

Joe's Greenhouse Newsletter

Winter 2016



Winter At Joe's Greenhouse

When the Weather Outside is Frightful.....

Stepping into Joe's Greenhouse in the winter is like entering the beginnings of spring. I love walking out of the chilly weather to visit the warmth and new infant plants—the kick-off of next season's tastes and colors.

So What Goes on at Joe's All Winter?

Although Joe's Greenhouse closes its doors to the public for a few months, it's anything but deserted. Because we are a local grower and start many of our plants from seed, germination begins months ahead of when plants go on display. Timing is crucial to ensure different varieties of plants mature at the right pace for their ideal window of spring planting. As living things, plants don't wait to grow around human convenience or

calendars. In fact, I have fond (truly!) memories of watering and transporting newly seeded plug trays on Thanksgiving Day as a teenager and young adult so their growing schedule would be on-target.

November begins the strictly-timed schedule of seeding and germination. With December comes a rush of transplanting primroses, perennials, pansies, and geraniums that steadily grows in volume to keep up with the flood of spring annuals and vegetables. Bare root nursery stock is planted January through March. Starting the second week of January, we start our weekly schedule of plug seeding. This allows flowers and vegetables to be ready for your enjoyment and purchase months later. And then there is the logistical and organizational elements that get tackled in the winter: tag and sign organization



Top left: Wayne Huber watering primroses. **Top Right:** Plug trays and other containers are filled with "Joe's Special Blend" before planting. **Bottom Right:** Wayne Huber uses a machine with robotic eyes and tiny suction needles to carefully place seeds into plug tray compartments.



and ordering, accounting, soil and container preparation, building and machinery upkeep. Not to mention the established tree, shrub, and perennial care that continues nearly year round. In short, although less hectic than the selling months, winter is a busy, productive time at Joe's.

What Does That Mean For You?
First, it means that spring isn't as far away as it may seem. Hooray!

Second, it means that you can count on Joe's Greenhouse to be invested and knowledgeable about what it takes to have plants prepared and ready to thrive, despite our cold climate. And although it means you'll enjoy only the result when you stop by Joe's next spring, you'll know a little bit about the planning and work that went into making our plants exceptional. Like anything exceptional, you'll know the work was worth it.



Top Left: Jabe Huber loads seed plug trays into heated germination chambers for sprouting. **Middle Left:** Petunia plants emerge. **Bottom Left:** Jace Bush shows geraniums ready to be transplanted to bigger containers. **Top Right:** Delana Huber and Mary Thorson transplant seed geraniums. **Bottom Right:** Baskets and annuals are taken to growing houses to mature and bloom in time for spring.

Content by Anna McBride Photos Courtesy of Joe's Greenhouse
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