

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

- **Market is now OPEN** daily except Sunday
- **Feature this week: CA apples 89¢/lb**
- **Sign up for Spring Workshops**
- **Plant of the week: Bombshell hydrangea**
- **Garden Tips: Is it time to sow seeds yet?**



MARCH 16th E-NEWS

***Market is NOW OPEN**

And a new season begins...

There's still snow on the ground but spring *is* just around the corner! It's going to be one of those late spring years~ even Easter is late this year. Nevertheless, we are now open every day from 9 am to 5 pm **except Sundays**. (We will open Sunday afternoons once things warm up and spring planting begins in earnest.) Given how much snow there is throughout our garden centre area, only the market will be open for the time being but we have a wonderful seed selection this year and, of course, a great selection of new giftware to tempt you.



-Crisp, juicy BC Apples - 89¢/lb.

Ambrosia, Fuji, & Spartans

***Sign up for Spring Workshops**

For details on each course, go to the [Special Events Calendar](#) page on our website and click on the workshop you're interested in www.hannaorchards.com

1. FUNDAMENTALS OF PRUNING

Session 1: March 29, 6:30-8:30 pm

Session 2: April 2: 1-4pm

FEE is \$25 + GST per person or

\$40 + GST per couple

2. PROVEN PERENNIAL PERFORMERS

The best perennials for your garden

April 5: 6:30-8:30

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

3. CONTAINERS WITH PIZZAZZ

Learn about new plants/techniques.

April 12: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

4. GROWING ROSES IN THE SHUSWAP

Learn how to plant, prune, winterize and maintain roses organically.

April 19: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

5. PLANTING A MOSS BASKET

Hands-on do-it-yourself workshop.

April 19: 6-8 pm (note earlier time)

FEE is \$45 + GST per person

Please pick up a Suggested Plant List when you register for this workshop.

Workshops are held in our market so each session is **limited to 15 people**. Please Register ASAP.

We also have Master Gardeners coming on two Saturdays next month, on April 16 and 30. They'll be on hand to answer your garden-related questions from 10am until 4 pm each of those days. As well, we are hoping to put together a number of daytime workshops but the details haven't been finalized yet. I'll let you know more about these later. (If you have any ideas for workshops let me know by emailing me hanna@sunwave.net)

***Plant of the week: New for 2011**

Hydrangea paniculata 'Bombshell'



With a name like 'Bombshell' you know this plant must carry a 'punch' and it does. It **blooms earlier and longer** and has **more flowers per plant** than any other type of hydrangea! Considering that panicle hydrangeas are known for their flower production this plant is a breakthrough. Growing to less than a meter tall and wide and blooming from early summer through fall, this exceptionally well-branched shrub will look great all season in the garden. It could also be used as a long-blooming feature plant in a container. The flowers age to a rosy

pink so each plant will have a combination of white and pink blooms most of the time. What's more, Bombshell is low maintenance needing little or no pruning! Rated hardy to Zone 4, I believe that Bombshell will live up to its name and 'explode' in Shuswap gardens.

Garden Tips Is it time to sow seeds yet?

I know you're anxious for spring to finally arrive and I know how tempting it is to push the season and start seeds indoors but it's still early to be starting most of the popular annuals and vegetables. There are exceptions, of course, and for some plants it's already too late!

For best performance (in other words, you won't be waiting until late August for blooms) the following seeds should be sown in January and February:

FLOWERS:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| African daisy | Heliotrope |
| Ageratum | Ice Plant |
| Browallia | Impatiens |
| Carnations | Lobelia |
| Coleus | Nemesia |
| Dahlia | Nicotiana |
| Dusty Miller | Petunia |
| Dwarf marigold | Pocket book plant |
| Gerbera | Salvia |
| Heliotrope | Snapdragon |
| | Verbena |
| | Zonal Geraniums |

VEGETABLES:

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| Leeks | Onions |
|-------|--------|

You'll notice that the items on this list are plants that are often offered as bedding plants. Because they require a long growing season from germination to flowering/harvest these varieties are generally better started by professional growers unless you have the space in a warm greenhouse or under grow-lights. Note that Zonal Geraniums and Petunias are on this list. Both require a long growing period so young starter plants are a bargain! Seed-grown geraniums in particular are great value when they become available in March and April.

Varieties that may be sown indoors in March or April include the following:

FLOWERS:

Alyssum*	Monkey Flower*
Aster	Nasturtium*
Balsam	Painted Tongue*
Blue Lace Flower	Phlox
Brown eyed Susan*	Portulaca"
Castor Bean*	Scabiosa
Celosia	Schizanthus*
Clarkia*	Snow on the mtn
Cleome	Stocks
Cosmos*	Sweet Peas*
Four O-clocks	Zinnia
Lavatera*	

VEGETABLES

Celery	Eggplant
Pepper	Tomato

Before you all rush out to get seeds to get these plants started **let me share some 'hard-earned' advice:**

1. Make or purchase a **cold-frame** ~it provides a better, less expensive alternative to starting plants indoors particularly if you can sow directly into garden soil thereby saving the expense of seedling trays and potting soil. The listed plants that are followed by an asterisk (*) do very well if sown into a cold-frame; they seem to germinate and grow better with the alternating day and night temperatures.



2. And **don't start too early!** My experience with tomatoes (everybody's favourite to start early) is that early-sown plants, no matter how much you pamper them, NEVER do as well as those that are sown later so that they're perfect transplant-size at the end of May or early June when soil temperatures are finally warm enough! Believe me when I say that when it comes to growing tomatoes, I've tried everything and my conclusion after 25 years is this~ save yourself a lot of time, money and hassle by waiting to sow tomatoes in late April or early May and then not setting them out into the garden until the beginning of June!

Many of the plants we like to grow in our flower and vegetable gardens are native to warm climates and require warm soil for proper germination. It is for this reason that many have to be started indoors because our soils are just not warm enough, early enough to mature these plants in our climate. But that's also why so many plants are available in bedding-out size. Given the economies of scale that large growers are dealing with, often it's more cost effective to buy plants than it is to start your own. That said, however, if you need a lot of plants and have the time and equipment to grow them yourself, starting your own is great fun.

Some plants, like perennials that will grow and get better year after year, are very cost effective when you grow your own. For the same price as a single started perennial, a packet of seed can produce great numbers of plants.

Shipments of giftware, tools, garden wares and décor are arriving daily but plant shipments will have to wait until the snow and mud have receded. But if you need a 'taste of spring' right away, we will have some primroses, pansies and ranunculus in the store by Friday.

As always, if you would like to share this newsletter, feel free to do so. Better yet, encourage others to sign up for it on our website www.hannaorchards.com.

Best regards and Happy Gardening,
Harriet

**HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET
& GARDEN CENTRE**

3181-11TH Ave. NE., Salmon Arm, BC
March hours Open Mon.-Sat. 9-5:00

Closed Sundays
(250) 832 4574

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