

SUMMER

2026



Toad Lily 'Imperial Banner'
(*Tricyrtis*)

 YEW
DELL
BOTANICAL
GARDENS™



“Garden as though
you will live forever.”

- WILLIAM KENT

Front Cover: Toad Lily 'Imperial Banner' (*Tricyrtis*) are glossy green with a unique white central variegation pattern. They produce short terminal spikes of light lavender flowers with dark purple spots.

Inside Cover: African Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*) 'Coco™ Gold'

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



During my years in academia, I experienced one 10-year stretch that saw our department craft seven separate mission statements. Maybe one or more of them ended up doing something productive but I suspect most failed to get past the dust collection stage.

That's why several years ago I was so delighted that our very own Yew Dell mission statement exercise produced a string of words that so beautifully captured the spirit of this place. **Spark a Passion** . . . is how it starts out. And what a great way to describe some of the wonderful stories in this edition. The Priest family (*page 15*) who moved to the area a number of years ago and fell head over heels in love with this magical place. And volunteer extraordinaire Jim Gerdes (*page 12*). Whether reading his words in this newsletter or talking with him on the grounds, Jim has certainly felt the spark of passion, and he shares it freely.

The mission continues . . . **Sparkling a Passion for Plants and Gardens** . . . That plant and garden thing takes so many forms. From informal plant walks with passionate and knowledgeable staff to weekly demos (*Sunday afternoons*) in the Food Garden. Hands in the dirt not your thing? Maybe it's a Fabulous Friday Happy Hour and Farmers Market . . . or a dried flower preservation class . . . We have plenty to see and do when it comes to Plants and Gardens.

And then the mission rounds out with . . . **Through Accessible Science and Inspiring Beauty**. Whether it's our own newly-promoted-to-Gardener, Hayden Nicholson (*Congrats, Hayden!*) writing on goings on in the evaluation gardens (*page 11*) or our newly minted partnership with UofL's Envirome Institute, Yew Dell is doing amazing and accessible science, packaging it in inspiring beauty, and living its mission loud and clear.

Happy gardening!

Paul Cappiella



What We Learn Growing Together



‘Tall Blue Planet’
(Ageratum houstonianum)



Volunteers learning from Sayde

At Yew Dell, growing doesn’t happen in isolation. It never has.

Every plant in the garden, every workshop, every conversation between staff, volunteers and visitors is part of something larger — a shared process of learning, experimenting and discovering what works. Sometimes that means celebrating a plant that thrives beyond expectations. Other times, it means taking note of what didn’t make it through a Kentucky summer and asking why. This is where the real work of horticulture begins — not just in success, but in observation.

In our gardens, learning starts with the plants. Through careful trials and evaluation, we test how different varieties perform under real-world conditions. We watch how they respond to heat, rain, soil and time. Those lessons don’t stay behind the scenes — they shape what we plant, what we teach and what we recommend to gardeners like you.

But plants are only part of the story. We also learn from each other. A first-time visitor might arrive with a single question and leave with a new sense of confidence. A longtime gardener might discover a new technique in a workshop or share their own experience with someone just getting started. Volunteers and staff work side by side, trading knowledge that grows richer every season. And perhaps most importantly, we learn by doing. Gardening asks us to try, to adjust and to try again. It invites curiosity and rewards patience. Whether you’re planting your first container or managing a backyard full of perennials, every moment spent in the garden is part of an ongoing experiment — one that connects us to each other and to the natural world.

At Yew Dell, that spirit of shared discovery is at the heart of everything we do. Because the best gardens don’t just grow plants. They grow people, too.



The Garden Staff learning pruning tips from Paul



Volunteers planting with Hayden

Summer is Blooming at Yew Dell

These are the plants putting on a show this summer — grown, tested and loved right here at Yew Dell.

