

Arrowsmith Greenhouses

Nursery Notes



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Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's Party" - Robin Williams

With Spring just around the corner our thoughts start to focus on our gardens once again. As a keen gardener I walk my garden on a daily basis now looking for those swelling buds to show signs of opening. Patience is not a virtue that I embrace at the beginning of March. Although I know that soon enough our gardens will spring to life with colour. With many trees and shrubs, the later the bloom the better as some can be adversely affected by frost. How many of us have anticipated the opening of our early magnolias only to wake up just as they are in full bloom to find they have been blackened by frost.

With the mild winter the nursery is looking great. We will keep our fingers crossed that we are done with winter as we are raring to go for another season.

Our fruit trees are in and our small fruits will be in by March 9.

We are now open and our hours are 9-5 seven days a week.



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The Nursery is now open
7 days a week
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Please complete the survey on
Page 6 of this newsletter for a
chance to win a
\$50.00 Gift Certificate



In This Issue

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Spring Lawn Care

Living on the west coast always brings challenges to those of us that like having a lawn. It does present challenges with our wet winters and acid soil and sometimes dry summers. All the things that grass does not like. But with proper maintenance a beautiful lawn is not that difficult to achieve. Here are a few steps that should help you on your way.

1. Aeration - This is probably one of the most beneficial things that you can do for your lawn. Aeration helps develop root growth as well as reducing soil compaction. This is best done as a first step in your spring lawn maintenance.



2. De-Moss - It is pretty much a given in our climate that we will have to deal with moss in the lawn. The question to ask is how much is too much. If your lawn is more than 10% moss then it should be dealt with. PH is usually the culprit here but compacted soil and poor drainage can also be major contributors. To treat the moss you will need to treat the lawn with an iron solution. There are both liquid and granular moss killers. Both contain the same ferrous sulphates. The key to applying these is weather. Moss killer needs to be applied when we are going to have at least 48 hours of dry weather. Once applied you will notice the moss start to turn black after about a week. When the moss is completely black it needs to be removed by raking and removing.

3. Now that you have bare patches in your lawn it is time to start the rebuilding process. First an application of lime needs to be spread. The best lime to use is dolopril for a couple of reasons - one being it is easier to work with than the powdered dolomite lime and secondly it breaks down slower so it doesn't leach out as quickly. With the grass seed it is always a good idea to add a bit of sand to help with soil compaction.

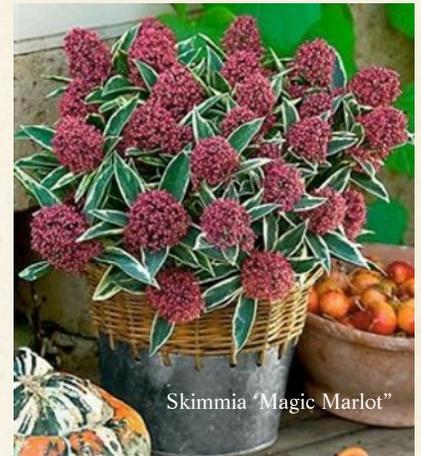


4. The next step is overseeding to cover in those bare patches. Once the new grass seed is down you need to make sure that it doesn't dry out while it is germinating. Germination usually takes about a week in early spring. Once the temperatures warm up germination can happen in as little as 72 hours.

5. Finally apply a good slow release nitrogen fertilizer. This should not be applied before mid April as you don't want to encourage a lot of growth too early in the spring.

What's New for 2012

Each spring we all wait with great anticipation for new arrivals to the nursery. This spring is no exception as our list of great plants expands. We have 2 new Skimmia varieties - Skimmia j. 'Magic Marlot' with silver edged foliage and flowers that are white in bud in the fall then turn bright red and open as white fragrant flowers. Very compact it make a great garden or container plant. The other variety is Skimmia j. 'Winnies Dwarf'. This is a foot high growing dwarf female that make a great container plant. We have added 2 new Willows - Salix x Flame and Salix x Scarlet Curls. Flame is a beautiful combination of yellow foliage on red stems. This willow is best coppiced each February (cut right to the ground) thus sending up fresh 5' stems each year. Scarlet Curls is a cultivar of the corkscrew willow that will grow to 25 - 30 feet. This is a disease resistant variety that makes a great

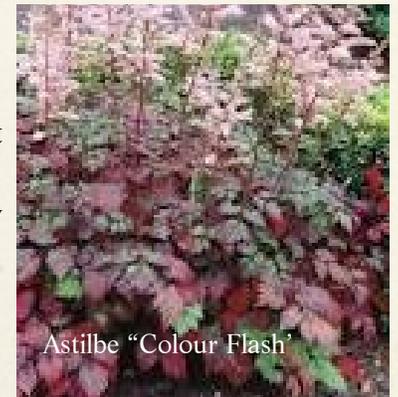


Skimmia 'Magic Marlot'



Cercidiphyllum 'Red Fox'

specimen plant. A new cultivar of one of our best selling small trees Cercidiphyllum 'Red Fox' is sure to be a big hit. Like the regular Katsura the new foliage is maroon but a much more intense purple than the species. Over 10 years you can expect growth of about 12 feet by 10 feet. For those of you looking for a large tree we are offering Fraxinus p. Cimmaron. This is a very fast growing tree to 40 -60' high with a 30' spread. Beautiful fall colour makes this a good choice for a fast growing shade tree. For Daphne enthusiasts we have Daphne x Houteana. This mezureum cross has the wonderfully fragrant flowers on stems with purple tinged foliage. New in the perennials department is the New Millennium Series of Delphiniums. These



Astilbe "Colour Flash"

delphiniums are superior to the Pacific Giants strain with strong stems and more flowers per stem. We also have 2 new astilbes. Astilbe "Colour Flash" and Colour Flash Lime" Colour Flash starts out with light green - chartreuse foliage and matures to purples and bronzes while Colour Flash Lime maintains the chartreuse colour throughout the season. The Rhodo house also has some new additions with tantalizing names like Bubblegum, Cherry Cheesecake, Eruption, Lemon Dream, Northern Starburst, Starbright Champagne, Very Berry, Windsong, and Winter Spice.



