



EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER COUPON

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Coupon expires on May 31, 2016.**

May 27th E-NEWS

As I've been thinking about what to put in this week's newsletter, it occurred to me that many of the plant and bug questions that we've been getting this week are ones I've addressed in previous issues. So I went into the archives on our website www.hannaorchards.com (the FAQ page) and was surprised to see that I've been sending out newsletters since 2010! Time flies when you're having fun - and most of the time this is a lot of fun for me. I love teaching about gardening, hopefully guiding our customers to be more successful gardeners. So, this week, rather than rewriting articles that I've done in the past, I'm going to give you links to the newsletters that contain pertinent information on current garden questions.



First off, this wet weather is bringing out the slugs and snails. And yes, it's true we have many more slugs now that we did years ago primarily because most of the plants sold in the interior of BC are grown on the Lower Mainland - where giant slugs and snails have reigned supreme for years - and the soil of those plants often contains egg masses, if not the adult mollusks. Fortunately, newer slug baits are effective without containing

metaldehyde which is toxic to pets and other small mammals. The article at this link will tell you more: http://www.hannaorchards.com/newsletters/weekly_news_June29_12.pdf

A new product we're stocking this year - on the advice of customers who found it worked very effectively - is **Scott's EcoSense Slug B Gon** <http://en-ca.scotts.com/smg/goproduct/ecosense-slug-b-gon-slug/prod11260003?&>

Another 'slithery' problem we get asked about time and again is about how to get rid of dew worms. Adding organic matter to our gardens and lawn areas is a good thing because we're enhancing soil health but that organic matter also means that worms and fungus (e.g. fairy rings and other mushrooms), both of which feed on organic matter, can be a problem. Unfortunately there is nothing that really works to get rid of either problem. Click on this link to read more about dew worms:

http://www.hannaorchards.com/newsletters/Weekly_news_31May2013.pdf

Now that we've had some wet weather, people are starting to notice mosquitoes. If you have ANY standing water (in eaves troughs, water features, old tires, whatever) you need to get rid of the water which is not always easy OR you need to put a Dunk into the water to kill mosquito larvae before they have a chance to become adults. Read more about Dunks and how they work:

http://www.hannaorchards.com/newsletters/Weekly_news_20June2013.pdf

We have Dunks in stock but are currently out of Aquabac.

A customer was in this week with a branch

from an apple tree that was infested with both leaf rollers and (even though it's rather early for them) Uglynest caterpillars. Considering that it seems that everything is a month ahead of schedule this year, it probably is time to prepare for the Uglynest and Tent caterpillars Read this link to learn more:

http://www.hannaorchards.com/newsletters/Weekly_news_17July2014.pdf

One 'wormy' problem I haven't ever addressed in a newsletter to date is that of webworms in junipers. This week we noticed webworm damage in some of the junipers in our garden center. Apparently they are most fond of the Chinese Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* cultivars) but, in my experience, they are most often found in Common Junipers (*Juniperus communis* cultivars). Damage is often not noticed until spring when clumps of dead needles held together by webbing are observed. Unfortunately,



Juniper Web Worm magnified↑ Web worm 'nest'↓



there isn't much you can do about the problem right now. The larvae overwinter inside the webbed needles to resume feeding again in spring.

Because there were no larvae present in the 'nest's we found, the larvae have pupated and the adult moths will be emerging shortly or have already emerged to fly off to mate and lay eggs on the new growth of their favourite junipers. (BTW we used a pressure nozzle at the end of a hose to spray the matted webbing 'nests' away so the plants look much better.) After the eggs hatch, the tiny larvae initially mine into the needles to feed on the inner tissue but as they grow larger they group together to form colonies drawing more and more needles together with the webbing to feed on the enclosed needles. A number of years ago I had a Gold Cone Juniper in my garden COMPLETELY covered and matted with webbing. (That's what happens when you're too busy to check on your plants!) The damage was so extensive that I decided to dig the plant out. Although there is only one generation per year, the next month is the best time for any control measures to be effective - when larvae are still very small and webbing relatively confined. Spray BTK on affected plants, spraying again after rainfall or every 10 days for about a month.

HANGING BASKET & PLANTER AFTER-CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

The reason I started going through the archived newsletters was to find an article I wrote years ago on basket and planter aftercare but I can't find it so here we go again!

Many folks are disappointed that the colourful, blossom-laden planter or basket that they brought home from the garden center (or grocery store, hardware store - you name it, everyone wants a part of the action) doesn't continue to look fabulous all summer long. The reason those baskets look so fabulous to begin with is that they have been well fertilized and watered regularly. Most growers use a 'fertigation' system whereby water-soluble fertilizer is injected into the watering system and both water & fertilizer are applied daily in optimum doses. Once the plants are removed from 'fertigation' - unless a slow release fertilizer has also been applied - the store of nutrients is quickly depleted because water soluble

nutrients 1. quickly wash through the soil with each watering and 2. are used up by the fast-growing plants. **UNLESS YOU WATER AND FERTILIZE YOUR PLANTS REGULARLY THEY WILL DECLINE!** Of course, we now have irrigation systems that make watering container gardens a snap - you don't even have to think about it - and fertilizing can be that simple, too, if you know what to use.

