

# Hydrangea Farm News - August, 2014



## The Re-creation of Hydrangea Farm Nursery in Yarmouth Port on Cape Cod is Progressing - but or so Slowly!

The move to Yarmouth Port back in February went well considering it was winter and a cold and snowy one for sure. We chose to move in minimally so we could more easily implement a major interior renovation program. This project has gone well overall with the usual unforeseen problems and delays typical for an effort of this magnitude. And the end is now well in sight as we near our commitment to be one of the homes on this year's local historical society's tour on September 13.

Our hydrangea growing operation – Hydrangea Farm – has been forced to take a temporary backseat as our reno project includes a fair amount of exterior landscape modification. Lots of hydrangeas are involved and we're right in the midst of planting over 100 varieties in various locations immediate to the house and in the extensive garden locations in the back 'forty' of our property. And this is as it should be for someone who has been growing hydrangeas for now more than 40 years.

Many larger 'mother' plants were relocated to the Cape late last summer, through the fall, and continued into early January 2014. Despite the serious 2014 winter weather, which damaged the macrophylla species heavily throughout the Northeast and down through the Mid-Atlantic states, our plants came through quite well so our future cutting / propagation stock was preserved. Our internet plant inventory, mostly 2 quart pot size, did not fair nearly as well given the cold, the winds, and a somewhat less than ideal storage situation. The majority of our retail stock is still located on Nantucket at our daughter's property. She's been a diligent maintainer and I have been going to the island at least one day each week to further the maintenance of our inventory.

The downside of our current situation is to postpone our hoped for limited September plant availability. Very simply, we are just not yet ready to offer hydrangeas consistent with our established quality expectations. At this point, we will continue to suspend internet plant sales until May 1st, 2015. We take pride in our plant quality and prefer to withhold shipping until we are completely satisfied that our plants are growing well and are in "top" condition. We sincerely apologize for this unavailability and hope you will appreciate our situation and concern for plant quality. Please stick with us - we'll be keeping our customers apprised of our progress – and do check our website from time to time as we will be previewing a number of new introductions in 2015.

Mary Kay & Mal Condon