July August September



1

Globe Thistle
(Echinops ritro)

Pavilion Garden



2

Rattlesnake Master
(Eryngium yuccifolium)

Parking Lot



3

Surprise Lily
(Lycoris squamigera)

Beech Allee



4

Betony
(Stachys officinalis 'Hummelo')

Castle Gardens



5

Bigleaf Magnolia
(Magnolia macrophylla)

Serpentine Garden



6

Indian Pink
(Spigelia marilandica 'Little Redhead')

Castle Gardens



7

BeeBee Tree
(Tetradium daniellii)

Arboretum North



8

Hardy Begonia
(Begonia grandis)

Secret Garden



9

Marigold
(Marigold species)

Cut Flower Garden



10

Beautyberry
(Callicarpa dichotoma)

Stone Terrace



11

Bottlebrush Buckeye
(Aesculus parviflora)

Event Lawn and Millstone Garden



12

Autumn Crocus
(Colchicum 'Waterlily')

Rockhouse & Entrance Gardens

Classes and Events

Herbarium Sheets: Science and Art
Saturday, July 11 and August 8 | 1:30–3 p.m.

Members \$50 / Non-Members \$60

Discover the history of herbarium sheets, then create your own using flowers you’ve pressed. A creative, two-part blend of science and art.

Summer Flower Preservation
Sunday, July 19 | 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Members \$45 / Non-Members \$55

Learn simple techniques for preserving summer blooms, buds and foliage to enjoy long after the season fades.

Botanical Dye Basics: Custom Scarf
Saturday, August 1 | 10 a.m.–Noon

Members \$55 / Non-Members \$65

Use gathered botanicals to naturally dye and design your own one-of-a-kind scarf in this hands-on workshop.

Botany of Bourbon at Kentucky Artisan Distillery
Tuesday, August 4 | 6–8 p.m.

Members \$75 / Non-Members \$85

Explore the biochemistry of bourbon making and the natural history of the grains that make it all work. Then enjoy a tour and bourbon tasting with Kentucky Artisan Distillery master distiller, Jade Peterson. *Light bites included.*

Honeybee Needle Felting
Saturday, August 15 | 10 a.m.–Noon

Members \$50 / Non-Members \$60

Celebrate National Honeybee Day by creating a wool-felted bee design. A fun, beginner-friendly fiber art experience.

Fall Wreaths from the Gardens
Sunday, September 13 | 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Members \$75 / Non-Members \$85

Create a seasonal wreath using greenery, dried flowers and natural materials from the garden.

Pilates in the Gardens
Sunday, September 20 | Noon–1 p.m.

Included with admission

Stretch, strengthen and unwind with a guided Pilates session surrounded by the beauty of the gardens.

Fall Plant Sale
September 25 | 4–8 p.m.
September 26 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Included with admission

Fall is for planting! Shop a wide selection and get expert advice from our team of horticulturists. This plant sale also coincides with our Fabulous Friday Happy Hour and Farmers Market so it’s sure to be a great night!

Saturday Plant Walks
Saturdays 1–2 p.m.

Included with Admission

Level up your gardening skills or just enjoy a guided plant walk with our horticulture staff — every Saturday! Themes vary with the seasons based upon what is blooming or showing off. So, bring your questions and join us for an amazing season!

June	<i>Seed Collecting</i> – Learn the tricks of the trade from our plant pros.
July	<i>Edible Plants</i> – Learn about edible plants in our area.
August	<i>Summer Annuals</i> – Join this walk to learn which are the winners and losers for 2026.
September	<i>Drought Tolerance</i> – If a plant looks good in September, it’s likely a good plant!
October	<i>Fall Pollinators</i> – The overlooked pollinator season. Can you say garden mum?
November	<i>Winter Interest</i> – Pick up ideas to juice up your garden for the cooler months.

Children in the Dell
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.–Noon | June–July

Included with Admission

Summer mornings are made for exploring. Join us each Saturday for hands-on, drop-in activities designed for curious kids and their grown-ups. This year’s theme highlights the many creatures that call the gardens home — from pollinating insects and birds to a few magical surprises along the way. Each week offers something new, so come back often and discover a different side of Yew Dell all summer long.

**No program on July 4; Yew Dell is closed.*

Save the Date!
Conservation Patch Day
Saturday, October 3 | 10 a.m.–Noon and 1–3 p.m.
Earn a custom patch while exploring conservation in action at Yew Dell.

Perennial Division with Jeff
Saturday, October 17 | 10 a.m.–Noon
Earn a custom patch while exploring conservation in action at Yew Dell.

