



WE RE-OPEN ON MONDAY, MARCH 7th.

Mon - Sat: 9am to 5pm

Closed Sundays

March 4th E-NEWS



Ruby Giant Snow Crocus

There are some things that, when they happen, warm my heart and reassure me that spring is indeed on the way. The arrival of robins and grosbeaks is one such harbinger but the colourful, small trumpets of snow crocus (above) are my favourites! Lately, as we've been gearing up to re-open for spring, we've been getting phone calls and meeting people who are anxious to know when we'll be opening because, apparently, when we re-open each March that's their sign that spring is here!

We've also been fielding calls from folks who want to know when our nursery stock will be arriving. Oh the joys of an early spring! Unfortunately, most of the grower-nurseries are in the Lower Mainland and an early spring means that they're all working 'hair straight back' trying to get plants out to the garden centers at the Coast and we get to wait in the queue. I generally plan to have orders delivered in early to mid-April because, even if we could get stock here earlier, our capricious spring weather (which can include killing frosts into May) means it's altogether safer to

wait. So relax - enjoy the next month. Start some seeds inside if you need to get a head start, do some yard clean-up and any pruning that needs to be done now, and de-thatch the lawn - if it needs it - but *hold off on planting*.

✧ Renee's Garden ✧

Set The Table From Your Garden



West Coast Seeds

*Eat local, grow food,
grow from seed.*

We have a marvelous selection **Renee's Garden** and **West Coast Seeds** this year. Both companies specialize in organic, non *GMO* varieties that **TASTE GREAT** and rather than just stocking standard racks, I've ordered what I think are the 'best of the best'. Of course, we'll have McKenzie and Pacific Northwest Seeds as well, but if you're looking for varieties that stand out from the rest, check out Renee's and West Coast Seeds. With the prices of imported fruit and vegetables reaching epic heights, growing your own is a way to keep the family budget in line and gives you the opportunity to choose varieties for flavour - rather than their ability to ship well. (If you're new to veggie growing, be sure to sign up for our fun and informative workshops. I'll have the Early Spring Workshop line-up for you next week.)

While it's tempting to jumpstart your garden by sowing seeds indoors, unless you have a greenhouse and the space to transplant seedlings into progressively larger containers as they grow, *it's best to delay sowing seeds indoors until just a few*

weeks before you can actually transplant the young seedlings outdoors. Take it from a person who has started MANY types of seeds indoors, seedlings that are planted out at the right time *i.e. when the soil and air temperatures are reliably warm*, do much better in the long run than those that have been started too early, have grown leggy, or have been transplanted several times into progressively larger pots before they could be planted outdoors! These stressors can drastically affect the long term growth of the plant. And what's the point of starting too early....how much does it really matter that you have the first ripe tomato in the neighbourhood??



Time for a 'hair cut'

Onions and leeks are the only vegetable that *should* be started early from seed. They need a long growing season to get to a decent size. Unfortunately early-sown onions and leeks *will* get leggy no matter how much light they get, so cut them back to an inch or so in height every time they grow too tall and use the cuttings in a salad. **BONUS!**

2016 PLANTS OF THE YEAR

It may be March but it's the start of a New Year for us. With that in mind, these are the plants that have been chosen to be featured and promoted throughout the next year:

Perennial Plant of the Year: Anemone 'Honorine Jobert'

'The Perennial Plant of the Year™ (POY™) program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is a standout among its competitors. Perennials chosen are suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple-season interest, and are relatively pest/disease-free'.

(www.perennialplant.org)



Anemone x 'Honorine Jobert'

Hardy to Canadian Zone 5, this is one of the best perennials for late season colour in the garden. With prolific white blooms that dance like butterflies above the foliage from late summer through fall, the white flowers are a standout in a partially shaded garden and it's even deer resistant, too.

Hosta of the Year: Hosta 'Curly Fries'



Although diminutive by hosta standards at only 15cm high, the narrow, rippled, chartreuse leaves are attention getters so be sure to plant 'Curly Fries' along a shaded pathway where everyone will see it. Hardy to Canadian Zone 4, 'Curly Fries' eventually spreads to 45cm wide and bears small, lavender lily-like blooms each summer.

Every year, the *National Garden Bureau* selects particular plants to featured in its member's writings and on its website. The articles and photographs are excellent so check them out.

This year we have:

2016 Year of the Begonia

http://ngb.org/year_of/index.cfm?YOID=42

2016 Year of the Delphinium

http://ngb.org/year_of/index.cfm?YOID=43

2016 Year of the Allium

http://ngb.org/year_of/index.cfm?YOID=44

2016 Year of the Carrot

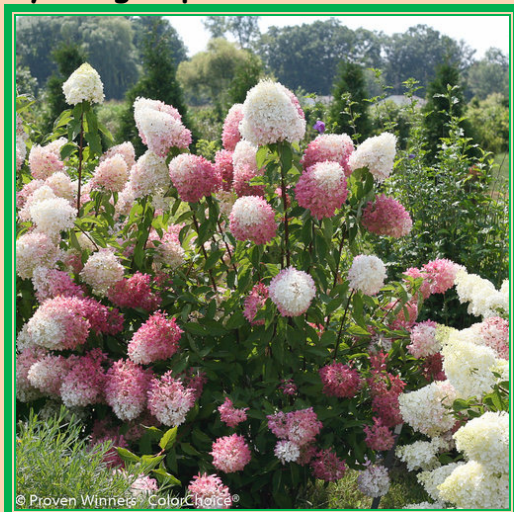
http://ngb.org/year_of/index.cfm?YOID=45

And of course there are **new introductions** that you will have to try! Three that are on my wish list are:

1. the new, fragrant, pink reblooming dwarf lilac *Syringa* x 'Bloomerang Pink Perfume',



2. Hydrangea paniculata 'Zinfin Doll'



3. Hosta 'Lakeside Paisley Print'



You know that I spend a lot of time each fall and winter ordering plants so I'm sure you can understand why plants are featured so heavily in this first newsletter. But that doesn't mean that I've forgotten to order in new giftware, fashions, garden or home décor!! I've ordered so much new and exciting stock that I can hardly wait until it's all in stock and we can show it to you! But some of it's here already - like the new spring **Charlie Paige** line of fashions. The colours and looks are so fresh - just what we need for spring.



So... take a deep breath... relax your shoulders... it's about to begin...

spring and another year in the garden.

Harriet

**HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET
& GARDEN CENTRE**

3181-11TH Ave. NE., Salmon Arm, BC

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(250) 832 4574

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