

**AN
EXPERIENCE
TO GROW
ON**

As the current owner of Molbak's, Jens Molbak continues to grow the nursery operation that began with his father's dream and hard work.

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It all started when a young Danish man, Egon Molbak dreamed of building a business around what he loved – gardening and plants. In 1956, Egon and his wife Laina Molbak left Denmark for Woodinville, Washington, to do just that.

The Molbak family bought a very small existing wholesale nursery in Woodinville that grew only carnations. They began selling other plants to wholesalers, and word quickly spread about their superior product. People started knocking on the nursery doors wanting to buy the plants retail. The Molbak's couldn't turn them away and they started letting people in.

It began as only a few months in the spring selling plants retail and by 1966,

Molbak's opened its doors to the general public.

Since then, they've opened many other doors and let millions of people in.

Now owned by son Jens Molbak, the business is more than your average garden shop – it's an experience.

Only a 25-minute drive from downtown Seattle, the Molbak's Woodinville store has grown from the original four acres to nearly 15 acres – making it one of the largest single-site garden centers in the country and in the state of Washington.

They have one of the largest selections of high-quality annuals and perennials in the Pacific Northwest. They carry everything from the tried and true plants to the unique and the unusual.

The Molbak's plant farm, which is located just down the road from the retail store, is a 40-acre facility with about 250,000 square feet of covered growing area. State-of-the-art computer con-

trolled greenhouses now grow approximately 80 percent of the indoor and garden plants they sell.

Growing the plants locally is important because this means the plants are already acclimated to the area so they will be more sustainable than plants shipped in from other areas.

"Growing our plants locally, and growing them well, keeps them sustainable – and that is important to us," Molbak said "We do everything we can to grow a high-quality plant so that when you add it to your home or garden, it lasts for years to come."

Growing them locally also means they are fresh, with plants being delivered daily to the retail store.

Molbak says he loves what he does because "gardening is important. Gardening can create great spaces in your home and your yard. Having a space that you love with plants that you enjoy makes for better experiences. Whether you are walking through your

front door, having a picnic in your backyard or entertaining in your house – beautiful plants and landscaping can make your experience more enjoyable and memorable.”

One thing is for sure, your visit to Molbak’s will be a memorable experience.

Along with having any plant you could want, they also carry everything else you might need for your garden and your home. Garden furniture, fountains, garden art, garden accessories and home décor – you’ll find everything you need to create the perfect atmosphere in your garden and home. All this shopping will certainly work up an appetite, so make sure and stop by the café for a delicious lunch and a glass of local Washington wine.

Education is also an important part of Molbak’s, and they have a robust calendar of educational events. They have a class or seminar in a variety of topics, such as: keeping your soil healthy; growing edibles in your garden; and using plants for sustainable, nontoxic interior design.

Molbak’s is a popular place for presentations by gardening experts like Ciscoe Morris, local radio and TV host, columnist and nationally best-selling author.



Molbak’s Garden café is a popular meeting place.

“The gardening industry has always been green. We can help you grow healthy food that you and your family will enjoy.”
-Jens Molbak

care of it. It teaches children they can’t rush it and rewards them when they follow through,” shared Molbak.

He also enjoys the rhythm of gardening – it is a year-round activity, but it changes every month and from year-to-year.

All of these elements come together to make Molbak’s a destination.

While they still meet the needs of the local community, Molbak’s also attracts visitors from around the Puget Sound area. In fact, they often get out-of-state visitors who make a point of stopping into Molbak’s while they are in town.

Over the years, Molbak has seen many fads and trends come and go in the gardening world.

For example, the current trend is toward architectural plants. Instead of focusing solely on a bloom, people are looking for shape. Narrowing it down to fewer plants, but selecting ones with clean lines and complementary shapes, can make for a more dramatic impact in your garden.

There has also been a major shift toward growing your own vegetables and being more “green.”

It’s also something great to do with your children, “I love that gardening teaches children the law of the farm. If you want to harvest something in September, you have to plant it in early spring and take

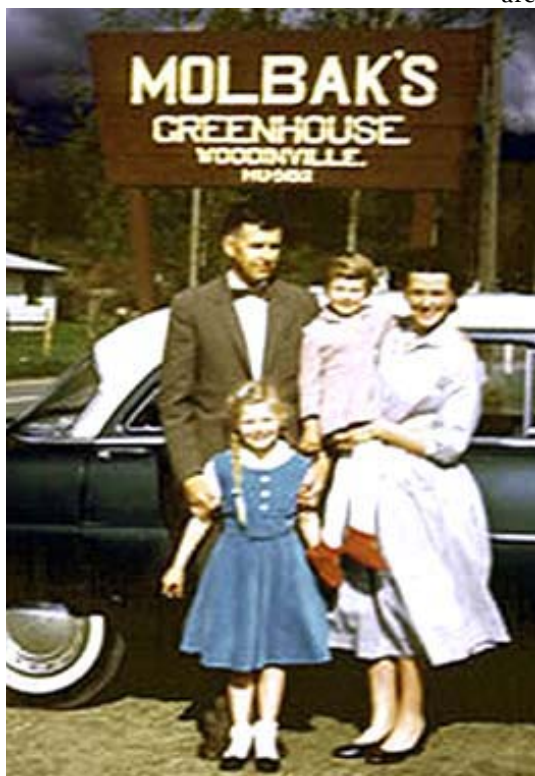
Molbak’s has won many awards, maybe most notably the Best Garden Center in Western Washington for the last five years by King5, the local Seattle news channel. They’ve also been honored as one of the most innovative garden centers in the country.

Just when you think they do it all, they find another niche to fill, most recently opening the farm to cater to landscapers and wholesalers. Although they always sold their plants wholesale, they just recently began providing landscapers and wholesalers direct access to the farm – allowing them to see the entire nursery stock and providing them with more assistance as they select the right plants for their projects or inventory.

Last year Molbak’s celebrated its 50th anniversary. Molbak reflected with his father on the fact that “there is a little bit of Molbak’s in gardens throughout the Puget Sound.”

What started as a dream in Denmark has now become an opportunity for you to create your dream garden experience at your home.

Molbak’s is open daily. For store hours and location visit www.molbaks.com or call (866) 466-5225.



This historic family photo (featuring Egon, Laina, Ellen and Kirsten Molbak) was taken in spring of 1957.