

WHAT'S INSIDE:

GARDENING TIPS, NEW ITEMS, SPECIALS,
SPRING CLASSES, AND MORE!



THE *Gardener*

The Spring Issue

MARCH 2025

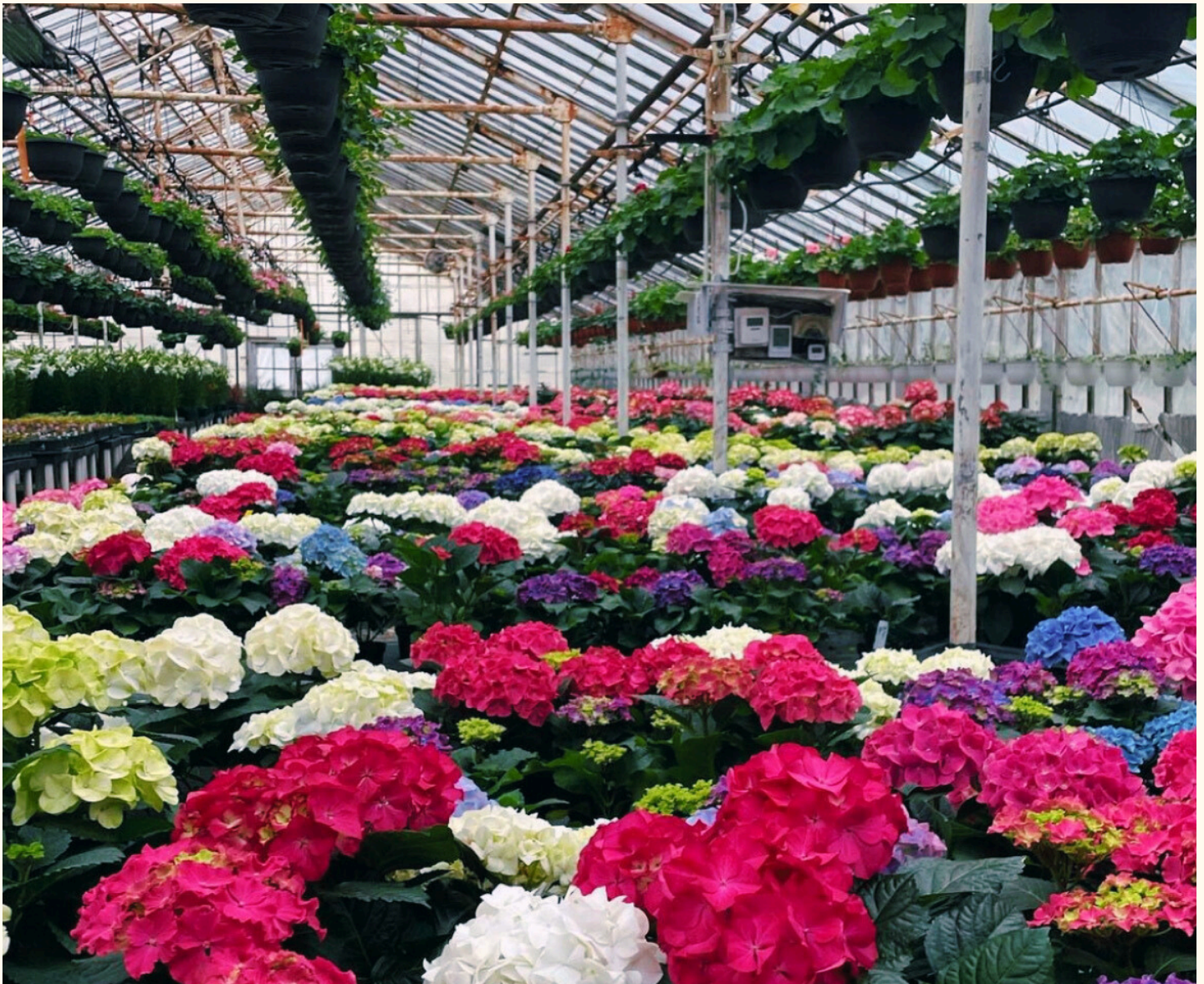


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A LETTER FROM THE Greenhouse

"In the springtime, the heart regrows hope."

