



IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

- **Gardening Tips:** Tent caterpillars. Growing blueberries,
- **New Product:** Biological dandelion control
- **Plants of the week:** Creeping Phlox. Dwarf butterfly bush
- **Feature this week:** Check page 3 for some great deals
- **In the Store:** Joie fruit and veggie keepers

APRIL 19th E-NEWS Open 9am-6:00pm daily, 1-5 on Sundays

GARDENING TIPS: Tent caterpillars



Egg mass



Colony

The warm weather is causing insect egg masses to start hatching. If you had tent caterpillars in any of your trees or shrubs last year, be on the look-out for clusters of newly hatched larvae. If you're not squeamish, squish them or prune out the effected branch and stomp them dead (a quick, effective solution!)

The hummingbirds are back. If you don't have your feeders set up, get them up quickly to encourage these lovely creatures to stay. Make your own nectar by adding 1 cup of granulated sugar to 4 cups of boiling water. Let it cool completely before filling the feeders.

Growing Blueberries

Containing just 80 calories and virtually no fat per cupful, blueberries are a great source of Vitamin C, dietary fiber and anti-oxidants. If you have room to grow them, doing some soil prep in advance will make sure your plants get off to a good start. Blueberries MUST HAVE a well-drained acidic soil in the pH range of 4.5 to 5. Native soils vary in their pH but as a general rule, soils in the Salmon Arm are slightly acidic with a pH in the range of 6.5 to 6.8. The pH scale is logarithmic. On the scale,

pH7 is neutral while the numbers above it are alkaline. Those below 7 are acidic. pH6 is ten times more acidic than 7. pH5 is 100 times (10 x 10) more acidic than 7. Because blueberries need a pH of 4.5 to 5, which is about 100 times the pH of our native soils, if you don't amend your soil with lots of sulphur to get the pH into the proper range, the plants will not grow well.

A Sand-peat soil mix is ideal for blueberries, providing the moisture-retentive yet quick-draining medium required. If you have a heavy clay soil however, raised beds of sand/peat mix would be the best way to proceed. Also add lots of chunky, organic material like rotted sawdust to maintain soil porosity. Provide a mulch of wood chips to maintain soil moisture. Fertilize with Garden Pro Rhodo & Azalea 6-12-12 with minors each spring.

We have 5 varieties of blueberry plants in stock:

Spartan: early season: Extra large berries: Hardy to Zone 5: Ht. 5-6 ft. Pollinator required.

Chippewa: early midseason. Med. very sweet berries: Hardy to Zone 3. Ht. 3-4ft. Self-poll*.

Blue Crop: midseason. Very large berries: Res. to cracking and dropping. Hardy to Zone 4: Ht. 4-6ft. Self-pollinating.*

Hardyblue: midseason. Medium, sweet fruit: Very heavy producer. Hardy to Zone 4. Ht. 5 ft. More adaptable to heavy soils: Pollinator required.

Nelson: late midseason. Very large berry: Hardy to Zone 4. Exceptional flavor: Self-pollinating.*

* self-pollinating but better fruit set obtained with a second variety to serve as cross pollinator.

New Product:

Biological dandelion control

Our order of the biological dandelion control called **SARRITOR** is being shipped this week. The following information is found on their website www.sarritor.ca:

"The active ingredient in Sarritor is *Sclerotinia minor*, a naturally occurring fungus that is native to Canada. When it is applied to broadleaf weeds like dandelions, the fungus grows into the weed absorbing the plant tissues until the weed is completely gone. Once the weed is gone, the fungus dies and no residuals are left.

The product does not pose a risk to human (or animal) health or the environment and is compatible with normal lawn maintenance operations such as mowing, fertilization, and irrigation.

If applied properly and under the right environmental conditions (daytime highs between 18-24°C), it will take 5-7 days to completely eliminate the dandelion plant. Large dandelions with large taproots may re-sprout and may require a second application.

It is best applied in spring and fall when the dandelions are actively growing and can be applied any time during the day provided the temperature is not above 25°C.

It is recommended that you wait about 3 days before mowing or playing games on the grass to allow the product to establish in the weeds. You can, however, walk on the grass and water your lawn immediately after it is applied.

Sarritor can be applied in the rain. It requires moisture to work effectively and works better on rainy days.

If Sarritor comes in direct contact with ANY broadleaf plants, including vegetables and flowers, damage will occur so direct application to desirable broadleaf plants should be avoided.

If you're interested, let us know and we'll let you know when it comes in.

*Plants of the week:



Creeping Phlox

Phlox subulata cultivars.

Available in eye-popping pinks, blues, mauves, reds, whites and bi-colours the creeping (moss) phlox are undoubtedly the stars of the early spring border and rock garden. Easy to grow and evergreen, creeping phlox are also excellent in Xeriscape (low water use) applications. Some varieties are groundcovers often spreading up to 3 feet or more but there are others that are more restrained in habit for those areas where space is an issue. If your garden is missing that essential early spring 'hit' of colour, plant some creeping phlox this week. They'll repay you with many years of stellar spring performances.



Blue Chip Butterfly Bush

Buddleia Lo and Behold Blue Chip' is the first in a new series of dwarf butterfly bushes that grow to less than 2 feet high but bloom continuously with no need to prune or dead-head. While not top-hardy here, they are rated as root-hardy to Zone 5 so would make an excellent low-maintenance border. They would also work exceptionally well in a full-sun container, providing non-stop colour, fragrance and entertainment (visiting butterflies and hummingbirds) all summer long. This is a Proven Winners Color Choice shrub and while I haven't grown it yet, I can't wait to try it.

V.I.P CARDS: free; everything we sell counts except sale items; no expiry date. Get credit for 10% of purchase total after 10 purchases. Get yours today.

In the Store: JOIE Veggie and Fruit Keepers

We just got in a new shipment of Joie Veggie and Fruit keepers. We had them in last fall and they sold out quickly. Not only are they cute but they really work too.



Garlic

Lemon

Tomato

Onion

Store garlic, onions, lemons and tomatoes in these handy pods to preserve freshness and firmness and to keep odors at bay.



Store strawberries (other berries too) so they stay fresh and firm. The ventilated protector pod can also be used to rinse, strain and serve.

Mother's Day is just around the corner~ if you haven't checked the selection of wall art and photo frames in the store, we have some very nice new items at very nice prices.



Features : April 20-26

Blueberry plants, 1 gal. \$6.50

Creeping Phlox, 15cm pots 4/\$15.00

Forsythia bushes 20% OFF

Sunshine Pro Grow 70.8 Liter bag

Reg. \$14.99 Sale \$12.99

Sunshine WaterSaver Container Mix

70.8L Reg. \$14.99 Sale \$10.99

Osteospermums 2 inch pots 3/\$4.50

(Limited Quantities. Cold tolerant: just harden off and plant them out.)

Canna lilies 15cm pots \$9.99

More stock is arriving daily in the greenhouse.

Don't forget to Sign up ASAP for the last Spring Workshop:

PLANTING A MOSS BASKET

Postponed to April 27 th, 6-8pm

Hands-on, do-it-yourself workshop

FEE is \$45 + GST per person (this includes the workshop fee, soils, fertilizers, moss, and wire basket. Plants are not included).

Plants must be purchased in advance and brought to the workshop. Pick 'Suggested Plants' list (15% off the plants purchased for the basket)

Best regards and Happy Gardening,
Harriet

HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET & GARDEN CENTRE

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

Open Mon.-Sat. 9-6:00

Sunday afternoons- 1-5pm

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