

ALASKA GROWN

Farmer Profile



The Magical World of Mile 5.2 Greenhouse

EAGLE RIVER—Stepping into Mile 5.2 Greenhouse is like entering the world of Willy Wonka... if Willy Wonka were more enthused about plants than candy, that is. Colorful glass balls hang from the ceiling, tables are laden with hand-made items from all over the world, and there are bright, fragrant plants as far as the eye can see, boasting names like “Sunshine in a Pot.”

Owner Dale Walberg plays the role of the greenhouse’s Wonka. Walberg’s passion for his greenhouse is evident when you meet him. The business started as a hobby, he said: he loved growing perennials.

The hobby became “Mile 5.2 Greenhouse,” which now sells perennials, annuals, herbs, tropical plants and gifts. Since the greenhouse is open 361 days each year, the selection

depends on the season. The greenhouse even sells Christmas trees during the month of December.

Walberg sells herbs to the wholesale market. He explains that all types of mint are very popular right now in

Alaska, as are sage, rosemary, oregano, basil, and thyme. Herb buyers are sure to get a bang for their buck at Mile 5.2 Greenhouse, since the herbs are larger than usual. With a faint smile, he quips, “It’s like the Pleistocene era back to life!”

Walberg’s top priority is customer service, and he believes this sets his business apart. He and his employees go above and beyond to answer people’s questions, carry purchases out to customer’s cars, and have an active online presence through their website and Facebook page.

Walberg says the customers are his favorite part of his profession: “You never know who you’re going to meet.”

Many readers will relate to his least favorite part. “Hose kinks!” he says, laughing, “Sometimes they get really, really out of hand.”



Matt Presser, manager at the greenhouse, shows off a citrus plant.

This farmer profile is brought to you by the
Division of Agriculture
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