— Angie Weiland-Crosby

According to our old friend, the groundhog, we're still in winter, but March marks the beginning of spring here at Bayport Flower Houses. As I sit here and write this opening, I think, "Another spring season, that's so much work and long hours," but it's all worth it.

Our dedicated staff in the growing department has been hard at work since early February, filling pots, laying them out in the greenhouses, and planting the beautiful annuals and perennials that will adorn your gardens this spring. What makes the spring season's long hours and busyness worth it is seeing the excitement and passion in our customers' eyes when they see the beautiful plants we've grown. It truly is a labor of love.

We have carefully observed the varieties that our customers favor from year to year, but we always like to add some new ones! The colors and patterns available on today's annuals and perennials are genuinely out of this world! We have something for everybody. From the novice gardener, to the experienced one, we've got it all!

What better way to kick off the spring season than to celebrate with us at our annual Spring Open House, which will be held on March 29th and 30th? We will have storewide sales, live music, greenhouse tours, and more. Stop in to see for yourself.



For our Irish friends out there, we will be marching down Montauk Highway in the BBP community parade on March 16th. Look for our float and grab a daffodil—a long-standing tradition in our community!

Just to remind everyone, this year's Easter Holiday is later than it has been in a few years. It's April 20th, so keep that in mind when planning your gardens or planters. We will still have Bulb crops (tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Easter Lilies, etc.) available in March and early April as usual!

So, I'd like to thank everyone for remaining such wonderful customers. It's been a long, cold winter, and we are excited to see what this spring holds—so excited that we might wet our plants! Please be sure to stop in; we would love to see you!

Happy Spring and Happy St. Patrick's Day,

John Auwaerter

HEAD GROWER & PART-OWNER

OUR ANNUAL

Spring Open House

MARCH 29 - 30TH, 2025

Refreshments, Music, Garden Lectures,
Floral Demonstrations, Greenhouse
Tours, Classes, and Kids Activities!



2025 WHAT'S NEW IN THE GARDEN!

Free lecture with Karl Auwaerter,
General Manager, bring your questions!

March 29th @ 10:00 am

March 30th @ 10:00 am

MARCH 29 & 30TH

20% OFF

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE

Valid In-Store at Bayport Flower Houses from March 29
& 30 2025 Only. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past
purchases.

Spring Workshops

To secure your spot register online at
shop.bayportflower.com, by phone at (631)-472-0014
or in-store 7 days a week.

[Register Now](#) ↗

MARCH 29 - 1:00 PM \$60 pp
Blooming Spring Basket

Create a blooming basket filled with spring-blooming
bulbs while learning planting techniques and care tips
in this hands-on workshop.

MARCH 30 - 1:00 PM \$60 pp
Blooming Spring Basket

Create a blooming basket filled with spring-
blooming bulbs while learning planting techniques
and care tips in this hands-on workshop.

MARCH 8 - 3:00 PM \$25 pp
Lucky Leprechaun Garden

Kids will create their own Lucky Leprechaun
Garden using potted plants and a little magic!

MARCH 29 - 3:00 PM \$25 pp
Kids Spring Blooming Basket

Kids will have fun planting spring bulbs in a mini
Easter basket, decorating it, and learning how to
care for their creation!

MARCH 30 - 3:00 PM \$25 pp
Kids Spring Blooming Basket

Kids will have fun planting spring bulbs in a mini
Easter basket, decorating it, and learning how to
care for their creation!

Early Bloomers

HOMEGROWN FLOWERS TO GET
YOU IN THE SPRING SPIRIT



Hydrangeas

Available in 4.5", 6", and
9" pots starting at

\$19.99

These stunning shrubs showcase clusters of flowers in ever-changing hues, ranging from soft pinks and deep blues to fresh greens and crisp whites. Perfect for decorative containers, potted hydrangeas add elegance to outdoor patios and porches.