Boo Dell
Sunday, October 25 | Noon–4 p.m.
A not-so-spooky afternoon of family fun, with treats, trails and festive activities.

Yuletide at Yew Dell
November 27–December 19 (Fridays and Saturdays)
Holiday lights, seasonal cheer and family-friendly fun return for four festive weekends.



Ready to Learn?
Scan to Sign Up!
Classes fill up quickly. All listed programs are scheduled to be in-person unless otherwise noted.



Volunteer from Bellarmine University helping maintain the Woodland Trails



Klein family members Holly Cooper and Julie Koehler



Jeff leading a propagation workshop

Send Stacy an email at stacyg@yewdellgardens.org

Rooted in Purpose

Philanthropy at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens

By Stacy Gordon-Funk

Philanthropy at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens is not simply about giving — it’s about cultivating. Like the gardens themselves, it reflects intentional care, a commitment to growth and a belief that what we nurture today will flourish for generations to come. Here, philanthropy takes root in legacy, deepens through stewardship and blossoms in a shared mission to teach, inspire and connect.

At its core, philanthropy is an investment in living systems — both natural and human. It sustains a place where horticulture meets creativity, where learning is hands-on and where every visitor is invited to see themselves as part of something larger. Each contribution — whether of time, resources or expertise — supports not only the beauty of the gardens, but the ideas they represent: curiosity, resilience and the enduring relationship between people and plants.

We are deeply grateful to those who came before us — visionaries whose generosity and foresight laid the foundation for all that Yew Dell has become. We especially recognize the Klein family, whose lasting commitment helped shape the gardens’ identity and purpose. Their legacy lives on in every pathway, every collection and every opportunity for discovery. Seeing members of the family continue to tend and care for this space is a powerful reminder that stewardship is both personal and ongoing.

Today’s donors carry that legacy forward. Your generosity ensures that Yew Dell continues to evolve, adapting to the needs of a changing world while remaining grounded in its founding principles. In a time of environmental urgency, your support makes possible sustainable practices, conservation efforts and educational programs that demonstrate how beauty and responsibility can go hand in hand.

Education is where this impact comes to life. Through workshops, youth programs and community engagement, philanthropy expands access to knowledge and creates meaningful, hands-on experiences. It transforms the gardens into a classroom without walls — one where learning grows naturally.

To give to Yew Dell is to believe in the power of place. As we look to the future, your support sustains the legacy, strengthens our commitment to the earth and ensures a space where curiosity and growth are always in season.

If we haven’t yet met, I would welcome the opportunity to connect.

Top Five Watering Tips for Summer Planters

Learn From Our Experts



Think about the planter you have.

- Terracotta pots can lose water through the sides and require more water than glazed planters.
- Hanging baskets are the worst. Depending on the location, they often need watering daily. Get them big and be careful not to put thirsty plants in them (we're looking at you Wave® petunia!)
- Skip those rocks or other things at the bottom of the planter. They do not help drainage; they simply raise the water table, keeping excess water in the root zone longer. Just make sure you have one or more large holes in the bottom.

Choose the right plants for your planter.

- Succulents and smaller drought-tolerant plants are great for small containers.
- Large, and we mean large, planters are necessary for fast-growing, thirsty plants. Think larger tropicals and annuals like coleus, tomatoes and SunPatiens.



Don't skimp on a potting mix.

- Quality mixes that hold water but also provide drainage and airspace are critical for those large planters with fast-growing plants.
 - 70%+ of peat or other moisture-holding media, like quality compost.
 - Bark and perlite add structure to the mix for air space and drainage.
- If a plant needs a large planter, don't fill half of the planter with an upside-down pot to save on potting mix!
- When in doubt, default to a good all-purpose premade potting mix (soilless media) from a reputable source.

Think about shade perennials that love a planter and are happy on a shaded porch!

- *Heuchera* (Better in a planter than the ground, nearly every time).
- Ferns like autumn ferns (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) and lady ferns (*Athyrium filix-femina*) are excellent.
- Small tabletop planters on the shaded porch with our native stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*) will be a dinner party conversation piece!



Uh oh, time for vacation, now what?

