



- **Market is now OPEN daily except Sunday**
- **Feature this week: Dormant oil and kits**
- **Sign up for Spring Workshops**
- **Plant of the Week: Plentifall pansies**
- **Garden Tips: What can be seeded/planted outdoors now?**

MARCH 30th E-NEWS

So has all the snow melted in your garden yet? It has here and the snow crocus and heaths are blooming. Yay! Now I'm just 'itching' to get out into my garden to get some things done! I know a lot of you are getting 'itchy' too because we've been getting questions on when plants can be set out and when different seeds can be sown in the garden. So check out the [Garden Tips](#) section for answers.

We've been busy getting the garden centre ready for all the plants that will be arriving in the next couple of weeks. Bare-root fruit trees are among the first plants to arrive and a few are in now. If you pre-booked some, you will get a call when the varieties you ordered arrive.

If your soil is warm and dry enough already, we have veggies and flowers that are tough and hardy that can be planted out: sweet onions, kale, cauliflower, red and green cabbage, lettuce and broccoli, snapdragons, pansies, violas, dianthus and nemesia ~ all plants that can handle cool growing conditions. Onion sets, potatoes and packaged berries will be in today or tomorrow. We'll have some organic seed potatoes as well as a NEW product: a Combo Potato Sack which contains **500 grams each of Red Pontiac, Russets, and Yukon Gold**. What a great idea! And if you haven't got much space but would like to grow



potatoes, we have Potato Tubs that have a Velcro side opening to give you access

to the potatoes growing in the tub.

This week we have **2 inch pot seed geraniums in a good selection of colours on sale at \$1.29 ea.** (reg. \$1.49) If you like geraniums and you're looking for good value, seed-grown plants are the way to go! Compare the price to what you would pay if you grew your own from seed: packets of geranium seeds are priced from \$3.29 to \$4.99 for 10 seeds. So by the time you factor in the cost of seed trays, soil mix, and the fact that it's late in the season to be sowing geraniums, healthy started plants that are 4-6 weeks old are excellent value.

In last week's e-news I wrote that it was too early to apply dormant oil in our area. Research has shown **that time of application is crucial to whether it is effective or not**. Conventional wisdom says that oil sprays must be applied when the tree is completely dormant but more recent research has shown that, in most cases, spraying oil at complete dormant is not very effective and is, in fact, a waste of money. The oil spray's mode of action is to suffocate the emerging insects as they hatch. If it's applied too early, spring rains will wash it away well before hatching commences. **The right time to apply dormant oil is when it's warm enough that insect eggs are hatching~ well after buds have started to swell**. The 'best bang for your buck' is had when you apply the oil as late as possible (insects are hatching) without doing serious damage to foliage. Oil can be safely applied to foliage when it starting to open but not when it has completely unfurled. Because fruit tree buds grow at different rates depending on variety, location and growing season, check the buds

regularly to see how much green is showing. You can safely apply dormant oil even when there is up from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch of green growth showing. Commercial fruit growers have been doing this for twenty years and more! Dormant oils are much lighter than they used to be and can even be applied during active growth but at a different application



rate.

Dormant oil is available alone (Horticultural Oil) or in a boxed set with sulfur. Sulfur is fungicidal and when applied with oil can provide broad spectrum insect and fungal control early in the season. Sulfur can also be used during the growing season but must not be applied when daytime temperatures reach 30°C.

Sulfur, while an effective fungicide, is also miticidal, killing all species including the helpful predaceous mites. For this reason, we haven't used the oil/sulfur combination in our orchards for many years. The benefits of using sulfur are outweighed by the damage to the predaceous mites. Without a healthy population of predatory mites, the damaging species get out of hand. Furthermore, Sulfur is smelly, is messy to work with and is phytotoxic to certain plants. Even if you choose to use it on other types of fruit trees NEVER apply it to apricot, Delicious apple, or hazelnut trees.

Dormant oil and sulfur sprays, while both derived from minerals, are considered organic products because they have no residual ecological effects. Even so, wear protective gear during application and be careful not to overspray onto surfaces that can be stained by the sulfur.

While it's too early to spray dormant oil, it's the perfect time to spray peach trees with BORDO copper spray, especially if they had Peach Leaf Curl last year. BORDO is usually applied in autumn but can be applied in spring provided the tree is still dormant.



PLANT OF THE WEEK: Plentifall Pansies

Plentifall pansies are the first series of trailing pansies grown from seed. Well-branched, low-spreading plants grow vigorously producing medium size blooms that hold up better in rain and weather than larger flowered strains. They make incredible cool-season baskets and can be used as 'spillers' in mixed containers. Height 15-20 cm x Spread 45-60 cm.

