

Chelse's Greenhouse offers quality fruits, flowers

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An Elizabeth Township business is growing — and customers are taking note of its success.

For its efforts, Chelse's Greenhouse has received the Readers' Choice Bronze Award for lawn and garden center. Owner Nyles Falatek said he appreciates the recognition.

"We have really good customers that support us," he said.

Falatek prides himself on growing a quality product, beginning his plants from seed and trimming them back instead of using a growth-inhibiting spray common in most larger factory nurseries.

"Customers are pleased with how well these plants do," he said. "They don't want to buy something like this from a box store."

It's their loyalty that keeps business booming each year, Falatek said. Word of mouth advertising has been the biggest marker of success. People appreciate that plants, with proper care, remain healthy and green for longer than varieties purchased at supermarkets and larger retailers.

Individual attention, extensive plant knowledge and reasonable prices also lead people to return year after year.

"We're one of the few mom and pop operations around," said Falatek, who opened Chelse's Greenhouse 13 years ago after starting with a small greenhouse in his mother's backyard.

Visitors have a large selection of plants from which to choose, including nearly 2,000 flats of vegetables, a variety of fruit trees and berry bushes, thousands of perennial flowers and more than 3,000 hanging baskets. Falatek said one of his most unique hanging basket offerings is the strawberry plant, one of his best sellers.

"It's more enjoyable to go out on your porch and just pick a strawberry without having to hunt in the garden," he said. "It's one way to keep the deer and other animals from eating all the fruit."

When the weather turns colder, Chelse's Greenhouse begins to offer pumpkins, dried cornstalks, hay and other locally grown seasonal favorites.

The approaching Memorial Day weekend means lots of customers will be in to pick up their summer plants, with a focus on red, white and blue varieties for the holiday.

"People want to decorate their house and get everything ready (for summer)," Falatek said. "The frost is pretty much done by that point, so get your shovels out and get ready to plant."

Chelse's Greenhouse is located at 1191 Rock Run Road, Elizabeth Township, and 5020 William Penn Highway, Monroeville. Rock Run Road hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, and Monroeville hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 412-751-5890 or visit www.chelsesgreenhouse.com.



— Photo by Jennifer R. Vertullo/Daily News
Owner Nyles Falatek shows off a variety of colorful hanging baskets available at Chelse's Greenhouse.