- Give them a good prune! Getting in there and strategically taking a third of each plant out can give tremendous relief to water needs while you are away.
- After the prune, if you are able to move any planters in the sun to a shady location while you are gone will be a big help.
- Don't forget to prune the hanging planters and set those down on the ground, too.
- With those simple steps, it will give your neighbor or friend much less critical watering to do!

Have more questions? Send us an email! grow@yewdellgardens.org



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Growing Beyond the Garden

Yew Dell Partners with UofL's Envirome Institute



Shamrock™ Rose Gold Lantana (*Lantana camara*) 'Balshamrold'

Yew Dell is broadening its effort to promote plants and gardens as essential components of human health. A formal partnership with the Institute's Greenprint initiative will bring Yew Dell's horticulture staff's unparalleled plant knowledge to advance essential greening efforts in Louisville's urban core.

"The Greenprint Initiative uses evidence-based natural landscapes to improve community health," says Dr. Ted Smith, UofL School of Medicine professor and Envirome Institute co-founder. "Success requires collaboration. We are so fortunate in Louisville to have partners like Yew Dell Botanical Gardens to provide their nationally renowned horticultural expertise needed to select the best plants for each specific site."



Rendering of the Trager Microforest (Photo credit: Gresham Smith and Tim Arvin)

Through this partnership, Yew Dell Executive Director, Dr. Paul Cappiello, and Yew Dell's horticulture staff will rely on their combined decades of research and gardening experience to provide advice on plant selection and sourcing, soil characteristics, site preparation and planting project coordination – all focused on improving plant performance and long-term success.

"Louisville's urban core has the most significant urban heat island conditions in the nation, and thriving green spaces offer some of the best remedies for those who live, work and play in the area," said Cappiello. "I am so pleased that we have this amazing opportunity to use the art and science of horticulture to advance the Greenprint Initiative's efforts. This is exactly the kind of community support work that was at the foundation of Yew Dell's founding 25 years ago."

The Greenprint Initiative is a citywide effort, commissioned by the Louisville mayor's office and coordinated by the University of Louisville's Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute, to integrate health-focused greening strategies into downtown Louisville's redevelopment. With generous support from the James Graham Brown Foundation, Greenprint incorporates 30+ projects, 20+ partners and more than 150 acres of coordinated improvements tied to nearly \$1 billion in development. Greenprint brings public agencies, nonprofits, developers and designers together to create a more connected, resilient and vibrant downtown.

Learning in the Landscape

Grown For The Garden, The Season and The Moments That Matter

In the spirit of Theodore Klein, Yew Dell's horticultural research and development involves acquiring and evaluating new and interesting selections of plants. We do this for many reasons: aesthetic appeal, adaptability to our climate, pollination rates and even consumer interest.

The hardy *Chrysanthemum* collection in the gardens has grown over the years, some favorites like (*Chrysanthemum*) 'Hillside Sheffield Pink', (*Chrysanthemum*) 'Springhouse Red' and (*Chrysanthemum*) 'Brandywine Sunset' thrive in our sunniest spots.

This interest, and growing innovation in hardy Chrysanthemums, brought the desire to continue to grow the collection, bringing more recent selections from across the map. Last spring, Paul acquired cuttings of 24 hardy Chrysanthemum cultivars from the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticulture. These were bred and evaluated specifically for their northern cold hardiness. We rooted them in the nursery, planted them last fall and will have their first bloom cycle later this summer.

Along with these, we have planted groupings of three to four plants of another 10 cultivars, some being from Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Springhouse Gardens in Nicholasville and from the renowned horticulturist Ryan Gainey.

Surrounding the Chrysanthemums are 15 varieties of Bluestem grasses that were donated by Hoffman Nursery out of North Carolina, to evaluate in our region. From the straight species big bluestems (*Andropogon gerardii*) and little bluestems (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), native to grassland regions all over North America, to some captivating newer cultivars, selected for garden appeal, this will be a fun batch to watch through the growing season.

We have revised our methods and intentions with the data our horticulture staff has collected and have developed digital forms for guests and volunteers to help us in evaluating the plants. With both the mums and bluestems, we are looking specifically at the growth habit, overall aesthetic appeal, bloom time and abundance, pollination rates, seed production and local consumer interest.



