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# the spotlight

A weekly roundup for shopping and doing business locally!



## Spring has Sprung at Smarty Plants

It has certainly been an uncertain time. We have adjusted to a new norm. We have learned what we should and should not do. We have discovered new things and developed new hobbies. We have become more creative. We are enjoying the health benefits of spending more time outside. Fortunately, spring has arrived a bit early this year, enabling us to start our outdoor activities a little earlier than normal. After a long wet winter, we are finally able to get outside and enjoy the things we love, such as gardening.

So, what is gardening? Is it just about planting a vegetable garden? "Absolutely not, gardening encompasses anything plant related. Container gardening, indoor gardening, landscape, and yes, vegetables, plus a lot more are all types of gardening" states Donna Cole, owner of Smarty Plants.

Container gardening has risen in popularity over the past few years. It is easy and fun, plus it gives you

the opportunity to be creative. While the thriller, spiller, filler rule is widely accepted, "There really is no right or wrong way to create containers. If you like it, that is all that matters" states Cole. Smarty Plants has an amazing selection of beautiful plants all grown on site that are perfect for creating your masterpiece. If your creative juices aren't really flowing, don't worry, Cole has created many containers and hanging baskets ready for your enjoyment.

Indoor gardening is quite popular now, especially given the health benefits of plants. They act as air filters, while oxygenating our air. Indoor plants can also be grown in a shady location outside for the summer, greening up your porch or patio. If you have a sunny location, consider succulents and cacti. Smarty Plants has a wonderful selection of these low maintenance gems.

If your home is in need of new or additional landscaping, they can help you with that too. They have

an extensive selection of beautiful shrubs and trees. Cole states, "All of our landscape plants are grown in Alabama. This ensures that all plants are well suited to our area in addition to supporting our local growers."

With this new norm in which we now live, many people have more time at home. For gardeners, that means extra time to dig in the dirt, experiment and be creative. For non-gardeners, now is a great time to test the waters. Get your hands dirty, play with plants and have a bit of fun. It is also a great way to get your kids involved. Gardening, no matter which path it might take, is truly family friendly.

Smarty Plants is open and ready to help you with all your plant needs. They are located in Decatur, just off the Beltline, at 2602 Gordon Terry Pkwy. Their hours are Monday - Saturday 9 - 5:30. They offer in store shopping and curbside pickup.

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