Eruption



Starbright Champagne



Windsong

March - April Plant Profile

Hepatica nobilis

Early spring is a great time of year for woodland perennials. And a great little performer is *Hepatica nobilis* sometimes called “Mayflower” (although in our climate is a March bloomer) or the less flattering “Liverleaf”. Small clumps - usually no bigger than 12” in diameter bloom profusely for about 3 weeks. The flowers range in colour from pink to sky blue with the blue tones being more common. After flowering the new foliage emerges and forms very compact mounds of foliage.



The foliage varies from shiny dark green to matte green and even purple mottled tones. This very easy to grow perennial does best in a partial shady position with soil that does not dry out. The foliage is evergreen but the plant looks its best if you prune back the foliage in late February to expose the flowers.



We are very excited to announce that we are in the process of constructing our own website. It should be completed very shortly.

WWW.ARROWSMITHGREENHOUSES.CA

Dividing Lilies

If your asiatic or oriental lilies did not bloom as well as normal last year they probably need to be divided. Anytime from late fall to early spring is a good time to divide the lily clump.

1. With a D handle pitch fork or shovel gently dig up the entire clump.
2. Either brush away the excess soil and or rinse it off with water.
3. Once the bulbs are exposed they should pull apart quite easily, making sure that you have an emerging shoot with each new bulb.
4. Replant each bulb with 4 inches of soil over the new bulbs. Plant with a good organic fertilizer and space each new bulb with at least 3 inches of space between each bulb.



Casa Blanca lilies ready to be replanted after separating

This lily bulb has more than tripled in size since being planted 3 years earlier



March - April To Do List

March

- Roses should be pruned by mid month and fruit trees should be done early in the month if not already done.
- Spring lawn care maintenance as laid out in the article in this newsletter.
- This is the ideal time to re mulch your garden beds, before herbaceous perennials start to emerge. Ideal mulches would be fish compost, garden compost or well rotted manure.
- As Spring flowering shrubs finish they can be pruned to shape and control size.
- This is the best time of year to divide perennials. For perennials such as Hosta, Astilbe and many others it is very easy to see the new growth tips which makes it easy to divide.
- Deadhead and feed spring bulbs when they finish flowering.
- If you need to move trees or shrubs this is a good month to do it, taking care to move as much of the root ball as possible and watch for the entire year to make sure that the newly moved plants do not dry out.
- Remove any winter mulches that were applied to tender plants.
- Get on top of weeding this month as many perennial weeds have continued to grow over winter and are getting ready to set seed.
- Plant Sweet Pea seeds.
- From March 15 on the early vegetables can be planted such as Spinach, Leaf Lettuce, Peas, and Onion Sets.
- Tomato seeds can be sown indoors from mid March to Mid April to be ready to plant out for June 1.



April

- Summer flowering bulbs such as Dahlias, Gladiolas, Lilies and Allium should be planted this month.
- Shear back winter flowering heather after flowering is finished.
- Evergreens can be pruned now to control growth. This can also be done in August if your hedges have put on substantial growth in the active growth season. If this is done in August the shrubs will flush out some new growth before winter.
- Stake tall perennials as they start to emerge. Never wait until they need staking as by that time it is too late.
- Continue planting early season vegetables.
- Roses, shrubs and perennials can be fertilized near the beginning of April. Organic fertilizer, well rotted manure or fish compost are the most beneficial fertilizers as their nutrients are used slower and more efficiently than synthetic fertilizers.
- Rhododendrons should be fertilized when their buds start to swell, usually about 1 month before full bloom. They should also be fertilized about 1 month after bloom has finished. Rhodos need to be fertilized with an acid based fertilizer.



Name _____ Phone # _____

Customer Survey

In an effort to improve our customer service we are asking for your assistance in completing this survey. Please take a few moments to complete this survey and drop it into the nursery. All completed surveys will be placed in a draw for a \$50.00 gift certificate to the nursery. Draw will be held on April 15, 2012.

1. How did you hear about our nursery?

- A. Newspaper Ad
- B. Yellow Pages
- C. Drive By
- D. Word of Mouth

2. How would you prefer to be notified of sales and specials?

- A. Newspaper Ad
- B. Email
- C. Radio Ad
- D. Facebook
- E. A daily or weekly blog on Website

3. Do you find our hours convenient?

- A. Yes
- B. No

4. If no to question 3 would later hours during spring be preferable:

- A. Yes - Monday to Saturday 9:00am to 7:00pm - Sunday 9:00am to 5:00pm
- B. My preference would be _____

5. While we make every effort to maintain a wide selection of plant material do you have any suggestions on how we can improve our selection?