



Issue 15

February 2009 *65 Years in Business!*

IN THE HOPES OF SPRING

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[Organic Gardening Canada](#)

It's our **65th anniversary** this year and much has changed since our grandfather started Marigold back in 1944. There are some things that just don't change, and that is the four seasons of gardening we are so lucky to enjoy here in Victoria.

Some things that do change quickly is the February weather, it seems like a blink of the eye and it is different. One day we will be enjoying the warm(mild) sun and the next we are sitting in the thick damp fog. Either way the month is the month where spring isn't just a dream away. It is becoming a great reality here right now as our friends(customers) are visiting us at a more steady pace and that we have loads of products arriving on a very regular basis. Not to mention the best selection of seeds to choose from in town, just had to throw that one in there. In this newsletter you will find some tips on pruning, starting seeds, and the tasks you might want to think about starting in your garden this month.

Cheers!
Marigold Nurseries Staff

For a look into the history of Marigold visit the link below.

[HISTORY OF MARIGOLD NURSERIES](#)

[Marigold Nurseries Kids Club](#)

We are entering our 3rd year of kids club and I am looking so forward to this year. I have the year planned as much as possible for kids club and our focus is going to be on growing food, and of course getting dirty and having fun. We are going to be building a new garden this year and we will be creating an organic veggie garden.

Kids club is free to join and is a lot of fun for all ages. For more information please check out our website where you will find the calendar of events for the year as well as the link to register.

[KIDS CLUB INFORMATION](#)



SEEDS

Well it is that time of year again when our store is full of a wonderful selection of seeds. We have 5 different seed companies to choose from including West Coast Seeds, Bow, Livingston, Pacific Northwest and McKenzie Thompson & Morgan Seeds. They are all very reputable seed companies and we are proud to carry all of them. This selection is unbeatable and if you can not find it here we will try our best to find it for you. Obviously the bonus to starting your own seeds is the selection of plants to choose from, and the no brainer is the savings you get when you do it from seed you end up with a lot more flowers for a lot less.

Quick Tips For Success

- Do not over water your seeds. The best way to water them is with a spray bottle. This way you do not displace your seeds and it is harder to over water when just misting your soil
- Do not bury them too deep. Read package for exact depth instructions.
- Do not start your veggies too early. Usually the end of the month is a good time.
- Perennial and most flower seeds are good to start now as sometimes they take a bit longer to germinate.
- Soak your sweet peas
- When planting your peas and beans use a pea inoculant. This will help ensure a successful crop.
- Use a starter mix or peat pellet to start your seeds.
- Use a heat mat under your flats for quicker germination.
- Make sure to read the package for complete details of planting times and depth

For a really helpful website on seeds and seed growing check out

[WEST COAST SEEDS](#)



Questions and Answers

To Prune or not to Prune?

This is the second favourite question right now only to "is my plant dead from the winter". So we will answer the pruning question first and we will touch on the other later on.

When it comes to pruning it can sometimes get a bit complicated but for a lot of plants all they really want is the dead, diseased and damaged wood removed. Most reasons we prune can be grouped into 4 categories Training, Maintaining, Improving and Restricting.

To answer the question on timing. Late winter, when your plants are dormant, is best for most pruning. You don't want to go prune happy to early because one thing that pruning does is it encourages new growth and if it does in fact get cold again the new growth has a good chance of being killed off. So wait until mid to late February or even wait until early March to get out in the garden to do most of your pruning.

To know what plants you can or should be pruning this time of year you can follow this general rule of thumb:

1. If it flowers on old wood you should prune immediately after flowering. This way you can let your plant grow new wood that will mature in time for blooms the following year.
 1. Examples of these are flowering plum & cherry, lilac, forsythia, escallonia, flowering quince.
2. If it flowers late summer and into the fall you prune in early spring or late winter to encourage the current seasons growth, (new wood) which produces the blooms later on in the season.
 1. Examples of these are hydrangea paniculata, cotoneaster, red twig

dogwoods, smoke bush, berberis

When it comes to pruning your evergreens, most likely hedging wait until early March when most danger of cold, cold weather has passed. This way you will not lose any of the new growth that you will promote by pruning.

Choosing the right tools for the job are important also. We have an extensive range of tools available here with the expertise in helping you choose the right one.

Remember there are always exceptions to rules so if unsure of what, when and where to prune you are free to visit, phone or email any questions you have when it comes to pruning.

