



IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

- **Announcements:** FineGardening~ fine reading & W.H.Y traps
- **Plants of the week:** Sedums, Perovskia, Grasses, & Rudbeckia
- **Gardening Tips:** Sow fall veggies now; Deadheading perennials
- **B.C Fruit:**
- **FEATURES THIS WEEK:**

Aug. 3rd E-NEWS

Open 9-6 daily, 1-5 on Sunday

The October issue of 'fineGardening' magazine has arrived and it's full of articles to inspire a heat-weary gardener. With titles like 'Plant now for an Awesome Autumn' and 'All about Asters', the articles are, as always, a treat to read and the photographs are a feast for the eyes.



The 'Regional Picks', in which garden editors from various areas of North America recommend specific plants to address a particular problem, is this month focused on perennials that are 'Deerproof'. Personally, I don't believe there is any plant that is completely deerproof all the time, but many are deer resistant. When deer are really hungry, they'll eat anything~ until they realize they don't actually like it but by then they've already done damage.

There is so much useful information in each issue of 'fineGardening' and if you like to learn/read about gardening, this is **the** best magazine I've found. It never disappoints!

Have you heard of the **W.H.Y** trap? (No, I don't mean being caught in and endless conversation with a 3 year old where everything begins and ends with WHY?) The **W.H.Y** trap is the first trap to catch Wasps, Hornets and Yellowjackets! The **W.H.Y** trap can be used in spring to catch the emerging queens and then again in summer and fall to capture foraging workers. If your wasp traps haven't been working this year, it's probably because

1. there weren't any wasps around at the time or
2. the attractant wasn't appropriate for the particular species in your garden.

Learn more about the **W.H.Y** trap at www.whyistheanswer.com



Plants of the week: Sedums, grasses, Perovskia and Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'



About 30 years ago, a book called the 'New American Garden' was published and in the ensuing years the style and the plant recommendations have become standards. Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden, two prominent garden designers, collaborated on many designs using this style and in the writing of the book. van Sweden, in describing the garden style, said "Its point of reference is the American meadow ~ a place of freedom and ease where wildlife, plant life, and human life coexist in harmony". Recommendations included using masses of ornamental grasses, strong drifts of bright native flowers, plants with interesting foliage and those that look natural and are effective for many months. Hardy ornamental grasses and the bushy stonecrops have become main-stream. The combination of Russian sage, Goldsturm Rudbeckia, fountain grass and stonecrop has become almost cliché but that's OK because it's a combination that works. These plants not only look great together but they grow in similar conditions, are low maintenance and drought tolerant when established. None are heavy feeders and all look good over a long period of time. Even in the 'dog days of summer' the combination looks fresh. Left in place, the plants provide interest through the depths of winter as well. Since the book was published, many new ornamental grasses or new cultivars of old favorites have been developed.

So, too, are there new and improved stonecrops (sedum). Two that I particularly like are 'Purple Emperor' which, as the name indicates, has dramatic dark purple foliage and 'Autumn Fire', a Canadian introduction, that has much stronger stems, and therefore less inclination to floppiness, than the 'Autumn Joy' or 'Brilliant'.



'Purple Emperor'



'Autumn Fire'

Russian sage is available in several cultivars, all still having the same grayish foliage and airy, blue panicles of bloom as the species but with growth habits that are narrower (Perovskia 'Longin' or 'Filigran') or not as tall (Perovskia 'Little Spire' or 'Lace').

It would be hard to improve on Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'. This brown/black-eyed-susan is reliably hardy to Zone 4 performing well year after year, unlike the Rudbeckia hirta varieties that are short-lived and tend to seed themselves about. The 'Early Bird Gold' variety, however, is reputed to be day neutral which means that it isn't dependant on day length to initiate flowering. It starts blooming about 2 months earlier than Goldsturm and continues blooming well into the fall. It's only hardy to Zone 5, however,



While it may be called the 'New American Garden', the style is perfect for our Canadian climate and our lifestyle here in the Shuswap. All mentioned plants are 25% off this week.

GARDEN TIPS: Sow fall veggies now

If your garden has some empty spots, now would be a good time to sow fall veggies. There's still time to sow beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, kohlrabi, green onions, lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach, chard and nasturtiums. These crops like cool weather and will grow well into the fall. As a general rule, choose varieties that will mature in 65 days or less. The challenge in this hot weather is to get them to germinate because soil temperatures are too high for most of them. You can either sow them indoors initially and then transplant them out later or sow them directly in the garden but cover them with burlap, layers of newspaper or boards to keep the soil cool until the seeds start to germinate. Check daily and remove the covering material as soon as sprouts appear.

Dead-head your perennials

Dead-heading (removing dead flowers) of your perennials will often encourage them to bloom for a longer period or bloom again later in the season. While not all perennials respond this way, at the very least deadheading tidies the garden and stops the spread of unwanted seedlings. If you're not sure how to deadhead, use the growth habit of the plant as a guide.

1. Plants that produce flowers on the top of a tall, naked scape (like daylilies) are deadheaded by removing the entire flower stalk.
2. Plants with leafy stems that produce blooms either at the ends or along their length (like delphiniums and lupines), are cut back by half to just above a leaf node. New branches will emerge and often bloom later in the season.
3. And plants that bloom at the top of (mostly) bare stems but rise from a rosette or clump of leaves atop the soil (Shasta daisies, veronicas, geraniums) are cut back so that the rosette or clump is left intact but the flowering stems are removed.

FEATURED THIS WEEK:

Perovskia, sedums, Rudbeckia, and fountain grasses: 25% off
Hanging baskets: 40% off

B.C FRESH FRUIT IN THIS WEEK:

BULK PRICES:

Apples: New crop: Lodi **89¢/lb.**
C.A. Spartans **59¢/lb.**
Lunchbox size Spartans \$3.50/bag
Apricots: Goldbar **\$1.79/lb**

Cherries: Lapins, Staccato **\$2.29/lb;**
\$38.00/ 20 lb.

Plums: Elephant Heart, Gold **\$1.49/lb.**

Blueberries **\$20.00/10 lb. flat**

Raspberries (end of season) **\$38.00/flat**

Peaches: Early Redhaven, Fairhaven, and RedHaven (starting at **89¢/lb.**

Happy gardening,

Harriet

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