

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

- **Market now open Sunday afternoon 1-5**
- **Featured this week: Pansies & Seed Geraniums**
- **Sign up for Spring Workshops Square Foot Gardening**
- **Plant of the Week: Lithodora 'Grace Ward'**
- **Garden Tips: Growing Roses**



April 26th E-NEWS

Featured this week:



Our pansies aren't sissies...
so plant them now!

Pansies: 4 paks: 1.49

6 paks: 2.29 (Wow!!)

4 inch pot singles: 1.99

2" Seed Geraniums: 99¢ ea.(Wow!)

Apples: 89¢/lb

Pears: Now 49¢/lb.

Did you get frost a few days ago? I just got a call from a supplier in Osoyoos and even they got frost~ enough to do damage to the tomato plants in the cold-frames. I hope last weekend's nice weather wasn't all we're getting this year! When we went to the Netherlands in the summer of 2000, the weather was a bit 'iffy', too, and a common saying there was that they hoped summer would come on a Sunday so at least they'd have the day off!

The **Square Foot Gardening Workshop** is **Wednesday, May 4th at 5p.m.** Cost is \$5 per person.



A few weeks ago I featured this year's hot new black petunia 'Black Velvet' as Plant of the Week. They are now in and they look great! So do the 'Phantom' petunias.

how informative they found last week's garden tips on fertilizers. I've put the info into the FAQ section on our website so if you want to refer to it in future, you'll find it there.

And did you notice that the forsythia is finally in bloom. At last it's time to get out there and prune your roses. The Garden Tips section is all about rose growing this week.

Have you got your **V.I.P card**? Are you remembering to use it? Every purchase in our market and garden centre, except sale items, counts on your V.I.P card. When your card is full (10 purchases), we will tally it up and give you a credit for 10%. There is no minimum purchase, it's not just on plants and there's no time limit so if you still have a card from last year, continue to use it. If you don't have one, get one next time you're in.

PLANT OF THE WEEK: Lithodora diffusa
(Lith OH dor a dif FEW sa) **Grace Ward**



True blue is a rare colour in flowers and the blue of this lithospermum is one of the best. 'Grace Ward' is rated as hardy to Zone 6 but I've had it in my sunny Zone 5 xeriscape garden for a number of years. I believe the reason it's done well is because the site has the well-drained acidic soil it needs in order to thrive. Deer resistant, blooming spring and summer, lithospermums are a great addition to the sunny garden and combine well with heaths and heathers that prefer the same growing conditions.

NEW FOR 2011: 'Cards that Grow'



Perfect for **Mother's Day**, these lovely handmade cards have beautiful water-colour pictures of birds on the front and are embedded with a handful of annual and perennial wildflower seeds. The recipient simply soaks the card in water prior to planting, tears it up and spreads the pieces on top of the soil in a pot or in the garden. With a thin layer of soil on top and regular watering the seeds should germinate in one to three weeks. Earth friendly and re-cycled throughout.

Write it, mail it, and plant it.

GARDEN TIPS: Growing Roses

I've heard from a number of people that their roses took quite a beating this last winter. Some of mine look winter-killed as well but because I **deep-plant** mine, I'm hopeful that they'll recover as they have every other year. I've found that there are **three major advantages gained by deep-planting roses so that the graft or the root-ball is six inches below soil level** (not just the 1 to 2 inches as directed on the rose planting instruction label).

The advantages are as follows:

1. because the roots and/or the graft are protected by 6 inches of soil, I no longer need to mulch the roses for winter. MAJOR TIME SAVINGS.
2. the rootstock (the hardy understock that the desirable rose variety has been grafted onto) is buried so deeply that there is no danger of suckering.
3. the buried portion of the rose above the root-ball sends out roots of its own and

the plant becomes an 'own-root' rose. If the plant experiences winter die-back, the buried portion will be protected and will produce new growth that is the desired variety, not the rootstock.

I've been planting and growing roses using this method for more than 15 years and it works. In spite of hard winters that have left the tops of my hybrid tea roses completely blackened, the plants have recovered and done well. Of the more than 100 roses I have, about 80 of them are hybrid teas, floribundas, and David Austin roses and I've only lost a few roses during that time. Considering that hybrid teas are often referred to as "the rich man's annual" in that they often need to be replanted each year, I think that deep planting makes growing these roses a paying proposition. After all, there is NO other shrub that provides as much summer colour as do the roses.

There are some other strategies that will help your roses be better prepared to survive winter. Hardy shrub roses have built-in survival strategies but the more tender roses, which are native to warmer climates, need some help. In order to get them to 'harden-off' (get ready for cold weather) follow these steps:

1. Never apply nitrogen-containing fertilizer after mid-July. Nitrogen will only encourage tender new growth than won't have time to 'harden-off' before winter.
2. Do apply fertilizer high in potassium after mid-July. Potassium is nature's **maturing** nutrient.
3. Roses LOVE water and require it regularly to grow well but if you with-hold water in late summer for a couple of weeks, the plant will be stressed ~ another of nature's indicators that it's time to get ready for winter.
4. After mid-August, don't dead-head all the spent blooms: allow rose hips to form. This, too, will encourage the plant to harden-off for winter.
5. Don't prune back in fall. Wait until spring.

Another major argument I hear against growing roses is that they're fussy, prone to disease and insects. While there is no such thing as an 'insect-proof' rose, the list of disease resistant varieties is long. Choosing varieties that are disease resistant is a good way to reduce the maintenance involved in growing roses.

While there used to be some heavy-duty pesticides that made keeping roses disease-free a fairly simple matter, those products were not environment-friendly and are no longer available. Fortunately, the organic products available are becoming more effective and easier to use. They do, however, have to be applied quite often because they have only a short residual effect. The bio-fungicide '**Serenade**', new to the home gardener this year, has been available commercially for a couple of years and is known to be very effective against a wide range of fungal diseases including the major rose diseases, Powdery Mildew and Black Spot. And **Horticultural Oil**, used at growing season rates, is an effective insecticide. A weekly spray of one or the other of these two products (depending on whether disease or insects are the bigger issue) is a good organic way to keep problems in check. Neither Serenade nor Horticultural oil leaves an unsightly residue on the leaves the way that some other organic solutions such as sulfur will.

Diseases and insects/egg masses overwinter on foliage so a thorough clean-up is good preventative practice. Pick off any foliage remaining on the plant.

Mulch the soil under roses to help maintain soil moisture and to create a physical barrier to prevent the spread of soil-borne disease.

Of course, a 'daily constitutional' walk around the garden is a good way to observe what's happening and 'nip problems in the bud'. Pick off diseased leaves and pinch/squish any

insects before problems proliferate.

COMING EVENTS: Mark your calendars



1. Saturday Farmers Market

All Farmers, All Local **starts Saturday morning, May 7th**, here at our market.



2. John Quilty, designer of the locally made heavy-duty **QUILTY QUIK-SOIL Composter**, will be on hand on **Saturday, May 7** to demonstrate how easy it is to use.

***Sign up for Spring Workshops**

CONTAINERS WITH PIZZAZZ

MAY 3: 6:30-8:30 (Encore presentation)

FEE is \$15 + GST per person (**Workshop is FULL**)

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING

MAY 4, 5:00 pm. \$5 per person

Happy Gardening,

Harriet

HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET & GARDEN CENTRE

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

Open Mon.-Sat. 8-6:00

Open Sundays 1-5

(250) 832 4574

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