

# **Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County**

## **Flowering Plant Distribution Program**

### **Spring 2026 Newsletter**

**The plant distribution will be held on THURSDAY, May 21, 2026 from 12:30 – 5:50 PM at the Sustainable Living Center/Greenhouses in Central Park. Please Note: No flowers will be held after 5/21.**

The Adopt-a-Public-Space Program provides plants for civic-minded local gardeners interested in planting and maintaining gardens in public spaces. Individuals, businesses, families, or groups can adopt a public space. **The program is supported by public tax dollars, therefore, to qualify the space must be on public property.**

Public spaces may include boulevard islands, monuments, parks, and city- or county-owned planters. If you have questions about the definition of a public space eligible for this program, please contact your local neighborhood association. If you are a municipal government entity, please contact the Soil and Water Conservation District at 518-399-6980.

After selecting an appropriate space, participants agree to maintain the space for one year. That means gardeners are responsible for planting, watering, weeding, and fall clean-up of the garden area.

Groups or individuals who adopt a public space may request free flowering plants from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County. A flowering plant request form is included in this newsletter.

Send your completed plant request form by e-mail to [amj22@cornell.edu](mailto:amj22@cornell.edu). If you do not have email, please mail the request to Cornell Cooperative Extension, Schenectady County 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 301, Schenectady, NY 12308. Requests must be received by May 1, 2026.

#### **Frequently-Asked Questions About Plant Ordering and Distribution**

**Q. How do I estimate the number of plants I need for my space?**

**A. First, determine the size of your space in square feet.** For square or rectangular beds or containers, simply multiply the length times the width. For a circular bed or container, measure the distance across the circle (diameter). Then, multiply the diameter by itself. Multiply the answer by 0.7854 to find the area of the circle.

**You can order less than full flats:** The annuals that are available are distributed in 1/4 flats of 12 plants, 1/2 flats of 24 plants and full flats of 48 plants and should be planted approximately 8 inches apart. Overcrowded plants can suffer from a lack of air circulation, water, and sunlight. Although the bed may look attractive at the start, plants will soon

become tall and leggy and often suffer from increased insect and disease problems because they are environmentally stressed.

**Q. What happens after I send in my plant request form?**

A. We compare the plants requested to our inventory of available plants.

**Q. Why was my order cut?**

A. We have a limited number of plants available. Orders are often cut to accommodate as many gardens as possible. We make every attempt to provide the plants you want and need for your public space.

**Q. How do I get mulch delivered to my boulevard island?**

A. Individual bags of bark mulch will be available for pick up at the greenhouse on distribution day. There will be a three-bag limit per order. To arrange for a large delivery of bark mulch, please contact Soil and Water Conservation at 518-399-6980.

Sincerely,

Sarah Pechar

Association Executive Director

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