Cool-Weather Color

Pansies and primroses are vibrant cool-season plants that bring early-season color to gardens while many other plants remain dormant. Available in a wide range of hues—including blue, purple, red, yellow, orange, white, and even black—these hardy flowers thrive in cooler temperatures and can tolerate light frost, making them ideal for adding cheerful color to cold-weather landscapes.

Primroses

4.5" pot.....\$4.99

Pansies

3.5" pot.....\$4.49

5" pot.....\$6.99

8" pot.....\$12.99

6" Hanging Basket.....\$10.99

8" Hanging Basket.....\$16.99



Primroses

THROUGH MARCH 31ST

PRIMROSES

3 FOR \$12.99

Valid In-Store at Bayport Flower Houses until March 31st, 2025 Only. Not valid on gift cards, classes or past purchases.



Pansies



Tulips



Daffodils



Hyacinths



Muscari

Spring Bulbs

Our homegrown potted spring bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth bring vibrant color and fragrance to any space. From tulips and hyacinths to daffodils and muscari, these seasonal favorites celebrate the beauty of spring.

- 4.5" pot.....\$7.99
- 6" pot.....\$12.99
- 8" pot.....\$22.99

Need a designer's eye?

Like our Spring bulbs but don't want to plant them? Have our talented team put together one of our Bayport's Best Splendor Plantings - perfect as a gift to friends, family or yourself!

[**Order Now**](#)



Waking Up Your Garden!



TIPS FOR GETTING READY FOR SPRING

Spring is finally here! The days are getting longer, the birds are singing, and it's time to shake off winter and get our gardens back in action. Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or a first-time gardener, a little prep now will set you up for a season full of beautiful blooms and tasty homegrown veggies. Let's dive into the essentials of waking up your garden!

Prep your yard

1 Clear out the old

Winter leaves behind all sorts of debris—fallen branches, dead plants, and stubborn weeds. Take some time to clean up your garden beds so your new plants have space to thrive.

2 Feed your soil

Healthy plants start with healthy soil! Mix in compost or aged manure to boost nutrients and improve soil texture. We love SOS Compost made right here on Long Island! If you're starting a new garden bed, aim for 4 to 8 inches of organic matter; if you're refreshing an existing one, 1 to 2 inches will do the trick. (Cornell Cooperative Extension, Columbia-Greene)

3 Check the soil temperature

Some plants can handle the cold, but most seeds need warm soil to sprout. **Grab a soil thermometer** (or just use your hand—if the soil feels super chilly, it's probably not ready!) and wait for it to hit at least 40°F before planting cool-season crops like peas, spinach, and kale. (Cornell Coop. Ext., All.)



RAPIDTEST SOIL THERMOMETER
\$13.49

Start your seeds

4 Set up a mini greenhouse

Keep your seeds warm (around 75°F) until they sprout, then lower the temp to about 60°F. This keeps them strong and prevents leggy, floppy stems. **We have both mini greenhouses and seed mat warmers to get you started!** (Cornell Cooperative Extension, Clinton)



5 Move outside, slowly!

Don't rush it! Seedlings need time to adjust to the great outdoors. Start by placing them outside for a few hours a day in a shady spot, gradually increasing sun exposure over a week. This process, called "hardening off," helps them toughen up before you plant them in the garden.

- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Columbia-Greene. Seed Starting Guide. [Link](#)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Allegany. Starting the Gardening Season. [Link](#)
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, Clinton. Vegetable Growing Guide. [Link](#)

IT'S TIME FOR COLOR

Don't wait until Daylight Savings to bring more light into your life—whisk those winter blues away with one of our **colorful designer arrangements.**

[Order Now](#)

Rays of Life
Bouquet Deluxe
\$99.99



Fiesta Bouquet
Premium
\$114.99



Catching Rays
Bouquet Deluxe
\$74.99



Sweet As Can Be
Bouquet Deluxe
\$79.99

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Scotty Soper

SENIOR GREENHOUSE TECHNICIAN /
WINTER STORAGE PROGRAM FOREMAN
Growing With Us Since 2010

As the dedicated overseer of our winter plant storage program and growing operations, Scotty has been an integral part of our team for 14 years. His expertise in horticulture, combined with his strong problem-solving abilities, ensures the optimal care of our plants year-round. Beyond his horticultural knowledge, Scotty plays a key role in maintaining the shop's high standards through his skilled craftsmanship and attention to detail. His contributions behind the scenes make him an invaluable member of our team, keeping everything running smoothly.

