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**From:** Kurt Bluemel Inc. [news@kurtbluemel.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2010 2:32 PM  
**Subject:** 50 Years in American Horticulture & Landscape - Kurt Bluemel, Inc.



## Kurt Bluemel Inc. Newsletter

### **This Issue's Articles**

:: A message from Kurt Bluemel & Weekly Availability

Thank you for your interest in our plant material. For over 45 years we have been the Mid-Atlantic's leading purveyor of fine ornamental grasses, hardy perennials, and bamboo. We look forward to providing you with the best plants for your specific design and growing environment. Our team takes the opportunity and responsibility to offer you healthy, useful and diverse plant material for the American landscape very seriously. Embracing both the art & science of horticulture is our passion. **CHECK BACK NEXT WEEK FOR details of the PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION Symposium in Portland, Oregon.** Some exciting new perennials are coming in 2011 as well as some interesting industry information.

*Kurt Bluemel*

& The Team at Kurt Bluemel, Inc.

**Celebrating**  
**!! 50 Years in the United States !!**



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My family and I are celebrating my 50th year in America. Recently, I have been thinking a great deal about my journey here to the United States from the former Czechoslovakia now the Czech Republic.

The diversity of my early decades of training and study taught me my true passion for landscape design and horticulture. European training in horticulture, as you may know, is experience in everything from florist to landscape designer and all that is in between. Once I completed the first few years in study, I was then able to focus my studies in my chosen field of horticulture. Eventually, I was able to apply my skills for practical experience in some of the finest estate gardens and nurseries in both Germany and Switzerland. My passion for the art and science of horticulture was fed by my early training and experiences and was quickly set in stone.

I remember even as a journeyman through to becoming a more seasoned and educated horticulturist, that I always maintained a great certainty that my passion as a designer and a plantsman would translate well. I knew that if I had the chance that I could contribute to restyling the American landscape. After a few years of practical application in Europe, I decided to immigrate with my family to America. I had a vision and I wanted to see it through. With my young wife and two small children, we made our way to Maryland.

What great opportunities awaited me! I learned the language quickly and integrated into American culture. I began applying my landscape theories with great success. I was able to make the contribution to the American landscape that I had envisioned. I spent years evolving my ideas and thoughts about all that the landscape could be. My passion was expressed through the incorporation of rich colors, layers and textures. It was also

expressed through design ideas that would extend the garden's beauty through four seasons with the introduction of hardy perennials and ornamental grasses seldom seen in traditional landscapes here.

With the support of my family and friends, I am continuing to enjoy the opportunity to offer more and more plant introductions and selections to contribute wherever I can to the landscape. Thank you all for your years of support. I am looking forward to the future with the same great optimism.

### Message from [Kurt Bluemel](#)

Since our last newsletter on watering, some of our clients have been asking us some really great questions. The most frequently asked question is about a comment that they have read on many plant tags and guides, "Water regularly". As we can all benefit from the clarification of such a broad description, I would like to share with you my formula on watering regularly.



To be specific, watering regularly does not necessarily mean every day or every night. It's more about quality of watering rather than quantity of watering. Effective watering for landscape should cause moisture to a depth of 18". Under ideal to average circumstances [soil](#) dries out from the top to about 7" between watering. In extreme heat, that can mean struggling plants, cell death from the tips of its leaves, insect and fungus vulnerability, or the eventual weakness and death of the entire plant.

During these severe weather conditions, it is important to water in solid 20-minute intervals to ensure saturation through the top layer of soil to about 18" for perennials, ferns, and ornamental grasses. Water running off of your landscape is not a sign that the plants are well watered; it can actually be a sign that the ground is not taking in the water as it is being dispersed. It is best to water slowly and closely to the plant base and repeat if necessary to ensure saturation. As we discussed a few weeks ago, watering at the plant's base is the [most efficient method of watering](#). Overhead watering is not ideal, but in larger landscapes it may be necessary. Moderate your overhead watering by staying with the landscape until there is detectable saturation.

A special note on watering new plants: The roots of new plantings still reside somewhere in those first 7" of soil that dry out first. These plants should be monitored closely. Even with drip irrigation or automated capillary systems there could be deficiencies in their rates. Also, let us not forget to honor the inherent needs of each plant. Drought-tolerant natives such as gray plants or some Mediterranean plants thrive in this sort of weather and can actually be over-watered. A keen eye on your landscape as a *whole* is important due diligence.

### Weekly Availability

Location	Excel Format	PDF Format
Maryland		
Florida		

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