GARDEN TIPS: What can be seeded or planted outdoors now?

Our area contains so many different micro-climates that there is no one definitive answer to this question other than to say it all depends on soil and air temperature. Raised beds in full sun warm up more quickly than in-ground gardens and may be ready for some early cropping. The best way to know if you can plant early is to check soil temperature. Over the years I've gathered germination and growing information on many different plants and have found it useful, not only with regard to when to plant but because it has saved me money. You've heard the saying "Plant early~ plant often". If you plant too soon, you'll probably get to do it again. What follows is a chart with optimum soil temperature ranges for good veggie and flower seed germination. You'll see that some seeds are quite cold tolerant but even so it's still pretty early for most on the list. Once germinated, some can tolerate fairly cool soils.

OPTIMUM SOIL TEMPERATURE RANGES

Vegetable	Range °C	Optimum °C	Growth °C
Beans (Snap)	15-27	26.5-29.5	15.5- 23.8
Beets	10-27	29.5	15.5- 21.1
Cabbage	7-35	29.5	15.5- 21.1
Carrot	7-27	26.5	15.5- 21.1
Cauliflower	7-27	26.5	15.5- 21.1
Celery	15-24	21(Night 15.5)	15.5- 21.1
Corn	15-35	35	18.3- 23.8
Cucumber	15-35	35	18.3- 23.8
Lettuce	4.5-27	23	15.5- 18.33
Muskmelon	15-35	32	18.3- 23.58
Onion	10-35	24	12.7- 23.8
Parsley	10-27	24	15.5-18.3
Peas	4.5-24	24	15.5- 18.3
Peppers	18-35	30	21.1- 23.8
Pumpkin	21-35	34	18.3- 23.8
Radish	7-32	29	15.5- 23.8
Spinach	7-24	21.1	15.5- 23.8
Squash	21-35	34	18.3- 23.8
Turnip	15.5-40	29.4	15.5- 18.3
Watermelon	21-35	34	18.3- 23.8

Flower	Notes	Optimum °C	Growth °C
Alyssum	Surface sow	26	10- 12.5
Aster		23.8	15.5
Calendula	Requires darkness	23.8	15.5
California poppy	Sow in situ	21	
Candytuft		18-29	20
Celosia		23.8	18.3
Clarkia	Sow in situ	23.8	23.8
Cleome	Sow in situ	26.6 (Night 23)	
Dianthus		20	10-12.7
Godetia		23.8	15.5
Impatiens	Surface Sow	23.8	18.3
Larkspur	Sow in situ	23.8	
Love in a mist	Sow in situ	21	
Monkey Flower	Surface Sow	18	
Morning Glory	Nick seed	23.8	
Nasturtium	Requires darkness	21	
Nemesia		12-15	
Pansies	Requires darkness	21.1	Frost tolerant
Poppies	Requires darkness	15.5	
Rudbeckia		21	
Schizanthus		15-23.8	
Snapdragon	Surface Sow	4	10
Stocks		23.8	
Sunflowers		21.1	
Sweet peas	Nick/soak/Darkness	21	10

If you really **have** to get your hands in the dirt, sow the varieties that can be **sown in situ**. They'll germinate as soon as conditions are favorable. Sweetpeas can be sown now. This flower grows best when soil and air temperatures are cool and often fizzle in the heat of summer. Try planting them in a trench about 15cm deep, sowing the seeds as normal, and then backfilling the trench as the plants grow. Deeper planting = cooler root-run.

*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. Pruning~ Sorry, you missed it.

2. PROVEN PERENNIAL PERFORMERS

April 5: 6:30-8:30

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

3. CONTAINERS WITH PIZZAZZ

April 12: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

4. GROWING ROSES IN THE SHUSWAP

April 19: 6:30-8:30 pm

FEE is \$15 + GST per person

5. PLANTING A MOSS BASKET

April 26: 6-8 pm (note earlier time)

FEE is \$45 + GST per person

To guarantee that your spot is held for you, please pay your registration fee in advance of the session. Because of our space limitations, it isn't fair to hold a spot unless you are committed to coming. Some workshops fill quickly and have a waiting list

FEATURES THIS WEEK:

Seed Geraniums: 1.29 ea.

Dormant Oil Kits: \$14.99

Horticultural Oil: \$9.99

Apples: Ambrosia, Fuji, Spartans, Pink Lady, Golden Delicious 89¢/lb

Pears: Anjou 89¢/lb.

Best regards and Happy Gardening,

Harriet

HANNA ORCHARDS MARKET & GARDEN CENTRE

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