The favourite question that we have been getting a lot is "Are my plants dead?"

I must admit there was some good winter weather that hit us this year and some of us might lose more than one of our favourites. But, I do have to say that it is just too early to tell yet the full extent of winter damage. This is good news for most people who in their minds have given up on looking at their New Zealand flax's or palms. Just wait until the more active growing season before pronouncing anything dead in your garden. Some other tips to get you to stop worrying about your plants such as rhodos and other broad leaved evergreens is when they look wilted it is a natural defence to the cold. I know it does not look very good and at times they can look very sad, but that is their way of holding on to the moisture in their leaves. So it is nature taking care of itself.

Plant Picks and Tasks for February

Flowering Shrubs & Perennials for Late Winter & Early Spring

Viburnum- These two varieties are sooo beautiful Burkwoodii & Pink Dawn



Skimmia- Evergreen with flowers and berries in Winter!

Helleborus- Beautiful display of mid-winter -early spring flowers. A MUST in the perennial garden.

Forsythia- Great yellow flowers in early spring.

Other Great Plants for Now!

Potted Bulbs- These are so perfect for the ones that forgot to plant theirs last

fall. They are also amazing in containers to spring up the front porch or window box planters. Available are tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, snowdrops and paperwhites.

PRIMULAAAAA!!- Marigold grown in cold houses so they are acclimatized to the weather and will last a long time. The colours are phenomenal, especially this time of year

Primula & Tulip Containers!

Wow these beauties have great colour that will last right until May because of the 20 or so tulip bulbs that will emerge once the primula fade. All for only \$24.99



Great Indoor Plants- Bring the colour indoors!

Orchids- Great Selection
Potted Mums
Cyclamen
Mini Roses
Kalanchoe



TASKS AT HAND FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

- Great time to buy and plant your seeds
- Prune fruit trees
- Cut hardy grasses back to about 6-8"
- Prune cane & bush fruits
- Water plants that are in a location that do not receive any water, also make sure to water the garden if we get a dry spell. Don't be fooled by cold weather, cold weather does not mean that our plants are getting the necessary moisture they need.
- Start pulling those weeds as soon as you see them.
- Keep an eye out for fungus's and diseases, make sure to keep your garden clean of diseased leaves (especially those of roses) this will help in the long run.
- If cold weather is in the forecast make sure to cover and protect early flowering plants with remay cloth.
- Before buds swell you can transplant your shrubs and trees- do not prune and transplant at the same time.
- Add compost to your garden.
- If you have not already apply dormant oil and lime sulphur to your trees.
- Make sure to always feed the birds

SALES AND EVENTS!

[Victoria Tea Festival Information](#)



February 14th & 15th

This event holds a special place for me as both my children attend Camosun College Childcare on the lansdowne campus and the Victoria Tea Festival is a fundraiser for the two facilities that Camosun College has. The event is very worth attending so please check out the link above for all details of teh event.

Tickets are on sale at Marigold for \$20.00

February 20th

Community Potluck & Discussion!
"Growing Food at Home"

Friday, February 20th 6pm - 9pm
Place: Quattro Stagione Cafe
Bring: Food and ideas to share.

This night should be a lot of fun and some great ideas I know will be shared. So if you are into growing your own food or at least some of your own food and want to here some ideas others in your community have please come. If you have any questions please contact Helen Lupowitz
info@recipeforacoolplanet.com or 250 544 2064



FOR YOUR VALENTINE!



We have so much to offer your valentine here at Marigold. From fresh arrangements & bouquets to gifts and tools (*why not*). I am sure you can find that special person in your life something here.

All of our products are made from fresh cut flowers and the beautiful creations are put together right here. We can do custom orders or you can choose from our great selection of ready to give bouquets and arrangements.



Remember flowers make you and other people happy. So for no other reason than that come get some flowers today or take a walk through to get a glimpse of spring.

Celebrating 65 years in business and well into our 4th generation of Smith's here so I thought I would include a photo of us. We are usually never this formal and it took many years to get us to finally do this. So come visit us for a good relaxed approach to gardening.

Cheers,

Marigold Staff & Family

Marigold Nurseries Ltd



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\$65\$ CELEBRATION

Print this coupon and for every \$65\$ dollars spent from now until the 15th you will receive a \$10\$ gift card to use anytime! That is a great deal!

To print this coupon without printing the whole newsletter just select the last page when printing. This way we will not waste much paper.

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