

Arrowsmith Greenhouses

Nursery Notes



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"Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit."

— Henry David Thoreau

As we wind down another crazy season (aka Spring) we would like to thank all our customers that helped make this a great season for us. Although the weather was not always great for gardening it has allowed us to extend the traditional planting season just as we did last year. With our temperatures remaining cool it allows us to confidently plant trees, shrubs and perennials without too much attention to watering. With anything that is planted through the summer we do recommend keeping a very close eye on the plants for signs of stress and dehydration. So remember that we are still here through the summer to help with any questions that you may have or just to fill in any spots that are not living up to your expectations. But also don't forget to sit back with a cold one and enjoy your garden because that's what it is really all about.



We would like to share some of your garden successes with our newsletter readers. Send us your photos with brief descriptions and we will try and include them in upcoming newsletters. Send them to dgoodfellow@telus.net



Salvia

If someone said to you “I have a plant that is deer resistant, blooms most of the summer is hardy and drought tolerant” would you believe them? Well this family of plants fits that description. Salvia is a huge family that ranges from culinary varieties that you use to flavour your Christmas turkey to long blooming perennials and funky looking annuals.

The perennial salvias are workhorses of the perennial border. They start blooming in early June and with deadheading can still be blooming in fall.

“May Night” was the 1997 Perennial Plant of the Year and with its striking dark blue flowers is a great low maintenance plant.



Salvia “May Night”

“East Friesland” is similar to May Night with violet purple flowers and a dense, compact growth habit.

“Pink Friesland” has dark pink flowers that are very attractive to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.



Salvia “Pink Friesland”

“Caradonna” is taller than the previous varieties with dark violet flowers. The flowers are held on unusually dark stems.



Salvia “Caradonna”

“Eveline” is a lovely variety that is a mix of mauve and pink. This is a medium size grower to about 2 feet high and wide.



Salvia “Eveline”

There are many annual varieties that go well beyond the flaming red bedding plants that have been popular since the 60's. While technically these are still perennials just not hardy enough to survive our winters but worth the effort for the summer.

One variety that has captured out attention this year is

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Salvia "Black and Blue" The electric blue flowers contrast sharply with the black stems. This plant makes a great centre piece to a container.



Salvia "Black and Blue"

Salvia "Victoria Blue" makes a great border plant and very striking when mixed with other annuals.



Salvia "Victoria Blue"

Salvia "Hot Lips" is a variety that may overwinter here in a mild winter but should not be relied upon to do so. Hot Lips is probably the best Salvia for attracting Hummingbirds as they love the sweet nectar that this plant produces. The flowers open red

and as they age they gradually turn white.

All of the varieties whether perennial or annual need full sun and once established are drought tolerant. The perennial varieties can be divided in early spring and should be done every 3 to 5 years. They are not very demanding when it comes to soil and in fact will tolerate quite poor soils. All will benefit from a spring mulch of sea soil or garden compost.



Salvia "Hot Lips"

Two older ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress.

One leaned over and said, "Life is so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$5.00 I'd take my clothes off right now and streak through that stupid flower show!"

"You're on!" said the other old lady, holding up a \$5.00 bill.

As fast as she could, the first little old lady fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause. The naked lady burst out through the door surrounded by a cheering crowd.

"What happened?" asked her waiting friend.

"Why, I won first prize for Best Dried Arrangement."

July August Plant Profile

Crambe Cordifolia

Wow - Big, Bold, Beautiful and easy to look after. This plant resembles Baby's Breath on steroids. With flower stocks that reach 7' but yet maintain a very delicate look this plant definitely makes a statement. Herbaceous in nature it is dormant from November to March but once it starts to come out of dormancy it grows very quickly and is in full bloom by mid June. The flowers last about 6 - 8 weeks and make a great backdrop to roses and other perennials.



Crambe thrives in full sun with moist, well drained soil. It will tolerate poorer soils but a fertile soil will produce the best results. Because of its size it should be placed in a large bed as it will quickly overtake smaller perennials.

Crambe is a member of the cabbage family and rubbing a leaf will give that distinctive odor. Divide Crambe in late fall or early spring to increase plants.



Extend your veggie garden well into the fall with some cool season veggie starts. These will be available the first week of August.

Hanging Basket Care

Now that you've bought that beautiful hanging basket - how do you keep it looking good?

You need to pay attention to 3 things - watering fertilizing and sunshine. All three things tie in together. The watering depends on the amount of sun the basket is receiving. The amount of fertilizer depends on how much watering you are doing.

The ideal situation for sun loving baskets is to have full morning sun with some relief from the hot afternoon sun. This will prevent the basket from baking. If you cannot avoid the hot afternoon sun then you need to be prepared to water in the morning and again in the evening if need be. If you allow your basket to dry out to the point that the soil has become hard then it is really difficult to bring it back to proper hydration and permanent root damage may occur. The best way to tell if your basket needs water is the weight test - If your basket is light enough that you can lift it with ease then it needs water - the key is to never let it get to that point.

When you purchased your basket it came with a supply of slow release fertilizer. This fertilizer is the bare minimum that your basket requires and should only be relied upon to cover those times that you forget to supplement the fertilizer. Ideally you want to add a soluble fertilizer such as Plant Prod, Miracle Gro or Liquid Seaweed on a regular basis. For the synthetic fertilizers you can either fertilize every week to 10 days with the full strength label recommendations or every 3 or 4 days with a 50% diluted mix. For any organic fertilizer every week at label recommendations is fine although you may find that the organic fertilizers may not give the quick boost that the heavy feeding baskets may require.

Don't forget to deadhead the baskets to prevent any of the plants from setting seed thus taking energy away from flower production.

To Do List

July

- Maintain your hanging baskets. See article on page 4.
- If your bearded irises need dividing now is the time, taking care to replant the rhizomes right at ground level.
- If you have not already done so prune Spring flowering shrubs such as Weigela, Forsythia, Mock Orange, and Spiraea after blooming.
- Maintain moisture levels throughout your garden.
- Remove unwanted Strawberry runners. Consider replacing plants that are 3 years old if they are not producing as they should be.
- Deadhead Roses as they finish blooming.
- When Delphiniums and other perennials finish blooming cut back to encourage a second bloom.
- If you haven't already done so cut back winter heathers to keep the plants compact. Taking off about 1/3 of the growth.



August

- This is a good time to prune hedges. It give the plants enough time to put on a bit of growth before winter.
- Take Geranium cuttings to increase your plants for next year.
- Cut Raspberry canes that fruited this year to the ground. Tie the new canes to your supports.
- Cut back Lavender after flowering. Depending on the variety a couple of inches in the growth should be sufficient to keep the plants compact and bushy for next year.
- Keep deadheading annuals to maintain flowers until frost.



A Garden Story
By Dyann Goodfellow

In the last issue I invited our readers to share their garden stories. Before and after photos and your gardening accomplishments. I guess you were all shy as I did not get any responses so to start us off I will share my garden. This garden is 6 years old and many of the plants have travelled with me through 4 previous gardens.



The biggest challenge as it always is when starting a new garden is soil or lack of it. This garden started with a half a B Train of Sea Soil - 44 yards to be exact. When the truck dumped it it took up a good chunk of the front yard. But as is always the case with good soil it just barely filled the beds. The next step was dealing with a fence (the only sure deer repellent). The challenge was deciding on a fence that would not look like a fortress and still offer protection. We settled on a 4 foot fence and to this day we have not had a deer jump it. The key was planting the fence border thickly as deer do not have good depth perception and will not jump unless they have a clear path. So far so good. As with any garden it is never finished and everyday the thoughts running through my head are what needs to move and where.

