

# IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

- **Market OPEN daily 9-5 except Sunday**
- **Feature this week: CA apples**
- **Sign up for Spring Workshops**
  - **Plant of the week:**
  - **Garden Tips:**



## MARCH 12<sup>th</sup> E-NEWS

### Happy New Year!!

Yes, it is March 12th but for us it's the start of a new year. Our market is open once again. This winter has been a relatively easy one and I think most plants will have fared well. Don't be in a rush to remove protective mulches just yet, though, in case we still get a blast of cold weather. Most of the snow has melted in my gardens but it's still too wet to do any digging. But if you're itching to get out and do something in the garden, now is a good time to spread compost on your planting beds, transplant existing shrubs while they're still dormant, and pluck out weeds before they have a chance to get established.

It's too early yet to be bringing in nursery stock and bedding plants, but packaged bulbs and perennials and some of the seeds are now in. We're still waiting for the Livingston and T&M seeds (the ones with the really interesting varieties) but they should be in this week.

Of course, we have BC apples and pears in stock.

**APPLES:** Pink Lady 99¢/lb.  
Ambrosia 89¢/lb.  
Gala 69¢/lb.  
Spartans 59¢/lb.

**PEARS:** Anjou 89¢/lb.

As we head into the gardening season, garden ware, décor, tools, equipment and giftware are arriving almost daily.

### \*Sign up for Spring Workshops

#### 1. FUNDAMENTALS OF PRUNING

Session 1: March 20, 6:00-8:00 pm

Session 2: March 24: 1-4pm

FEE is \$25 + GST per person or  
\$40 + GST per couple

#### 2. PRINCIPLES OF LOW-MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPING

Learn how to achieve a landscape you can be proud of without having to dedicate all your leisure time to gardening.

March 27: 6-8pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

#### 3. GROW YOUR OWN VEGGIES

Grow local, grow organic, and grow for flavor! Container and Square Foot Gardening included.

April 3: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

#### 4. CONTAINERS WITH PIZZAZZ

Learn the tips and tricks to make your containers showstoppers!

April 10: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

#### 5. VINES & CLIMBERS

These versatile plants are too often overlooked. Learn how and where to use them to best effect.

April 17: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

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

**Please Register ASAP.**

### Garden Tips Is it time to sow seeds yet?

This past week I've been getting many calls and questions about when to start plants from seed.

I know you're anxious for spring to 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, but for some plants it's already too late!

For best performance the following seeds should have been sown in January and February so it's best to get them as started bedding plants. See the note below\*

**FLOWERS:**

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

**VEGETABLES:**

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

\*Because these plants require a long growing season from germination to flowering/harvest, they are generally better started by professional growers unless you have the space in a warm greenhouse or under grow-lights.

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 strong difference in 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!

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.

Looking forward to an exciting growing season,

*Harriet*

**HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET  
& GARDEN CENTRE**

3181-11<sup>TH</sup> Ave. NE., Salmon Arm, BC

**March hours: Mon.-Sat. 9-5:00**

**Closed Sundays until Mid April.**

**(250) 832 4574**

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