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E D I T I O N

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GARDEN CENTRE NEWS

Issue 2

FOR THE LOVE OF PLANTS

WWW.ORCHIDSGARDENCENTRE.COM

Tips for successful flowering of your Orchids!

Summer/Fall Hours

Mon - Fri 9-6
Saturday 9-5
Closed Sundays

Welcome to our 2nd issue!

To everyone that is new to our newsletter, we would like to thank you for signing up. We would also like to thank everyone to a great start this spring for us as new owners. We also appreciate all the continuing support throughout the new changes here. We will continue to inform everyone of our current happenings and future changes to the business.

A Little Update

A lot of changes are still taking place here at Orchids Garden Centre. We are still in the process of building our new addition of greenhouses. Also we are just about to start remodeling some of our old orchid growing greenhouses. The business will continue to stay open through all the remodeling, so please stop by to see all the changes. All plants will be accessible, they may be in another location than you are used to, but the great staff here will gladly point you in the right direction for what you are looking for.

By: Chuck Acker

Factoid: Although most Orchids originate from warm tropical regions of the world, many require a brief but significant reduction of night temperature to induce their blooming period.

Tip #2 - Orchids need cool night temperatures to promote their flowering!

When we think of an Orchid plant we automatically think of a tropical paradise of lush warmth that occurs every day of the year. Therefore we automatically attempt to provide a warm and lush environment to the best of our abilities to ensure the well being of our prized Orchid plants. Although we are doing our plants a great justice to promote their growth with that sort of environment, we are not doing them any justice to promote their flowering cycles. It is for that reason I see Orchids coming to our nursery for diagnosis that are growing lovely leaves but not producing any flowers.

It is true that Orchids grow in warm tropical climates however, there is a natural temperature differential of cool night temperatures which occurs at some point during their seasonal growing period. This cool night period can be as brief as 2-3 weeks or as long as 2-3 months or more. It is this cool period which signals the plant that the growing season is nearing or at the end and it is now time to set flowers.

It is for that reason we emphasize to summer many types of Orchids outdoors (in the shade) from June into early October. While outdoors they will experience our warm humid day climate and our cool night temperatures that regularly occur during those months. Do not hesitate to leave your summering orchids out until the nights are into the 40's as this low night temperature is going to stimulate them into their flowering!

For Orchids varieties that do not require summering outdoors (such as Phalaenopsis) we recommend providing a cool night temperature for a period of 4-6 weeks during the late fall/early winter to promote their flowering. This cooler indoor climate can be achieved simply by closing the heat vent in a spare bedroom/den/office to create a reduced night heat source. Also advantageous is a semi-heated garage, a downstairs room, or simply by placing plants on the floor near a sliding glass door. Any area with a reduction of night temperature and ample daylight will be sufficient to signal a seasonal climate change which in turn will reward you with a bounty of blooms!

For more detailed information about temperature for your specific Orchid, visit our web site at www.orchidsgardencentre.com and click on Orchids.

September Garden Tips

Snowman Pansies

This fall we will be featuring snowman pansies. Snowman Pansies are a Proven Selections product guaranteed to over winter. Plant snowman pansies in the fall and enjoy them again in the spring. Frosty weather doesn't bother these beautiful flowers. They love the fall and reappear in the spring. Guaranteed or your money back! Simply save your receipt at time of purchase and mail receipt with the pansy tag to the address on the back of the tag if by chance your pansies do not return in the spring.

Indoor Herbs

Fall is approaching fast. That doesn't mean that you have to forego all your fresh herbs; just bring them indoors! Most herbs will grow well indoors, such as thyme, rosemary, and parsley. It is very important to give your herbs enough sunlight. 4-6 hours near a window is usually sufficient. Just make sure to read up on the herbs you are growing indoors, seeing as though there are some that require much less light.

Also during the fall and winter months, your herbs won't need as much water, however, misting them will keep them happy!

If your herbs just didn't quite make it through the summer, stop on out. We still have an array of herbs that will grow perfectly in your home over the winter!

- * Transplant and divide most perennials to insure strong root growth for the next flowering season.
- * As the temperatures drop, it is also a good time to plant trees and shrubs. The cooler temps are less stress on the plants.
- * Now is the best time to divide and plant your peonies. Be sure to have 3-5 eyes per division. If you are in need of more peonies, we currently have them on sale for \$5.95!
- * If you moved your houseplants outdoors for the summer, it's time to bring them inside. A gradual reintroduction to the indoors is best. Sudden changes in the temperature, and light can be traumatic to plants, resulting in yellowing leaves and leggy growth. Start bringing plants indoors before night temperatures dip below 45 degrees F. Be sure to check for pests, and rinse the leaves. To avoid shock, expose plants to reduced lighting gradually. Remember not to overwater while indoors and repot if necessary.
- * September is a good month to landscape with fall mums, which we carry in a rainbow assortment of colors and sizes. Bronze, red, yellow, white, and burgundy are among the more popular choices. If you want to try to overwinter your mums, cut the stem even to the ground after the plant is done blooming, or severe frost. Apply a thick layer of straw or bark mulch at the end of October, removing it in the spring as the frost leaves the ground. If we have a mild winter, the better the chances are that they will survive.

Our website is still under construction. We hope within the next couple of months we will have our online store up and running. Thanks for all your patients. We would really like a successful site for all online users!