

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

- **Market now open Sunday afternoon 1-5**
- **Featured this week: Hanging baskets**
- **Plant of the Week: Begonia 'Gryphon'**
- **New for 2011: 6 packs with carry handles**
- **Garden Tips: Keeping containers looking their best**



## May 12th E-NEWS



"Giant oaks from little acorns grow". I was reminded of that expression at last week's first **Saturday Farmers Market**. Thank you for coming out and supporting local farmers and please keep coming; as the growing season warms up and fruit, produce and other agricultural products become available, the market will grow and be the 'go to' place for fresh, local products on Saturday mornings.

Someone mentioned that they'd heard that **April was the coldest ever since records have been kept**. Are we surprised? The only nice thing about the continued cool weather is that the tulips, daffodils and the blooms of the spring flowering shrubs are lasting a long time. But I think we all need some warm, dry weather! The entire province is dealing with a delayed spring and I would estimate that we're at least 3 weeks behind what's 'normal'.

If you haven't applied **DORMANT OIL** yet, it must be done by this weekend. We just sprayed our fruit trees this past Tuesday.

**Mark your calendars:** the Linda Howarth Memorial Preschool is hosting the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour** of Salmon Arm area gardens. It will be held this year on June 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9 until 4. Tickets are \$15 each and are available at our market.



We just got a new shipment of gorgeous ceramic pots in an array of styles, sizes and colours. Mix and match any of the containers in stock.

- Buy 1 @ regular price
- 2 get 15% off
- 3 get 20% off
- 4 or more, get 25% off reg. price.



It's been a bit cold for pests (another advantage of a cold spring?) but I'll be ordering ladybugs soon. Pre-book yours today.

### **PLANT OF THE WEEK: Begonia 'Gryphon'**



This superb foliage begonia has gorgeous, dramatic silver and green foliage and yet is easy-care. Drought, heat, and shade tolerant, it rarely flowers but the foliage has enough WOW factor all on its own. It will grow to 35-40cm high and 40-45 cm wide. (Check out the photo above that shows leaf size against a hand.) At the end of the summer, enjoy it all winter long by bringing it indoors. It makes an excellent houseplant, too.

## **NEW FOR 2011: 6 paks with handles**



These certainly aren't new in the trade but they are new to us. The individual plant cells are almost as big as a 4 inch pot but the price for the 6 pack works out to much less per plant. We have ever-bearing strawberries, as well as sweet peppers hot peppers, and winter squash (each with 6 different varieties in the pack). Just in: 6 packs Bonanza Mix marigolds.

## **WHEELBARROW PROJECT: Succulent container**

Every week we're putting together a weekend project that is easy to do and calling it the 'Wheelbarrow Project'. This week Lorie's put together all the fixings to make up a gorgeous heat and sun tolerant, low-water-use planter using succulents. Check it out~ it looks great!

## **GARDEN TIPS: Containers & Baskets**

Whether you make up your own baskets or have purchased or been given one, there are a few tips for success that I would like to share with you. Ready-made greenhouse-grown planters are gorgeous and the growers have fertilized them regularly to get them that way. Most use 'fertigation' whereby soluble fertilizer is injected into the watering system and the plants are fertilized daily. Once these plants leave the grower's greenhouse, however, they are no longer getting regular fertilization and it's up to you to make sure the plants get fed. The easiest and best way to do this is to use a **slow release fertilizer**. These fertilizers are temperature released (*the hotter it gets, the more the plants need, the more fertilizer is released*) and, depending on the formulation, last 4 months or more thereby lasting the course of the summer. Rather than having to depend on you to *remember* to fertilize every week, the plants are getting a steady supply of nutrients which they appreciate (*much as we do: no feast or famine*)! The new self-cleaning annuals need a fertilizer that is higher in nitrogen than what's commonly available

in S.R. fertilizers for pots and hanging baskets which tend to be 12-12-12 or 14-14-14 formulations. A slow release fertilizer with an analysis of **18-6-12** is now recommended for best performance. Water-soluble fertilizers like Miracle Grow and 20-20-20, while giving a visible boost to plants, are short term solutions. Because they are salt-based, they quickly leach through the soil with each watering. That's why they have to be applied so often. I much prefer to use the slow release fertilizers because then I'm not a 'slave' to a feeding schedule. And I also like to add an organic fertilizer like POWER BLOOM, which is also slow release because it has to be broken down by soil micro-organisms into a form plants can use. I've found that not only is this combination the easiest way to take care of the fertility of the soil, but it is much more effective as well. Do it once and you're done for the season~ it doesn't get any easier! Of course, you can still use the water-soluble fertilizers if you wish, but once a month is usually sufficient.

