Martha, I remember watching her show with my mom and doing her craft projects (although hers always came out a bit better than mine did).

For more information, visit www.tradesecretsct.com.

Indoor Ag-Con

5/22/2019 - 5/24/2019

Las Vegas, Las Vegas Convention Center—Las Vegas, Nevada

The 7th Annual Indoor Ag-Con's focus is "Growing the Future," and it's billed as the premier event covering the technology of growing crops in indoor systems. I'll leave that up to you to decide, but if you grow indoors, I would suggest that you check out this show. All kinds of people will be there, including growers, investors, chefs, tech geeks, produce buyers, academics, policymakers, industry suppliers and advocates. These diverse groups come together for conference proceedings, practical mini workshops, exhibits and lunch table discussions. In addition, pre-registered attendees are invited to schedule a private tour at Oasis Biotech.

The schedule is organized into tracks, those being Grow Equipment, Crop Selection, Business, Customers and Supply Chain, Policy and Societal Impact.

Several of the presentations to catch are:

- "Indoor Farming: Restaurant Perspectives"

Speaker: Sam Khoury, President, Next Stage Partners and Board Member and Treasurer of the National Restaurant Association's Executive Supply Chain Board

- "Transcending niche markets: How automation will drive commercial adoption of vertical farming and CEA"

Speaker: George Carter, Account Manager, SNAP Inc |SananBio

- "Hemp: Cannabis Genetic Landscape"

Speaker: Christian Gray, Partner, Atlas Consulting

For more information and to register, visit www.indoor.ag.

National Lawn & Garden Show

6/11/2019 - 6/12/2019

Hilton St. Louis Ballpark—St. Louis, Missouri

Here's a show where you can get down to business. This show focuses on connecting buyers and vendors for pre-set, 10-minute, scheduled appointments. Save time and money by having all your meetings in one location.

If you're a buyer, you'll want to come to source new and unique products, have directed and concise discussion with vendors, the ability to see up to 100 companies in two days and best of all, buyers have their own personal conference table and vendors come to them.

If you're a vendor, you'll want to attend for the opportunity to connect with qualified, decision-making buyers, 30-40 guaranteed appointments, no booth setup costs (no booths at all, in fact) and the ability to get written feedback from industry buyers and your new product.

Speaking of products, a product display area allows buyers to see and touch new products and see what it looks like at the point of purchase. Also, a new product/prototype area allows for vendors to get feedback from attending buyers.

Sounds like a win-win! To sign up and get more information, visit www.nlgshow.com.

Darwin Perennials Day

6/19/2019

The Gardens at Ball—West Chicago, Illinois

As the bumper sticker on my desk says, "Friends Don't Let Friends Plant Annuals." So be a good friend and come out to Darwin Perennial Day to check out what's new and exciting from Darwin Perennials and Kieft Seed. You'll be able to meet more than 30 leading perennial suppliers, discover the latest perennial trends and attend production and retail education sessions.

For more information, visit www.darwinperennialsday.com

Griffin Massachusetts Expo

8/21/2019 - 8/22/2019

DCU Convention Center—Worcester, Massachusetts

The Griffin Massachusetts expo is coming up and it is open to all Griffin customers, including greenhouse and nursery growers, independent garden centers and controlled-environment agriculture operations. The show will feature suppliers, exclusive product specials and educational opportunities representing the company's spectrum of products—grower supplies, green goods and retail products.

Their expos have been an annual tradition for Griffin customers, and the events serve as a kickoff to the booking season, offering customers a range of expo-exclusive promotions, booking specials and educational sessions.

If you can't make this one, no worries—there is a second expo on September 25-26, 2019, at the Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

For more info, visit www.griffins.com.

Hope you enjoyed this edition of *HortCalendar Highlights*! Questions, comments, or have an event you'd like me to feature? Drop me a line at awestbrook@ballpublishing.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison". The script is cursive and fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Allison Westbrook

This e-mail received by 35,206 readers!

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