1. When was the last time you chose to *forego eating for a couple of weeks??* Well, plants aren't happy with that scenario either. They need a *regular diet of plant nutrients* to perform optimally. In order to provide this for the plants - because soil mixes have practically NO nutrients at all - you have to add organic material (like Gaia Green POWER BLOOM which naturally slowly-releases nutrients as it breaks down) or a synthetic Slow Release Fertilizer that is broken down slowly over a 120-150 day period. FYI Slow Release Fertilizers are designed to be released more quickly when temperatures are high - which coincidentally is when plants need more nutrients because they're in active growth. Whether organic or synthetic, Slow Release Fertilizers only need to be applied ONCE at the beginning of the growing season.

2. How often do you eat dessert???

Perhaps the question would be better put this way: how often *should* you eat dessert? I liken using the water soluble fertilizers like 20-20-20 or 15-30-15 (you know the brand names) to dessert. If you eat dessert too often you become bloated and develop a 'sugar habit' not unlike the 'nutrient habit' a plant develops when given only water soluble fertilizers. Plants grow large and lush on water soluble fertilizers - but if you ever forget to give them their 'fix' they quickly become nutrient-deprived and start to decline. So use water soluble fertilizers like 'dessert' giving them to the

plants only occasionally (every three weeks or so). *After all, why would you want to be a 'slave' to a fertilizer regime where you have to apply fertilize all the time??*

When you use a slow release fertilizer as the main source of nutrients for the plants in your containers and a water soluble fertilizer for an occasional 'dessert', your plants will thrive - much the same way we do when we eat regularly and have dessert sparingly!

If you've done a container or basket workshop with us, you know when we plant up containers we add compost or steer manure to our soil mixes (about $\frac{1}{4}$ by volume) and add slow release fertilizers to keep the plants well fed throughout the growing season. We also use Transplanter fertilizer at planting time because the nutrients contained in it are available to the plant immediately unlike Bone meal which is VERY slow acting, needing to be broken down by soil micro-organisms before it becomes effective at all.

But we plant up only custom containers and order in the rest of what we sell from growers who use fertigation - like almost all planters/baskets that are available in the marketplace. If you purchased a ready-made container or made up your own but didn't add fertilizer, don't despair - you can add fertilizer NOW to keep things growing.

If your planters contain many of the newer 'self-cleaning' plants (i.e. you don't have to dead-head the flowers), use a slow release fertilizer with a formula high in Nitrogen (the first nutrient listed) because these plants need extra nitrogen to keep them growing well in order to 'bury their dead' under the new growth. I like **18-6-12** (which is actually a Tree and Shrub fertilizer) because it works beautifully on Supertunias, Waves, and Million Bells - all plants that don't require deadheading.

If your containers are filled primarily with foliage plants or flowering plants other than the ones above, use the **Hanging Basket 14-14-14** fertilizer which has been around for years and is a good general purpose formula for most plants

Containers that dry out quickly can have the

water-holding capacity of the soil enhanced with the addition of **SOIL MOIST** crystals or **COCOA FIBER** which we stock.

And one last note on aftercare: be sure to *groom the plants occasionally* by removing dead leaves, seed pods, etc. and check for disease and insects; 'nip them in the bud' before they become a major problem.

RECYCLING? Do we or don't we?

Before Curb-side recycling became available in this district, we accepted plastic containers for re-use here in our garden center. However, we never took back 2", 4 and 6 packs or pots smaller than 1 gallon because they're light weight and not practical for re-use. But since we now have a LIFETIME SUPPLY of plastic pots of all sizes except for pots 5 gallon size or larger (which we re-use to plant up bare-root trees) and contrary to the information provided by the Bottle Depot, WE DO NOT ACCEPT POTS OF ALL SIZES FOR RECYCLING!! *Please don't leave your pots for us to find* - there is a municipal recycling program at the City Dump; please use it.

We've been incredibly busy this year leaving me with little time to put together newsletters full of garden tips or suggestions for 'must-have' plants. I had planned to send a newsletter full of colourful pictures of some of my favourite new plants but got side-tracked instead with garden tips. I hope you find them useful. Don't forget: if you have cherry trees, the critical time to protect your fruit from Cherry Fruit Fly is fast approaching. Talk to James or me if you need advice. I'll leave you with picture on one of my new favourites: **Sweetunia Johnny Flame.**



spring into **SAVINGS**

May 27th – June 10th, 2016

Jumbo 6 Wave petunias...8.50ea

4 pack bedding plants: flowers and vegetables.....1.25 ea.

6 pack bedding plants: flowers and vegetables.....2.50 ea.

2 inch basket stuffers.....1.50 ea.

Seed geraniums 2".....90¢ ea.

Gerbera daisies.....25% off

Gladiolus.....1/2 price

Seed Potatoes.....1/2 price

SOIL MOIST, 18-6-12 AND 14-14-14 SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER.10% OFF

Don't forget your coupon,

Harriet

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