



Issue 16

Spring 2009 *65 Years in Business!*

# IS IT, OR ISNT IT? that is the question!

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Now that the whole month of March is past us maybe we can really start thinking spring. Some days it feels like it is around the corner and then the next there are flurries and wind like crazy. So the question really is Is it, or Isnt it?

This can be the beginning of many questions this time of year including is it dead?, is it safe to plant?, is it or isnt it SPRING?, and so many others. We will try to answer these questions in this newsletter as good as we can, and then hope that mother nature delivers us our well deserved season!

Cheers!  
Marigold Nurseries Staff

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

[HISTORY OF MARIGOLD NURSERIES](#)



## Marigold Nurseries Kids Club

Well we planted our veggie garden and it looks delicious. We had so much fun and it is a very attractive garden. If you missed that kids club dont worry the garden is for all to share.

The next kids club is April 11th from 1pm until 2pm. Should be a load of fun! We will be going on an easter scavenger hunt through-out the nursery. So hopefully you remember some of your plant names.

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

[KIDS CLUB INFORMATION](#)



## Sustainable Lawns

As much as the word sustainable is loved around here ( inside joke just ask next time you are in), when it comes to caring for your lawn there are some environmentally sound choices that you can make to have a SUSTAINABLE lawn!

### Mowing

Never take more than 1/3 of leaf blade. Mowing your lawn too short can cause your lawn stress!

- When cutting your lawn leave some or all of your clippings on. This is a great way to add nitrogen to your lawn naturally! If you have kids or company coming over though sometimes it is not a great idea as it can be a real dirty thing.
- The longer you leave your grass the less moisture is wasted from evaporation and there for the greener your lawn. This will also cut way back on water use saving it for more precious things like drinking or your hanging baskets!

### Fertilizing

When it comes to fertilizing either way, natural or not, it is very important. A healthier lawn equals less weeds and moss. Spring and fall are always a great time to apply your lime. Lime helps sweeten the soil and bring it back to a more neutral level which is always easily changed with our level of rainfall. Lime is also a great way to keep the moss away (moss loves acidic soil) and it helps encourage roots to take up the much needed nutrients. Keys to successful fertilizing

- Never over fertilize! Read the instructions on the bag more does not mean better. It is a waste of money and of your time.
- If applying a fertilizer a slow release such as 27-6-14 is a great choice. This is a chemical fertilizer but it works very well and only needs to be applied once a season.
- Other great natural alternatives is a fine layer of compost in the spring. If applying a layer of compost or topsoil make sure to use an overseeder blend grass afterward this will help keep your lawn full and lush letting little or no weeds to germinate!  
**YEAH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

- We also sell some really great organic products for the lawn such as Wegners Lawn fertilizer 10-3-3 this is an [OMRI](#) certified product, you could also use Corn Gluten Meal which is a great natural nitrogen fertilizer it also is a weed n feed!
- You can always even use liquid fish fertilizer, if you can get passed the smell of your lawn it is a great choice.
- Liming your lawn is a great way to neutralize the soil and make nutrients more available to your plants. Lime now and in fall. Lime can take up to 3 months to make any change in your soil so fall is ideal but spring is great too!

#### AERATING

- Aerating your lawn helps get air to a needy root system. All lawns do not need aerating so to see if yours is one of them I read a handy tip. Take a screwdriver and poke it into the lawn if this is done easily and goes in smooth no need to aerate. If its hard and tough to get through time to aerate.
- After aerating always top dress and overseed.
- Top dressing can be done with compost or topsoil.

#### WATERING

- Watering your lawn can be a waste of good water. So choosing the proper time and doing it the right way is very important.
- DON'T water during the middle of the day when most water is evaporated
- Water once a week during the summer and give your lawn a deep watering, soaking the first inch to 2 inches. This increases the strength of your lawn by encouraging the roots to go deeper into the ground in search of water. Watering to often will make your roots lazy and not go searching.

When it comes to lawns and their increasingly bad rep, I still believe, especially if you want to have recreational space, that they are a great feature for a yard. With the proper care of your lawn you will be creating a healthy space for you and your family to enjoy. So happy lawning!!

