

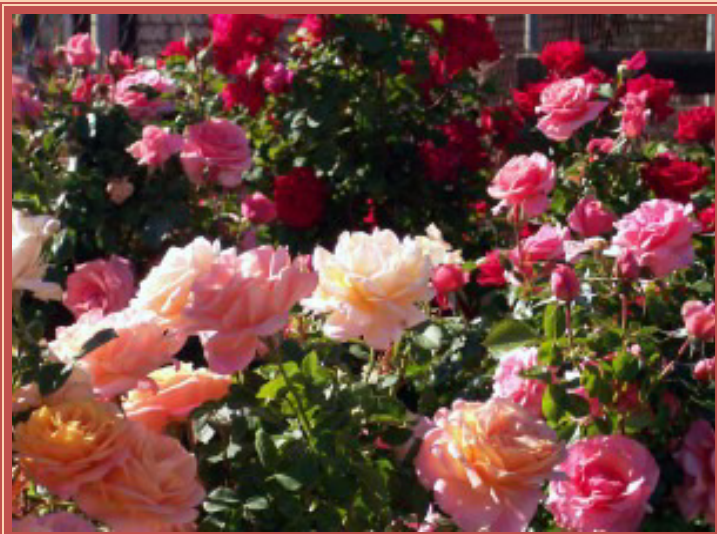


# EVERYTHING'S COMIN' UP ROSES

**Rose 40 % off this week**

**(SUMMER FASHIONS 40% OFF)**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> E-NEWS**



It's time for our 'Everything's Comin' Up Roses' Sale so all of our roses are **40% off this week**. We've had people tell us that they never expected to find such a huge selection of roses in such a small town! We have more than 250 varieties of roses that run the gamut of old garden favourites (and I mean OLD - Rosa mundi was first written about in the 1500s) to roses that have just been introduced in 2016. We have so many different varieties that it can be hard to find your favourites but... I have spent the entire week making up signs for every variety (if we didn't have a commercial sign) so now it will be so much easier to find what you're looking for.

If you have a shady garden and think roses aren't for you, you'll be happy to know that I've made a listing of all the **SHADE TOLERANT VARIETIES** we have in stock. There are more than expected and I realized as I made up that list, that many of those roses are also **THORNLESS** (or nearly so). So I made up another list of all the thornless varieties in case that's a priority for you.

As time consuming as it is to research and put together the information and the pictures of plants for signage, it's so much easier than it was 30 years ago before the internet and the development of signage programs. When I think of how many signs I had to print by hand and how time consuming that was - checking multiple books in my library - it is so much easier today and the resulting signs look so much better!!!

## **PLANT OF THE WEEK: Humulus lupulus**



**Humulus lupulus 'Bianca' (Hops)**

Now that the bedding plant aspect of the garden center (by the way, we still have great looking plants, planters and baskets), we have time to attend to the other the plant sections. We have vines of all kinds in stock including hops vines - for beer making! The ornamental hops vines ('Aureus' and 'Bianca') are known for their rampant growth (think Jack and his beanstalk) - perfect where quick shade or screening is required. And while they are strictly ornamental, we have three varieties that are grown for beer making. The interest

in craft beers and home brewing is growing by leaps and bounds but the plants haven't been widely available until now. We have:

**Cascade:** This is one of the most popular varieties for craft brewing. A cross between the English Fuggle and the Russian Serebriakova varieties, Cascade has a mellow, relatively low bittering value.

**Nugget:** If dark, bitter ales are to your liking, Nugget is a strong bitter hop for stouts and ales.

**Willamette:** If you prefer a more 'fruity' character to your beer, Willamette has the mild fruity aroma of the English Fuggle-type hops.

So if you're ready to try your hand at making your own brew, our **hops varieties are now 40% off** as are the ornamental varieties.

### **GARDEN TIP: CHERRY FRUIT FLY**



**Cherries infested with fruit fly larvae**

Cherry Season is coming to a close and I've enjoyed eating the sweet treats - there's nothing like a firm, juicy, sweet cherry!

I sincerely hope that the picture above is not indicative of what your cherry crop looked like this year. If, however, it's exactly what you've been dealing with, NOW is the time to take measures to prevent it happening again next year. DO NOT LEAVE MUMMIFIED FRUIT ON THE TREE! Pick it - all of it - and then clean up under the tree making sure that you get rid of all affected fruit. DO NOT PUT IT IN THE COMPOST!! Bag the fruit and set it out in the heat of the day (surely, that's going to happen soon) and let everything cook - including the

larvae - and then dispose of everything in the garbage.

### **ERINEUM MITE ON GRAPE LEAVES**



**Erineum Mite damage on underside of leaf**

There have been so many people coming in with damaged grape leaves lately that I thought it would be appropriate to include some info about the problem in this newsletter. When grape leaves appear puckered above and there's a white fuzzy layer on the undersides of those puckers, the problem is **Erineum mite** (sometimes referred to as Blister Mite). The problem has been growing in recent years with more people growing their own grapes and with the move away from using pesticides of any sort. Organic controls like dormant oil/lime sulphur sprays in spring provide reasonable control as do early sprays of sulphur to control powdery mildew but if those measures were not taken - and the problem is now evident - there isn't much you can do. Organic controls are, for the most part, contact sprays and the mites are well-protected in the fuzzy blisters (erinea) that are formed as they feed. The good news, however, is that controls are rarely necessary because the problem is more cosmetic than harmful. The leaves function normally and the fruit is not affected.

