



## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

**Garden Tips:** It's bed time for the garden

**Apple Lane Gift Shop:** Apple Master Apple Peelers

**-Sign up for FALL WORKSHOPS**

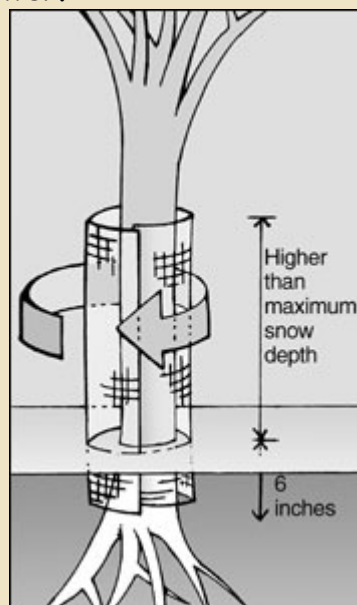
## Oct. 3rd E-NEWS

### GARDEN TIPS: Bedtime in the Garden

A few years ago, I put together a master list of things to do to get your garden ready for winter. The list was gleaned from all the courses I'd taught over the years on topics having to do with fall gardening. That list can be found on our website: <http://www.hannaorchards.com/faq.php?cat=2>

But here are a few additional tips.

1. With the Spotted Wing Drosophila fruit fly becoming a problem in BC, be extra vigilant about clean-up of berries and stone fruits. Bury, don't compost, the left overs.
2. If voles (field mice) have been an issue in your garden this year, be sure to protect young trees with Hardware Cloth cylinder collars to keep these little critters from eating the bark this winter.



3. If your junipers have inexplicably been dying back, I suspect that voles probably dined on the roots and/or bark last winter resulting in plant collapse, in whole or in part, when the hot weather arrived. There are several ways to deal with voles in this type of situation:



October already!! How did we get here so quickly?? The year's flying by and now it's time to put the garden to bed for winter. The Garden Tips today are all reminders of things to do that will help your plants make it through the winter in the best condition possible.

We're starting to put our plants away for winter but until we do, you can still purchase them for 50% off the regular price. Also, we've put more stock into our **Plant Clearance Garage Sale** section (where everything is 50% off the last ticket price), so be sure to check it out. And until we need the main greenhouse for winter storage, we'll continue the **Giftware Clearance Garage Sale** in there. Photo frames, wall décor, garden books, ceramic pots and more are included in this clearance.

- a. Place a number of bait stations under the junipers using bait made of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of peanut butter mixed with few crushed Vitamin D tablets. (Vitamin D is toxic to rodents but not to pets, birds, etc.) Of course, commercial bait stations are available as well that contain toxic rodenticides.
  - b. Spray and drench the area under and around the main stem of the juniper with a cod liver oil mixture: 1 tsp. cod liver oil (NOT unscented type), 1 tsp. of dish soap in 1 gallon water. While this won't kill the voles, it will convince them to move elsewhere because they don't like the smell of the cod liver oil.
  - c. Spray the bark and branches of as much of the juniper as possible with **Tree Guard**. Tree Guard contains Bitrix and tastes AWFUL! (I got it on my fingers last week: it took 3 days of hand washing before it wore off. Should've worn gloves!)
4. If deer are a problem in your area, be proactive and spray vulnerable plants (roses, fruit trees, cedars and just about any other plants you value) with **Tree Guard**. There are other deer repellent products that work, but this one, because of the Bitrix, is especially effective.
  5. Spray broadleaf evergreens (e.g. Rhododendrons), yellow foliated conifers (e.g. Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Verdoni'), and fine-twigged Japanese maples with **Wiltpruf** or **Leaf Shield** to prevent excessive desiccation and die-back from drying winds and/or sunshine this winter.
  6. Prepare a section or bed in your veggie garden for early planting next spring. Raised beds drain and warm up more quickly than surrounding soil allowing you to plant weeks earlier than you might normally be able to do. This is especially valuable for early crops of spinach and peas. (By the way, you could sow the spinach late this fall. It will germinate and be growing long before you would have thought possible next spring.)
  7. Sow a winter cover crop in areas of open soil to prevent erosion and excessive weed

germination. Fall rye is a good choice for fall cover crop and once turned over or tilled in next spring will add nutrients to the soil.

