



IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

- **New Products:** Tri-column pond kit, Pine Beetle repellent
- **Gardening Tips:** Control Box Elder bugs, aphids, and leaf rollers
- **Plants of the week:** Pillar geraniums
- **Features this week:** \$5 off hanging baskets, \$5 off 1.8kg Slow Release fertilizer for containers and baskets

MAY 10th E-NEWS

Open 9-6 daily, 1-5 on Sunday

Finally the weather report **doesn't** include frost warnings. It's about time! It looks like it'll be safe to plant out our annuals now. Of course, warmer weather also means that the insects are emerging. Aphids are everywhere this year! Box elder bugs and leaf rollers are making their presence known as well. Check the tips section below for organic ways to control these critters.

While it's no secret that I'm passionate about plants, it wasn't always that way. As a teen, I remember thinking that gardening was a colossal waste of time. But I do have good memories of a small garden my oldest brother and I shared when we were still fairly young and think that may have 'planted the seed' of the horticulturist to come. I hope you encourage the children in your life to explore the wonders of growing things for themselves. We stock children's size garden gloves, tools, and more to make it fun for them. We also have a '**Clean Air Kit**' that I brought in specifically thinking that kids might find it interesting to grow their own tree. The kits costs only \$4.99 and say '**Open, Plant, and Grow Clean Air**'.



New Products:



Tri-column Pond kit

(Not exactly as shown)

This three column basalt fountain comes with a base, a 450 GPH pump kit and makes a completely self-contained recirculating fountain. It weighs 250 lbs. The sound created by this fountain is wonderful and would certainly create great ambience on a patio or out in the garden.



Con-Tech Mountain Pine Beetle Repellent

Lodgepole, jack, and Ponderosa are the native species of Pine principally being attacked by the Mountain Pine Beetle. The Pine Beetle Repellent '**Verbenone**' is a synthetic pheromone product that replicates the beetle pheromone, sending out a message that the tree is fully occupied and that the food supply is insufficient for additional beetles. Arriving beetles get the message and look elsewhere for a suitable host. This is an environmentally safe way to protect your trees and is non-toxic to humans, pets and birds.

GARDENING TIPS: Organic Control of Box Elder Bugs, Aphids, and Leaf Rollers



Box Elder Bug

These bugs are a pest because they like to congregate on maple and ash trees and on walls rather than because they cause great damage. The easiest way to control them is with soapy water, sticky traps or Horticultural oil (don't use this on Japanese maples). Two tbsp. of dish soap in a gallon of water should do the job.



Aphid colony

Gardeners everywhere know what aphids look like. There are many different species that affect different types of plants and they come in a number of different colours. Beneficial predators like ladybugs and lacewings and their larvae will happily keep aphid populations under control so make sure you know what they look like so you don't inadvertently kill off the 'good guys'.

If you don't see any predators in the middle of an aphid colony, there are some easy organic control methods. A strong jet of water will disperse/squish the aphids and is easy and effective. So is the 'two-finger squish' method even though it is a bit gross. There are effective aphicidal products such as 'Eco-Sense' insecticide as well as biological products that will lure ladybugs to affected plants and an 'Aphid Chasers' pheromone product that disrupts the ecology of aphid colonies. Aphids congregate on the fresh foliage of the growing tips of plants. Keep an eye on your roses and lupine plants because they are often the first to be infested by aphids each spring.



Leaf roller tied up in webbing

If your plants are short and you can reach the affected leaves just squish the larvae inside the leaf. Organic products like Safer's BTK (a bacterium that is specific to Lepidoptera) will work, too, but the larvae have to ingest it for it to be effective.

***Plants of the week: Pillar geranium**



Pillar geraniums are vigorous, branching plants that are ideal for large containers in full sun. They require support to grow to their full height but tomato cages, trellises or bamboo canes will easily do the job. Particularly showy for a patio area, there's no reason they can't be used in the garden as well.

They need a well-drained growing mix and because they are an aggressive grower, they respond well to a balanced fertilization program. Use a slow-release fertilizer such as 18-6-12 to keep them growing and blooming throughout the season. We have them available in Scarlet and Violet.

We've brought in a new shipment of **container-grown Emerald cedars**. Because they are container-grown, the root-systems remain intact and they can be successfully transplanted at any time during the growing season. Balled and Burlapped plants, on the other hand, lose up to 90% of their roots during the digging process and should be transplanted as soon after digging as possible. Only handle plants by the root-ball or the container ~ don't drag them by the top-growth and be sure to water newly planted cedars regularly to help them get established.

**3-4 ft. Container Grown \$20 ea. or
10/\$150.00**

**4-5 ft. Container Grown \$25 ea. or
10/\$200.00**

Be sure to check out our selection of different types of evergreens. I love conifers: **their diversity of forms, foliage colours**, and the fact that **they provide interest and structure to the garden in all four seasons** make them excellent landscape plants. I'm confident that our selection is second to none with many of them very special plants that are rarely found in garden centres. See for yourself ~ seeing is believing!

Happy Planting,

Harriet

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& GARDEN CENTRE**

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Features : May 11-17

Beautiful hanging baskets (Many Proven Winner plants): **Buy 2 or more, get \$5 off the regular price of each.**

1.8 kg. Slow Release 18-6-12 fertilizer (Perfect for hanging baskets and containers) Reg. \$17.99 **\$12.99**

2 gal. Junipers: 20% off

**Bulk Gladiolus (x-large bulbs)-
Scarlet blooms: 35cents ea.**

2 gal. Green leaf Bananas: 25% off

**Wicker and plastic pots/hangers
to pot up your own baskets. 50% off**

**All remaining packaged Berries,
Summer bulbs, Onion sets. 50% off**

**SUNSHINE Professional Grower Mix
(contains slow-release fertilizer)
70.8L bag: **\$12.99****

Ceramic Pots:

Buy 2 get 15% off

Buy 3 get 20% off

Buy 4 or more get 25% off

Green Harvest **RED MULCH
(Reg. \$9.99/bag) **10/\$70.00****

Check out our Proven Winners Showcase area. Most Proven Winners require no dead-heading, do not form seeds, and provide an exceptionally long season of interest.