*A Duncan Update from yours truly Rayanne*



Duncan store with Mount Prevost in the background.

As you all know I am the one who will be running our NEW LOCATION, and I am so very excited to be going, at the same time I am nervous, sad for leaving and maybe a little TO'd that we are not up and running yet. The hiccups have turned into burps and we have had more delays than anyone could possibly want (silly who wants delays) but our target and goal is MAY 1st. Everything is in place for opening it is just on hold until we get a roof on and then we will be able to fill our store with such amazingly beautiful products that are grown by us, grown locally and grown world wide, you know we are all about selection here and can not wait to be open. So here is a poem

Have Faith  
The Roof Will Rise  
The Sun Will Shine  
There Will Be Plants  
In Our Garden Centre On Time

See you soon in DUNCAN!  
Rayanne



Gates being installed off Bell McKinnon Rd

## Plant Picks and Tasks for April

Everything on the following list is a big thumbs up for planting outside now!





## Flowering Shrubs & Perennials

### Shrubs

Hebes

Flowering Crabapples, Cherries, Plums- always a favourite this time of year

Weeping Pussy Willows- such a great feature tree

Forsythia- great sign of the time

Flowering Currants- theres not much better for attracting the hummingbirds

Tree Heather- so delicate and gorgeous

Coral Bark Maple- this one always makes the list at least 3



times a year

with its great year round interest.

Golden Japanese Cedar- *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Sekkan-sugi' This is such a graceful tree that would be perfect as a specimen in a larger garden. The lime green with golden undertone is sooo beautiful I LOVE THIS ONE and it is my choice of the month

### Perennials

Aubretia- a must for the rock wall or garden.

Hardy Carntanions- last all year great for containers

Hostas- the best shade plant ever

Clematis- a vine really but we have such a great selection of great varieties

Erysimum- these shrubby wallflowers are great.

Awesome colour, hardy, fragrant and deer resistant!



Ornamental Grasses

### Edibles

6 pack Veggies

Broccoli, Cabbage, Brussel Sprouts, Cauliflower, Lettuces and Kale



Herbs- carry pack contains 6 different herbs

Walla Walla onions

Seed Potatoes

Raspberries

Boysenberries

Grapes

Strawberries

Rhubarb

Fruit trees GALORE!! Apples, Cherries, Pear, Plum and Peach trees.

### TASKS AT HAND FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH / APRIL (cause I am a bit late, hey but so is Spring!)

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There is so much to be done in the garden this time of year. Grab some hand warmers to throw in your gloves and you are good to go.

- Clean up your garden. One of the most important jobs for the month of March.
- Cleaning can include
  - Picking up all fallen leaves and branches.
  - Pruning winter damage
  - Taking away any clutter that can be homes for slugs, earwigs, and snails.
- Compost- give your new plants a great start and your established ones a treat. Healthy plants begin with a healthy soil. Soil preparation can be key to the success of all new plantings. Besides compost you can always add well rotted manures or Oceans Plus. Before adding other amendments do a simple soil test to see what your soil needs. This way you wont waste your time, energy and money! See us in store for complete instructions for doing your own soil testing.
- Stake your plants while they are small. This way the work is done and you wont do any damage to your plant trying to stake it when it is all grown up!
- Buy your bulbs and seeds. We still have a great selection but hopefully they will soon be gone. Buying your perennials such as lillies and hostas, bleeding hearts and so on can be a lot more affordable buying them in root or bulb form. They will still grow to be a beautiful plant this year.
- April is a prime time to plant shrubs, trees and perennials. Selection is at its best and the weather is ideal. ( really on who's standards you ask!)
- Get a head start on your hanging baskets and containers. Basket stuffers are now available.
- Plant a veggie garden or veggie container. There is no better year than

this one to grow some of your own food. Its satisfying, fresh and you know where it came from!