## **POWDERY MILDEW**



**Powdery Mildew on Diablo Ninebark**

There are times I must sound like a broken record - repeating over and over what causes Powdery Mildew and how to prevent it. PM fungal spores are everywhere and are opportunist - lying in wait until conditions are perfect for them to infect and damage plants everywhere. Thankfully, there are varieties that are resistant but for those that aren't; the weather conditions we've been experiencing lately have provided a 'perfect storm' situation for the proliferation of the disease. When foliage remains wet for extended periods of time (due to light rainfall, heavy dews, overhead sprinkling late in the day) while the soil remains dry, PM is inevitable. Older varieties of Summer Phlox and Ninebark (like Diablo) are severely infected as are some roses and many of the Crimson King maples. A measure of control can be gained with the new organic and/or biological fungicides but they *cannot be applied preventatively* and once the problem exists, they rarely get rid of it entirely. Prevention is the key! You have to **make sure that the soil remains consistently moist** for these plants (and others that are perennially affected by PM) because a cure is difficult to achieve. If you suspect that a plant may have powdery mildew, do the 'sniff test'. Powdery mildew smells like mushrooms - perfectly logical considering mushrooms are also a fungus. Remove affected leaves if only a few are affected and improve air-circulation around the

plant (improved air-circulation means foliage will dry more quickly) and don't over-fertilize (lush, over-grown foliage is more susceptible to PM).

## **SUMMER FERTILIZATION PROGRAM**

July 15<sup>th</sup> has passed and that's the date when it's time to *back off on any application of fertilizers containing Nitrogen.* While we may still be waiting for summer to arrive, the harsh reality in the plant world - especially for woody plants like shrubs and trees - is that it's time to begin the process of 'hardening off' (toughening-up) in preparation for winter. While nitrogen is essential in the development of healthy green growth when it's applied at this point in the season, the result will be new growth that doesn't have time to harden off properly that can be damaged or killed outright if we get an early cold snap. This is not a hardiness issue - it's a preparedness issue. In order to help your plants prepare for winter, apply only fertilizers that have no (or have little) Nitrogen, choosing instead to apply Phosphorus and - more importantly - *Potassium, the nutrient that helps strengthen cell walls.* This is particularly important for plants that are only border-line hardy like hybrid tea roses. Winter mulch alone will not prevent damage if the plant isn't hardened off and ready for winter!

## **SUMMER PRUNING OF FRUIT TREES**

The ultimate goal for most home fruit growers is to grow good fruit on trees that aren't too large to manage. The best time to prune to achieve size control is NOT while the trees are dormant but ***when the wood that has grown this year has hardened and is no longer flexible.*** That usually occurs around late July - early August in this area but I checked our apple trees this week and it has occurred early - the terminal buds (the last bud on the branch) are already firm and hard. With the tree still covered in foliage and fruit, it can admittedly be hard to see what needs to be removed. But pruning now - when the new wood has hardened and there's little likelihood of new growth that won't harden-off before winter - will help control the size of the tree in a way that dormant pruning cannot do. A simple explanation of the

process may help you understand why this is so: as a tree prepares for winter, nutrients in the leaves are stored in the trunk and roots before the leaves drop. The tree then goes into the winter with a nutrient store equal to the size of the tree canopy before leaf fall.

A tree that is summer-pruned goes into the winter with a reduced nutrient load but that load is *equal to what will be required for the size of the tree* the following spring. The result is restrained growth the next spring and excellent size control. In addition, summer pruning allows better penetration of sunlight into the tree canopy which increases the sugar levels in the fruit which in turn results in tastier fruit and better keeping quality.

On the other hand, a tree that is winter (dormant) pruned, goes into the winter with a nutrient load that is *far greater than will be required by the tree the next spring* after pruning removes a good portion of the tree.



**Effects of Dormant Pruning**

The result is a huge **GROWTH RESPONSE** as the excess nutrients find places to go by producing lots of new growth in the form of water sprouts. Rather than controlling the size of the tree, the tree is often **LARGER - AND MORE THICKLY BRANCHED** - than it was before. (See picture above)

If you've never tried summer pruning, give it a try; prove for yourself that it has size-controlling benefits. Besides, wouldn't you rather prune in shorts and runners than in your winter parka and heavy boots????

**July 15 - July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

**ROSES.....40% OFF**

**HOPS VINES.....40% OFF**

**HANGING BSKTS/PLANTERS...40% OFF  
(Except new moss baskets & planters)**

**SUMMER FASHIONS.....40% OFF**

**IT'S FRUIT SALAD TIME**

**OKANAGAN GROWN:**

**APRICOTS: Gold Strike  
Gold Bar**

**PEACHS: Rising Star (Freestone)  
Early Red Haven (Clingstone  
but oh-so-tasty for fresh eating!)**

**LOCALLY GROWN:**

**CHERRIES: Local Lapins  
BLACKBERRIES  
BLUEBERRIES  
RASPBERRIES  
SASKATOONS**

*Come in and smell our roses,  
Harriet*

**HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET  
& GARDEN CENTRE**

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