

LAWN & Garden

Continuing family tradition of service

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It's a family affair at Martinson's Garden Works and always has been.

For decades the full service garden center on U.S. Highway 51 in Ridgeland has provided area gardeners with a wide variety of services.

Offering everything from the perfect pot plant for your patio to expert advice and landscaping from their trained staff, the store has become known for its complete service.

Now, Allen Martinson and his wife Mimi have taken over ownership of the store from Allen's parents Billy and Rita Martinson and are always looking to expand those services.

The couple originally started working with Billy and Rita out of college and started their own growing operation on site, producing a wide variety of flowers and plants for sale on the open market.

"When we started (the growing operation) was a whole sale operation for Mississippi," Mimi Martinson said. "It was just for us."

"But the city just grew around us and we expanded our retail selection," she continued. "We ended up making a major business out of our bedding plants. Now we mainly just supply ourselves."

Mimi says the ability to grow their own plants and flowers helps them offer a higher



Allen and Mimi Martinson head up a top-notch staff at Martinson's Garden Works offering a wide assortment of items and services.

quality product than other stores, especially the "big box stores."

"It's really an advantage to our customers and it's what really sets us apart," she said. "We have total control over what varieties of plants we grow and what soil we grow them in to make a really healthy plant that is grown on site."

"Our plants aren't grown in Michigan then shipped down here in a truck," she

added. "That really makes a huge difference in the quality of the plant and our business."

Mimi says south Madison County is the perfect place for a full-service garden center.

With the wealth of residential and commercial property being developed they have seen an increasing demand for not only plants and gardening materials, but for landscaping services, which they also provide.

"We have two full-time landscape archi-

ects on staff and a contract service," Mimi Martinson said. "Most people start with a blank slate and just want someone to come consult with them. We do it all. Full service all the way."

She also commented on the attention area cities like Madison and Ridgeland pay to landscape architecture saying it helps drive their business as well.

"It really inspires homeowners when they see developers doing a good job of landscaping on a site," Mimi said. "It encourages them to develop their own lawns and that's very good for our business, and the beauty of their lawns."

Most of all Martinson's Garden Works wants to be known for customers service which they take a lot of pride in.

Mimi Martinson says with as many experienced and well-trained employees as they have on staff, no one will have to wander around their store looking for answers.

"This is our family business and we've always had a close-knit crew," she said. "We have a knowledgeable staff that can educate our customers, show them around and teach them about the different varieties."

"And if people have problems with their plants we can analyze them and tell them how to care for them," she continued. "For the community it's a great service we provide for free."