8. Prune out the **4 D's** in any of your woody plants. If it's dead, diseased, damaged, or deranged (growing in the wrong direction or place) **ANYTIME** is the right time to prune it out. Pruning seems to intimidate a lot of gardeners but it's really pretty straight forward once you know the basics.

- i. if the tree or shrub blooms in spring i.e. before the end of June, **DO NOT PRUNE** in fall or spring because you'll be pruning out next year's bloom buds. Wait until the plant has finished blooming before you prune.

- ii. if the tree or shrub blooms in summer, you may prune it back now or in spring **before active growth commences**.

- iii. wait to prune plants that are borderline-hardy such as hybrid tea roses and blackberries until next spring when the forsythia is in bloom. At that point, soils have warmed sufficiently that buds are starting to swell and it's easy to see what has been winter-damaged to prune it out.

It's been my experience that fall pruning often results in wounds that are prone to ice-crystal formation and, consequently, die-back so spring pruning is a wise course of action with these plants. (Also, make sure you use high Potassium fertilizers on these plants in fall to encourage them to harden off.)

When you prune, **use 'thinning' cuts rather than 'heading cuts'** wherever possible. Thinning cuts are those that remove a branch or limb back to the point where it began as a bud (to ground level if necessary) resulting in a smaller, more open, but natural looking specimen. Heading cuts are indiscriminate (rather like a 'bowl' cut) made to give a plant a particular shape rather than taking the plant's growth habit into account. Heading cuts are best used where the intent is to create a thick and full hedge.



**Thinning cuts**

**Heading cuts**

The best apples to use in baked goods are ones that are *tart enough that the flavour makes it through the baking process intact and solid enough that they don't turn to mush*. For all you pie-lovers out there, we have five top-notch pie varieties in stock~ just in time for Thanksgiving!!

**Belle de Boskoop & Elstars:** favourites in Europe

**Northern Spy:** favourite in Eastern Canada

**Bramley Seedling:** favourite in Great Britain but it does bake to a 'fluff'

**McIntosh:** Canadian favourite but bakes to mush. (If you like the flavour of the Mac but would like something with 'body' use Empire, available next week)

If pie making is in your future, don't forget that we always stock the **Apple Master Apple Peeler** (in either the clamp-on or suction style).



And don't forget that the **Mobile Juice Factory** will be here on Friday and Saturday next week juicing our apples but they have Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> reserved for anyone who would like to juice their own fruit. To learn more about the process or to book a time for juicing, please call Frank @ 1 250 503 4731.



## FEATURED THIS WEEK: **Oct. 6-10**

**King Alfred daffodils, Bag of 50 bulbs, great for naturalizing: 13.99**

### Apples available this week

**Ambrosia (sweet and crunchy)**

**Belle de Boskoop**

**Bramley Seedling**

**Egremont Russet (ltd. supply)**

**Elstars (limited supply)**

**Gala**

**Golden Delicious**

**Hanna Special (just a few left),**

**Honeycrisp**

**Jonagold**

**Jonamacs**

**Jubilee Fuji**

**Kandil Sinap (limited supply)**

**King**

**McIntosh**

**Northern Spy**

**Pink Pearmain (Ltd. supply)**

**Senshu**

**Spartans**

**Summer Reds**

**Plums.....Friar & President**

**Pears.....Bartlett, Bosc, Anjou, Asian**

**We also have:**

**Grapes, Garlic, Strawberries, Squash,**

**And Gourds for Thanksgiving decorating**

Happy gardening!

*Harriet*

**HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET  
& GARDEN CENTER**

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