

Virtual Hortlandia 2020

N&M Herb Nursery

www.nmherbnursery.com

Interview with Rosie Sullivan at N&M Herb Nursery, edited for this article.

How did N&M Herb Nursery get started?

It started with the economic crash of the early 1990's. My husband was working in the timber industry and when that shut down almost overnight, we had a ½ acre backyard and we asked ourselves 'what can we grow and sell?'. We started selling plants for \$1.00 each at the Beaverton Farmers Market. Then we moved into the wholesale business in addition to the Farmer's Market. In the 2008 economic downturn, we needed to create the ability for people to come to the nursery, so we started on-site sales and continued with the Beaverton Farmer's Market and plant sales like Hortlandia. Here we are today, keeping our small business running through our current challenging situation.

What is the N&M Nursery Philosophy?

I say that I work with dirt and sell happiness. Every person who walks through our door is happy and wants to be there. People have to choose to visit us and when they do, we want them to have a great experience.

You are open for on-site shopping right now, what is that like for customers?

Coming to visit us is a great way for people to safely get out for a while. We are open 7 days a week, Monday through Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sundays 11am - 4 pm. There is plenty of space in the nursery for shopping. Everyone has been super respectful and so far we have never had a line. I'm the "social distancing police" and the "sanitation queen". We are taking the state and federal recommendations very seriously. If people are nervous about shopping, I recommend that they come early in the morning or call us and arrange to shop right at closing.

What plants do you recommend customers buy now?

People are seriously shopping for veggies and herbs. We have a good selection of herbs and it's a great time to get those in the ground. Our salvias are fantastic. They are such long bloomers and they come in so many colors. We offer a lot of 'Proven Winners' plants and find that they do very well for gardeners. This includes a large selection of hydrangeas. The *Proven Winners* 'Bloomerang' purple reblooming Lilac gets 3-4 feet tall and reblooms well for us. We have mixed pots and baskets planted up for people to enjoy continuous bloom through the summer.

What are some of your favorite plants?

I like to garden with lots and lots of color. I love all kinds of long flowering plants that give back so much with little care. Pots with mixes of annuals and plants for foliage, fill up the whole yard with spring to summer color.

I love salvias and hummingbirds love the salvias too. Sometimes people ask if my hummingbirds are fake and on remote control because they are so thick on my salvias, they don't look real. I put together pots of six salvias that will be blooming all summer long and call them "hummingbird buffets".

If customers don't want to shop in person at the nursery can they still buy your plants?

If customers don't want to come in and shop, they can call 971-208-5008 and order for pick-up. We will pull the best plants for them and have them ready for curbside pick-up. We are also working on our website www.nmherbnursery.shop where customers can order plants and we will deliver in the Portland to Salem area. We offer free delivery for orders over \$100 and a \$20 delivery fee for orders under \$100. This is a work in progress and you can always call if you have questions.