



IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

GARDEN TIP: Should I fertilize my roses/lawn/garden now?

FEATURED THIS WEEK: Greenhouse Giftware Clearance Sale. Now 10% off sale price tag

July 31st E-NEWS

**GIANT
GIFTWARE
CLEARANCE
SALE**



**Discontinued
Christmas,
General
Giftware,
& Wall Art!**

**Starting August 1st, the
discount will be
increased by 10%
each week.**

Is it hot enough for you? How many times have you heard that question this week? I've heard that people who live in tropical climates rarely discuss the weather because it's always the same, but here we do get some extremes so it's always a topic of conversation. I love the sunshine and if it comes with heat, so be it. We have so many gray, dreary days through the year that I treasure every sunny day.

That doesn't mean that I don't appreciate cooling off from time to time and, like everyone else on staff, love the cooling effect of the **Cobra misters** that we stock. They're perfect next to a seating or work area to cool the air and increase the comfort level. (And they're only 23.99 ea.) A number of people have asked if replacement nozzles are available because sometimes the nozzles get clogged. I'm checking to see if we can get replacements but in the meantime, try soaking the nozzles in vinegar (not CLR) to soften the deposits.



PLANTS OF THE WEEK: Perennial Ornamental Grasses

While it's true that if a plant has been container-grown it can be planted at any time during the growing season, it's also true that if you can wait until the weather's a bit cooler than it is right now, the transition will be much easier

for the plant. That's one reason why I don't have many plants in the garden center on sale right now. We'll be entering prime planting weather in just a few weeks, so the sales can wait - with two exceptions:

1. If you have a water feature you'd like to plant up, now is the right time to do it. Water temperatures are warm and plants will grow quickly. We have water lilies, marginals (plants that like to live in the boggy soil at the edge of the water), tropical floaters (that will help shade the water which will make the goldfish very happy), and oxygenators. Quite often when temperatures are hot, water temperatures get warm enough that oxygen levels in the water drop leaving fish literally 'gasping' for air at the surface. If you've noticed your fish doing this, you should provide some extra shade (either with plants or a large floating device) that will help to keep the water cooler.

2. The other group of plants that can be planted now is the perennial ornamental grasses. Grasses are roughly divided into two groups:

a. cool season grasses that break dormancy early in spring, grow quickly and come into bloom by mid-summer, and

b. warm season grasses which are slow to grow in spring but then make up for lost time by growing quickly in warm weather and blooming late summer and into fall. Often, these grasses are strong-stemmed enough to provide a welcome ornamental presence in the winter garden as well.

We have many excellent clump-forming ornamental grasses in stock but I'm well aware that many people have had bad experiences growing ornamental grasses that spread throughout their gardens. We separate our grasses so that the rampant spreaders go in the 'Tall Groundcover' section while the non-spreaders go into the 'Ornamental Grasses' section. This year's Perennial Plant of the Year, *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwinds' (PAN-ic-um ver-GATE-um) is an excellent selection, with broad steel-blue foliage, an upright growth habit to about 5 feet tall, and a finely textured panicle inflorescence in late summer that starts out gold and matures to beige. Like other switch grasses, Northwind tolerates a wide range of soil



***Panicum virgatum* 'Northwinds'** through the year conditions and is drought-tolerant when established. It is deer resistant and hardy to Canadian Hardiness Zone 5.

Another terrific ornamental grass is an improvement on the, until now, best blue fescue 'Elijah Blue'. Named 'Beyond Blue' (to put across the point) this grass grows slightly wider than Elijah Blue and holds its intense icy-blue colour without browning later in the season. It blooms in late spring, is drought and deer tolerant, and is hardy to Canadian Zone 5.



I came across this youtube video that shows how beautifully this grass performs throughout the seasons. Click on this link and see for yourself:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mIVGQ6SOC3o>

All of our water plants and perennial ornamental grasses are 40% off this week.

GARDEN TIP OF THE WEEK: Fertilizing in August???

Fertilizing at this time of year can be tempting because lawns are looking ragged, shrubs and trees are looking stressed, roses have stopped blooming because it's so hot, and things in the veggie garden look like they need some help, too. But when a plant is already under stress, adding fertilizer

is NOT going to help the situation. Plants of all kinds use various coping strategies to get through sustained hot weather. Many will curl their leaves so that less is exposed to the harsh sunlight; some will go into semi-dormancy by aborting fruit buds or not producing them at all until temperatures cool down; and others (like lawn grasses) go dormant - and brown- until the return of cooler weather and fall rains. All of this is annoying when you want a picture-perfect garden or you're waiting for the squash to set fruit, but it is perfectly natural. But if you haven't mulched the soil around your plants (which helps to conserve moisture and cool soil temperatures), now would be a good time to do so.