Hayden Nicholson Gardener



Fall planting in the Evaluation Gardens



Interested in volunteering with Hayden?

Scan the code for more information, or email Emma Bryan at emmab@yewdellgardens.org.

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Yew Dell Volunteer
Jim Gerdes

Where Community Grows

Why We Volunteer

For Jim Gerdes, volunteering at Yew Dell was a natural way to stay connected to the garden and the community.

"I have always been a 'hands in the dirt' kind of person, and my wife and I have enjoyed visiting Yew Dell during our years living in Oldham County, so volunteering after my retirement was a natural fit for me. Not only do you get to give back to your community and enjoy the fresh air, but you also get to meet the nicest people that enjoy a shared interest. I particularly like seeing people enjoying the gardens as we work together. The staff is always so appreciative and willing to share their expertise that you can't help but feel a sense of accomplishment after spending time with them. I learned the differences between the herbaceous, tree and intersectional peonies during one such impromptu educational session after inquiring about the beautiful spring flowers they produce around Yew Dell. I have since added a specimen to my own garden. A similar inquiry about some German Iris examples resulted in a staff member kindly dividing a few plants and sharing them with several volunteers for use in their own gardens. So many plants to learn about! Come join us!"



Interested in getting involved?

Scan the code for more information, or email Emma Bryan at emmab@yewdellgardens.org.

New Faces in the Gardens



Anna Allgeier
Guest Services and Rental Manager

Joined the team in April, bringing years of hospitality experience and a passion for creating seamless guest experiences. She's excited to lead the team into a busy wedding and event season.



Madelyn Hughes
Grower Assistant

Joined the nursery team in February and has quickly become an essential part of daily operations, helping keep everything growing strong behind the scenes.



Alison Kurnik
Rental Event Coordinator

A familiar face at Yew Dell, Alison transitions from Visitor Center Associate back to the Rentals team. We're excited to see her continue to grow and bring her expertise to the events team.



Sabrina Sorelle
Rental Event Coordinator

Joined in April and has hit the ground running, helping ensure events are organized, on track and memorable from start to finish.



Brittany Goode-Roberts
Donor Stewardship Coordinator

Joined in March with nearly a decade of stewardship experience. Brittany is focused on strengthening donor relationships and building meaningful connections that support Yew Dell's mission.



Skylar Marsh
Garden Assistant

Joined in April after graduating from the University of Louisville with a degree in Sustainability Studies and Environmental Science. She's already making a strong impact on the garden team.

What Can Deep Root Fertilization Do for Your Trees?

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- **STRONGER ROOT SYSTEM**
- **IMPROVED RESISTANCE TO DISEASE AND PEST**
- **FASTER RECOVERY FROM STRESS AND DAMAGE**
- **INCREASE LONGEVITY AND AESTHETIC APPEAL**



From Martha Lee's Café:

Summer is Upon Us!

With that comes the wonderful predicament of what to do with all those wonderful fresh tomatoes. In my humble opinion, a fresh summer Kentucky tomato is best when not "messed with" too much. My absolute favorite way to eat a tomato is the way my Grandma used to serve them, simply on a sandwich. Delicious toasted homemade bread, fresh tomatoes, lettuce from the garden and delicious mayonnaise. I enjoy adding a generous amount of fresh Basil to my homemade mayonnaise. This gives me the opportunity to use sweet basil that is overflowing from the gardens at the same time. This simple tomato sandwich reminds me of slower summer days past and all the wonderful emotions connected to those memories.



Sweet Basil Mayonnaise

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves
- 2 egg yolks
- 3 cloves roasted garlic
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Fresh ground pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon brown mustard
- 1 1/2 cups olive oil/vegetable oil blend

Directions:

Place all ingredients into a tall container. Use an immersion blender to mix. Start from the bottom and slowly pull the blender up, creating a smooth emulsion.



Every purchase at Martha Lee's Café supports Yew Dell's mission and the gardens.

What's Blooming Next

Weekly Summer Fun



Sunday Edible Garden Demo

Sundays, May 3 - October 25 | Noon–2 p.m.