Tell us about when you started at Bayport Flower Houses...

I began my journey with Bayport Flower Houses in 2011 as a greenhouse assistant while still in high school. Over the

past 14 years, I have worked and grown alongside John Auwaerter, expanding my expertise to become a key member of our greenhouse team. Currently, I serve as the foreman of our winter care program and oversee the repairs of the greenhouse structures.

What is your favorite memory of working at Bayport Flower Houses?

In the early days of my time at Bayport Flower Houses, the other members of the greenhouse team and I made sure to enjoy ourselves during planting season. One time, we had an 'orange war' where we threw small oranges at each other. You gotta have fun!

What are your favorite blooming shrubs and annuals?

I really like hydrangeas in all colors, from purple-blue to pure white to hot pink. I also enjoy fuchsias, which come in hanging baskets later in the spring. Their bright pink and purple colors are fantastic!

Too Much Green? Never Heard of It!

FROM SHAMROCKS TO GREEN ARRANGEMENTS, WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BE LUCKY THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Happy
Day Bouquet
Deluxe
\$64.99



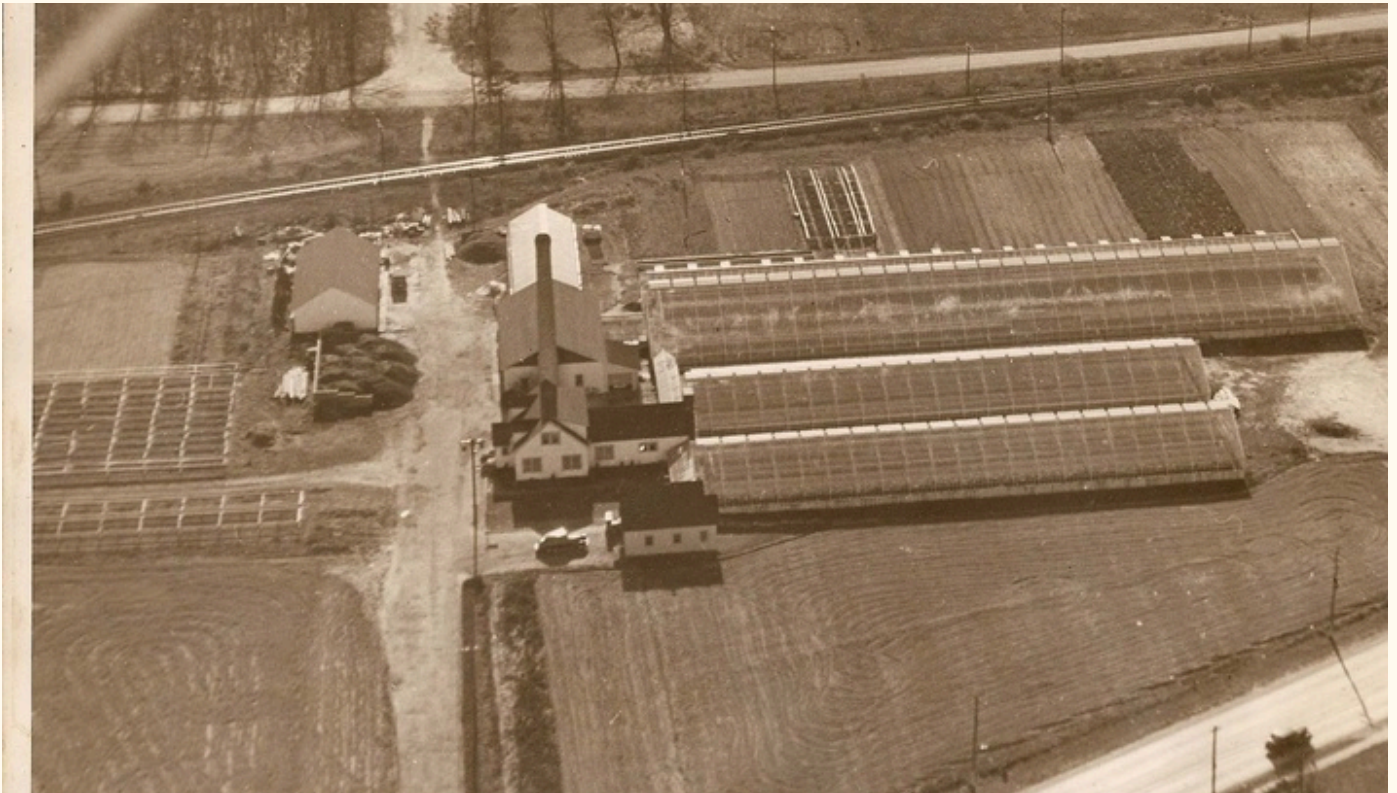
Mini Shamrocks
starting at
\$2.99



Oxalis
(Pictured)
starting at
\$6.99

Come see us in