Early August is the 'deadline' for fruit set on tomatoes. Any fruit that has already set will have time to mature before frosts but any blooms that set after next week have little likelihood of ripening. Removing blooms after next week will help direct the plants' energies into ripening the fruit that has already set. Fertilizers at this time of year should be low in nitrogen and high in potassium. This is the time to apply dried wood ash to the soil if you have it. Otherwise, use small amounts of Muriate of Potash or Potassium sulphate. Potassium is the nutrient that helps fruit and plant tissue to mature.

This holds true for roses as well. If you've been using a water-soluble fertilizer like Miracle Grow 15-30-15, STOP now. It's too late in the season to be using a nitrogen-containing fertilizer. Because nitrogen encourages the growth of new plant tissue that will not harden-off before the onset of cold weather, ALL nitrogen fertilizer applications should stop by mid-July. You can, however, use something like MorBloom, which has a 0-10-10 formulation, and then use a potassium fertilizer exclusively from the beginning of September until hard freeze.

Many lawns are looking very brown but adding fertilizer is NOT the way to green it up. The grass is dormant and is in no state to use fertilizer, and because lawn fertilizers contain primarily nitrogen - and nitrogen is both volatile (vaporizes into the air) and quickly water-soluble - fertilizing now is a waste of time and money.

APPLE LANE GIFT SHOP: Summer Entertaining

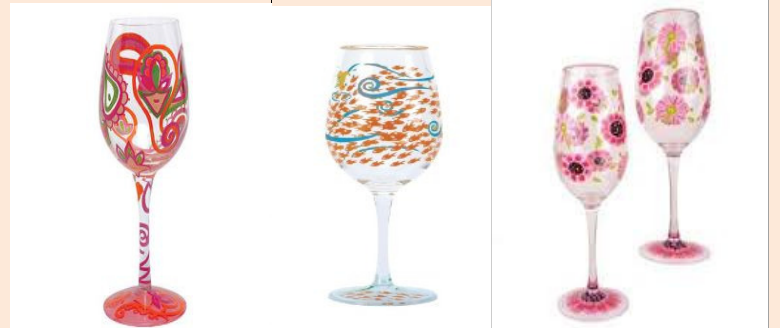
The Original **RED NEK™** Wine Glass
Often imitated, but never duplicated...



Our entire selection of **RED NEK** items is on sale this week at **30% off** regular price. Of course, we have the original wine glasses and we have them in assorted colours but we also have martini, margarita, and champagne styles as well as sippers, so-low party cups and even beer mugs and party buckets. Red Neks are terrific for summer entertaining; the lids keep the bugs out of your drink!!

Lolita®

You know the old song... 'Summer-time, and the livin' is easy'... but it's got to be fun, too. The Lolita wine glasses are fun and flirty, come smartly packaged for gift-giving as a two-pack, and each set comes with a wine cocktail recipe on the bottom of each glass. The glasses are BPA-



Paisley Fish out o' water Oops-a-daisy



Free, silk-screened, light weight acrylic and hold 16 ounces of liquid. *Hand washing is recommended.*

SOME SUMMER READING ON SUMMER PRUNING

If you've taken any of our fruit tree pruning courses, you'll know that we recommend the practice of summer pruning. Many people believe that the only time to prune fruit trees is while they're dormant - in winter or early spring - because that's when the fruit growers do it. But the reason fruit growers do it then is because *that's when they have the time to do it.*

The primary reason most home gardeners prune their trees is to control growth. Unfortunately, pruning during the dormant season actually **invigorates growth** so the result is exactly the opposite of what was intended; more growth, not less!!

The timing of summer pruning is important; *it must be done when the current season's growth has hardened (lignified)* so that there will be less likelihood of the production of new growth that won't have time to harden off before the onset of winter. (If any secondary shoots do form after summer-pruning, remove them in September/October.) In our area, the time for summer pruning usually occurs in late

July through early August but each growing season is different so *it's important to know that it's a stage, not a date, which determines when you can summer prune.*

Not only does summer pruning slow down the vigor of the fruit tree, it also tends to develop more fruit buds for the following year. In addition, summer pruning allows more light to penetrate the tree thus improving the sugar content and quality of this year's fruit.

It's hard to find good information on how/when to summer prune but the info on this website is well worth reading:

http://derrysorchardandnursery.ca/p5_pruning.html

FEATURED THIS WEEK

Aug. 1st - Aug. 7th

Giftware Clearance Sale

**Pond Plants & Perennial
Ornamental Grasses...40% off**

**Summer Fashions & Jewelry.....
.....continue at 50% off**

**We have BC Apricots, Red
Haven Peaches, Lapins and
Rainier Cherries, local
raspberries and Aldergrove
Blueberries.**

Enjoy summer in the Shuswap,

Harriet

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& GARDEN CENTER**

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