Any plant grown in a container is dependent upon you for nutrients and water. When it gets really hot (it's gotta happen sometime!) and Sprinkling Restrictions are in effect, watering can become an issue. There are a number of products available that can help. Ideally, they should be incorporated into the soil mix before planting so that they can help hold water in the root-zone. **Soil Moist** (water-absorbing poly-acrylate crystals) and **Soil Sponge** (water-holding coconut fibre) both work well.

Don't forget to groom the plants occasionally. Thankfully many of the newer introductions, many of them Proven Winners like the Supertunias and Superbells, are self-cleaning (you don't have to dead-head them to keep them from going to seed) but other plants, like fuchsias, need to have spent blooms and seed pods removed to keep them looking their best and to keep them blooming. Many annuals, once they've produce seed, stop blooming.

When plants are growing well and are healthy they are rarely bothered by insects and disease. It makes sense to use slow release fertilizers and water-holding materials to help you achieve success with the least amount of effort.

If you haven't considered putting your pots and baskets on automatic drip irrigation, I strongly recommend that you do. James put all our planters on drip irrigation about ten years ago and believe me, it is WONDERFUL! It is so nice to NOT be a slave to the hose! While we don't stock irrigation supplies, we do have the Proven Winners WATERWISE kit that is super-easy to



set up and will water 10 containers.





## Con-Tech Mountain Pine Beetle Repellent

Lodgepole, jack, and Ponderosa are the native species of Pine principally being attacked by the Mountain Pine Beetle. The Pine Beetle Repellent 'Verbenone' is a synthetic pheromone product that replicates the beetle pheromone, sending out a message that the tree is fully occupied and that the food supply is insufficient for additional beetles. Arriving beetles get the message and look elsewhere for a suitable host. This is an environmentally safe way to protect your trees and is non-toxic to humans, pets and birds.

### MASSARELLI ORDER: MASSARELLI'S<sup>®</sup> MAKERS OF FINE STONE GARDEN ACCENTS

Fountains, statuary and ornaments can add a touch to the garden that takes it from ordinary to spectacular! I'll be placing a Massarelli order next week. If you've been looking for something special for your garden, come in and check the extensive catalogue. Massarelli has something for every style, budget and taste! Their products are outstanding and very good value! While we do carry a small selection year-round, this is your opportunity to get exactly what you're looking for. <http://www.massarelli.com>



**MASSARELLI'S<sup>®</sup>**  
MAKERS OF FINE STONE GARDEN ACCENTS

## WE POT/ YOU POT SERVICE

If you have planters or hanging baskets to plant but don't want to lug home bags of potting soil and fertilizer, you can use our **Potting Tent** or get our staff to do your potting. Bring your own containers or purchase them from us, and we'll charge you according to the size of container. Included in this charge is the soil, slow-release fertilizers and transplanter fertilizer (plants and pots are not included).

### Features this week:

**Beautiful hanging baskets** (many with Proven Winner plants) **Buy 2 or more and get \$5 off reg. price of each one.**

**Summer bulbs** (Gladiolus, dahlias, lilies and Gift Bags) **40% off reg. price**

**6 pack veggies with handle- 4.99**

**BEATS PEAT**(makes 3 cu ft) **9.99 ea.**

(Compressed coconut fiber. Use as you would peat. Advantages: better water-holding capacity, neutral pH, derived from renewable resource, all in a easy-to-handle package)

**Lakeland Peat Moss** (3.8cu.ft.) - **12.99**

**Wood chip mulch** (2 cu.ft. bag) - **7.99**

**Bark mulch** (2 cu. Ft. bag) - **6.99**

Happy Gardening,

*Harriet*

**HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET  
& GARDEN CENTRE**

3181-11<sup>TH</sup> Ave. NE., Salmon Arm, BC

**Open Mon.-Sat. 8-6:00**

**Open Sundays 1-5**

**(250) 832 4574**

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