the **35th Annual**
Bayport - Blue Point
St. Patrick's Day Parade
MARCH 16TH
@ 11 AM

A Blooming Legacy: Bayport Flower Houses’ 93 Year Journey



Bayport Flower Houses Field - 1940s

For 93 years, Bayport Flower Houses has been more than just a business—it has been a part of our family, our community, and our way of life. What began as a simple greenhouse operation has grown into a thriving floral and garden center, all thanks to the vision and dedication of our family, the Auwaerters, and our incredible team. Quality, exceptional customer service, and a passion for innovation in the flower and garden industry have always been at the heart of what we do.

The Vision Begins

Although Bayport Flower Houses was founded in 1932, our story began in the early 1920s, when Captain Carl Muller, a retired sea captain, saw an opportunity in Long Island's flourishing flower industry. At the time, the South Shore was a hub for flower production thanks to its sunny climate, rich soil, and proximity to the Long Island Rail Road, making it easy to ship to the New York City flower markets. Seeing great potential in commercial flower growing, Muller purchased 3.5 acres on the southwest corner of Montauk Highway and Fairview Avenue.

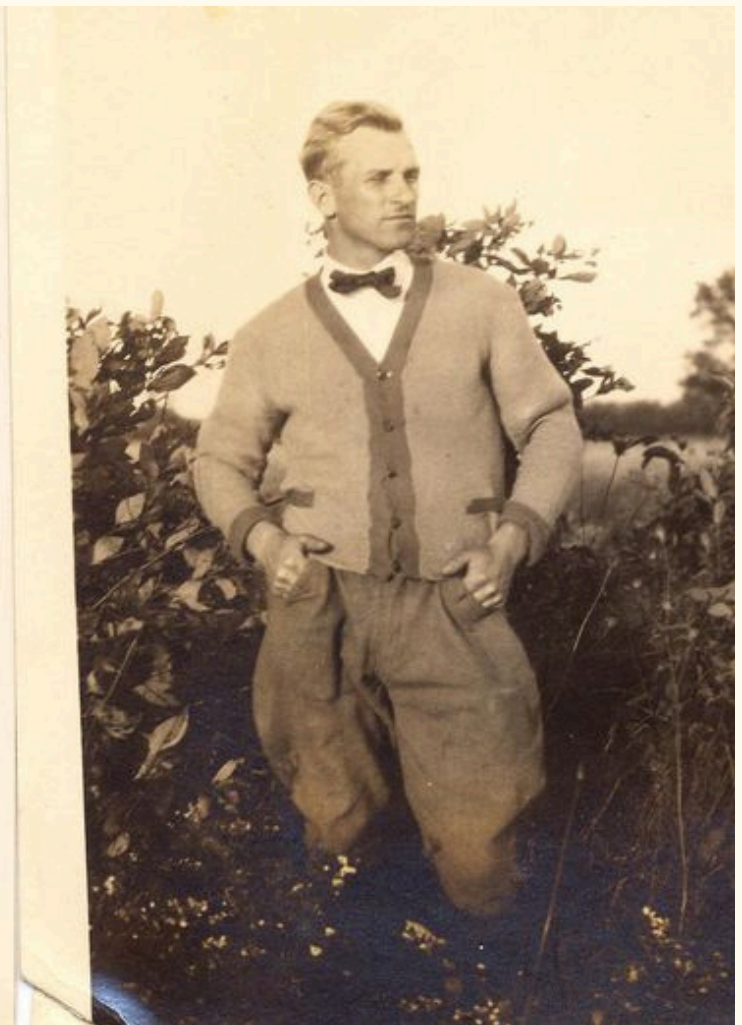
In the winter of 1923-24, he built his first greenhouse for large-scale carnation