- Prune your evergreens such as junipers, cedars and Cypress trees. This will encourage a flush of new growth. Do not prune into bare wood though.
  - Prune your forsythia after it finishes flowering
  - Fertilize your evergreens. A great evergreen food is high in nitrogen such as 30-10-10.
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- Join the Marigold Loyalty Program and SAVE. See instore for details



## Winter Damage

Now that we have had a decent weekend and most of us have finally had a chance to really get in our garden it might be more apparent now just how much damage the winter did to our beloved plants. So I will do my best in answering the question, again, Is It or Isn't it Dead?

For starters I will let you know that spring is about 4 weeks behind at least, so if you see little or no new growth it might mean you just need to wait a little longer. Start by scratching into your plants to see if you see any green under the dead looking bark. If there is fresh green stems under there give your plant a bit of time to see if it will come out of dormancy. This is also a great time of year to prune out all the winter kill. Use that same trick about scratching the bark to see where to cut from. If it is completely lifeless there is a great chance that it's toast. Plants such as hardy fuchsias are a great example of delayed budding.

If you have plants such as Phormiums ( New Zealand Flax pictured above) and they are laying completely flat most likely they have rotted away and need replaced. Dracaena palms have also taken a beating this winter and if in an exposed site they may have rotted away. Cut them back and they will re-grow you will just need some patience.

If you have any concerns on any other plants that look sad just come on in and ask us. You can also send in a photo along with a description and we will do our best help. [brooke@marigoldnurseries.com](mailto:brooke@marigoldnurseries.com)

We do offer house calls if you would like to book one please email or phone us and we would love to set something up. The cost is \$50 an hour and this can be used as a credit towards your next purchase here at Marigold.

If you are in need of replacing some shrubs or perennials this is a great year to do it. Make sure you take advantage of the HRTC tax credit being offered.

[HRTC CREDIT](#)

## What's Growing On in Marigolds Greenhouses



Well what's not growing? We have so much going on in those greenhouses I can barely keep up! We as you might be aware of grow most of our own bedding plants and we do our own containers and hanging baskets as well, so our greenhouses are jammed full of some pretty great stuff. One house is full and ready to be emptied of our seedling geraniums. They are looking very nice and full and starting to show colour. The very talented ladies in the back have started on our moss baskets and have already planted some fabulous spring containers.

All of our annual 6 packs are looking great such as lobelia, petunias, marigolds, asters, and snapdragons just to mention a few.

We have are veggie starts ready in 6 packs, we have also planted up our lovely strawberry hanging baskets.

Spring 8" containers are giving off incredible colour now and they make a great Easter gift or a perfect pot filler on your front steps.



## **SALES AND EVENTS!**

[earth day make yours green](#)

April 22nd 2009 Starting at 8am and going on into the weekend  
Fantastic Sales throughout our Garden Centre  
Free tours of our greenhouses  
lots of kid gardening activities  
green gardening seminars

Its Gardening Have Some Fun!!!!

Also take home a FREE native tree seedling with every purchase over \$20.00

## ***MOSS BASKET SEMINARS***

Why not get a head start or a smart start by joining one of our Moss Basket Seminars.

Every Saturday in April (4th, 11th, 18th & 25th) from 10am until 12pm

Please phone to register 250 652 2342

COST \$55.00 you get to keep your basket.



## Master Gardener Clinics

April 11th 18th and 25th

From 12-3

Bring in any or all of your gardening questions.

**EASTER!**



Easter is just around the corner and the hunt is over for the greatest selection of easter baskets, bouquets and arrangements. We also have some gorgeous Easter Lilies and Easter Mums that will brighten your home for easter dinner. All of our baskets are made here and Auntie Maureen does amazing work with all the plants.

We are open all Easter Long Weekend 8am until 6pm



Again I would like to thank all our great customers for supporting us for 65 years. We love serving everyone who comes through our gates and we are very proud supporters of many community events, and organizations.

Thank-you for shopping here with us and I will leave you with a parting shot of the 3rd generation!

Cheers,

Marigold Staff & Family

Marigold Nurseries Ltd

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EASTER LILIES \$6.50  
~~REG \$9.99~~  
MUST PRESENT COUPON

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