Included with admission
Every Sunday through October, join members of our garden team and education staff in the Edible Garden for hands-on planting and harvesting demonstrations, creative activities, accessible horticultural science and tips for growing at home. Learn about plant life cycles, engage in sensory experiences with a variety of herbs, florals and vegetables, craft with natural materials and more. Activities change each week, so come see what we're up to today!

Upcoming Signature Events



Farmers Market Happy Hour

June 26, July 31, August 28 and September 25 | 4–8 p.m.

Free Admission
Our Farmers Market Happy Hour continues the last Friday of the month through September. Shop for Kentucky Proud produce, meats and cheeses, get dinner from Martha Lee's Café or a Louisville Food Truck Association vendor, enjoy live music, as well as drinks from Goshen Mercantile Tap Room and Prova Spirits.



Bourbon & Botanicals 2026

Thursdays, July and August | Doors open at 5 p.m., Plant Walk 6–7 p.m., Concert 7–8:45 p.m.

Bourbon & Botanicals music series returns! Plan to spend Thursday evenings at Yew Dell throughout July and August for an ever-changing lineup of great local music, crafty cocktails and seasonal bites from food trucks and Martha Lee's Café. Bring a lawn chair and plan to sit back, relax and let the delights of a summer evening in the garden help you start a little early on the weekend wind-down. Whether your jam is bluegrass, R&B, country or blues, we've got you covered. Our garden staff will offer pre-concert plant and garden walks starting at 6 p.m. So, bring your plant questions and make an evening of it. Visit our website for tickets.

**Please no coolers or outside food*



Twilight in the Garden 2026

Friday, September 18 | 6–10 p.m.

Save the date! Twilight in the Garden returns on Friday, September 18. Join us for our signature fundraiser as we come together for an evening of gourmet food and cocktails, along with a live and silent auction. Funds from Twilight in the Garden support every aspect of Yew Dell, from the garden to education and our continued growth. Stay tuned to our website and social media for more details and ticket release.

Rooted Together

How One Family Found Connection, Curiosity and Community at Yew Dell

When the Priest family moved to Louisville six years ago, they didn't expect a photo shoot to lead them to one of their favorite places. But that's exactly how they first discovered Yew Dell – when Lindsey, then working as a model, had a shoot in the gardens.

From the beginning, it was the ever-changing landscape that drew them in. Each visit felt different, with new blooms, new colors and new discoveries waiting around every corner. "Each time we came felt like a new discovery," they shared. Their children quickly found their own favorite spots, from the arboretum to the fairy garden, turning each trip into something both familiar and new.

Over time, those occasional visits became something more. As their kids have grown, so has the family's connection to the gardens. What started as a stop for plant sales evolved into a weekly tradition, spending part of the day homeschooling at Martha Lee's Café, followed by walks through the Woodland Trails.

Learning happens naturally here. While not part of a formal curriculum, the gardens have become a place to explore, ask questions and build knowledge together – whether identifying trees or discovering which plants thrive side by side.

Some of their favorite moments are the simplest: sharing lunch in the Café, getting to know the staff and returning each year with visiting family in tow. Yew Dell has become not just a destination, but a place they share with others.

What keeps them coming back is both the beauty of the gardens and the kindness of the people. It's a place that inspires – not only their time together, but their own garden at home and the vision of what it might become in the years ahead. As they put it, "The gardens are beautiful and the people are kind."

At Yew Dell, the Priest family hasn't just watched things grow – they've grown right alongside them.



Lindsey reading to Idris and Atticus in the Arboretum



Lindsey and David with their children at Yew Dell

Become a Member!



Scan the code to learn more.
Gift memberships will be mailed to the recipient at the address you provide.



Yew Dell Botanical Gardens is a partnership project of the Garden Conservancy, a national, non-profit organization founded to help preserve America's exceptional gardens.
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SPECIAL THANKS TO: UNITED DIRECT SOLUTIONS, INC.

Take a Little Summer Home!

Summer is here, and the Garden Gift Shop is stocked with seasonal favorites. Find stylish hats to keep you cool in the sun, plus hummingbird feeders and bird-friendly accessories to welcome wildlife to your garden. Bright, durable mats in a variety of patterns add an easy pop of color to your doorstep. Stop by and discover something new — we'll help you bring a little Yew Dell home with you.