production, which still stands today as "1 House." His early success led him to build another identical greenhouse in 1926, now called "2 House." In 1927, he added a wood-frame structure for grading and packing—what is now our retail shop.

Carl Muller continued to see great possibilities for his business. In 1928, he built another greenhouse, known today as the "Big House." However, the Stock Market Crash of 1929 changed everything. Struggling to pay off his substantial mortgage, he turned to Captain Leonard Miller, a wealthy merchant mariner from New York City, for a second mortgage in 1930.



Carnation Production in 1 House - 1960s



Maria and Paul Auwaerter

A New Chapter with the Auwaerters

This is where the Auwaerters, Paul and Maria, entered the story. Seeking new opportunities after World War I, they emigrated from Stuttgart, Germany, bringing expertise in agriculture and business. After first working on a farm in New Jersey, they eventually became the caretakers for the Miller estate in Blue Point, which still stands today on the corner of Bergen and Middle Road.

On June 1, 1932, Captain Miller assumed ownership of the greenhouses and hired Paul and Maria to manage the newly named Bayport Flower Houses.

With passion and dedication, Paul and Maria built a flourishing business while raising their three children—Norma, Gisbert, and Karin. Our grandfather, Paul, had an incredible artistic eye for floral design, creating stunning arrangements from the greenhouse's cut flowers.

In the late 1940s, our family expanded its offerings, adding a showroom and design space. When Paul passed away in 1952, Maria and their children carried on his vision, with Gisbert, leading the way in floral design.

As the industry evolved, so did we. Rising costs and increased competition from imported flowers led us to shift our focus from cut flowers to homegrown plants, ensuring our business remained strong. Our family worked tirelessly and successfully to meet the demands of each changing era.

Looking Ahead

Today, our family is honored to continue the legacy that began 93 years ago. With the support of an incredible staff, Bayport Flower Houses has grown into a full-service garden center, landscape division, and renowned flower shop. While much has changed, our commitment to quality, creativity, and customer service remains as strong as ever.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Whether you've been with us for generations or are just discovering Bayport Flower Houses, we are grateful to continue growing with you.

Here's to 93 years - and many more - of heart, soil, and community!

- Information in this article is based on historical research done by John Auwaerter, son of Gisbert and JoAnn Auwaerter



Gisbert Auwaerter - early 2000s



The Auwaerter & Saroka Family - 2022

HUG MORE, STRESS LESS

Bring home a cuddly companion
—because everyone deserves
a little more squish and a lot
less stress!



Mega Squishable
Rainbow Caterpillar



Cake Moth



Sakura Mothman



Turnip Moth



Flower Bunny



Party Snacker
Pastel Rainbow

Thank you for being a part of our community.
Here's to *growing* together!

Monday - Saturday 8 am to 6 pm
Sunday 9 am to 3 pm

Spring Hours (starting March 29)

Monday - Saturday 8 am to 6 pm
Sunday 9 am to 5 pm

Bayport Flower Houses 940 Montauk
Hwy, Bayport, NY 11705 (631) 472 - 0014

