

Back to School Gardening!

Whether you're happy that your kids are back in school, or that the Sierras are back to the locals, now is OUR time of year. As days shorten a bit and temperatures back-off from the sweltering 80's it becomes a great time for late summer gardening.

Back to School Specials:

We LOVE gardening August-October (and sometimes November). We have brought down two truck-loads in the past two weeks full of fresh trees, shrubs and hardy perennials and we are, frankly, overstocked. So for the next two weeks, through September 10th, MOST trees and shrubs are 20% off with several groups of plants as much as 50% off (learn more). Don't miss out on the rest of the growing season to get plants well established for far more tremendous growth and blooms next spring.



Blog:

Yes we [blog](#) when we find the time. Sometimes they are really great explanatory articles and sometimes just what's important in the garden today. AND, there's [Facebook](#). I think we have like-3 pages / profiles but there is really only One that's worth "like"-ing (and we'd be thrilled to have more than 6 likes, it's a ego thing, I'm sure). We do post advice and pictures there once or twice a week. Send us ANY gardening successes or failures (Pictures: let us know if we can credit you) and we'd love to use them for inspiration or instruction. If you feel like it.

Send pictures to: info@villagernursery.com

Fertilize and Prune NOW

Pruning: Now is the last best time to prune back shrubs and trees. Cuts made now will have time to seal-over well before winter and if new growth IS stimulated, it too will have time to harden-off. Don't prune after mid-September. The best time for major [pruning](#) is in early spring.

Fertilizing: Liquid fertilization stimulates growth and can be given to ANY plants now to make the most out of the rest of the season. Foliar feeding (spraying fertilizer on the leaves) gets nutrients into the plants more quickly and is a great way to promote blooms in your flower-boxes and fruit on your tomatoes. I am a huge fan of compost teas but liquid seaweed is good anytime and I've seen great results from the Dr.Earth Golden Bloom this summer. Slow-releasing organic fertilizers like Dr.Earth Lawn, Biosol and Gardener & Bloome Fruit Fert can be used any time. They promote better, sturdy growth whenever conditions are naturally appropriate for plant growth.



Pests:

Grasshoppers continue to do a LOT of damage as the summer has progresses. Organic Nolo is a bait that contains a microorganism that causes a disease to run through the grasshopper populations and it has some residual effect. It does not harm any bird or other wildlife. NOLO bait contains *Nosema locustae*, a protozoan that kills ±90 species of grasshoppers (Melanoplus group), locusts, and mormon crickets (a type of grasshopper). Grasshoppers are attracted to and eat the bait, they become infected, slow and die. Then the other grasshoppers eat them, and become infected and so-on. It is a slow acting and debilitating disease that offers long-term management of grasshopper populations AND there is some Nosema carryover to the next year. It is harmless to any other creatures.

Earwigs are gross but I have had pretty great control in my vegetables and flowers using Spinosad, an extract of 2 soil-born bacteria, that is toxic to many insects. Spider-mites: soap & orange oil. Aphids have been more problematic this year than in most. Soap and orange-oil



Hail Devastation:

If you endured the devastating hail that hit the east side of Glenshire and Hirschdale, You have our sympathy and empathy. I have suffered severe hail only twice in the last 20 years but not as bad as I've seen from this one. Give your entire garden a foliar application of a seaweed like Maxicrop or Dr.Earth Seaweed. It helps plants defend themselves against infection, thickens cell walls and promotes root growth. I'd also apply a foliar organic fertilizer like Dr.Earth GoldenBloom (it stinks but it really works) to stimulate regeneration. It is not too late. We still have quite a few weeks of warm summer and growing season left. I would wait to cut-back anything that is green (if it's green it has "photosynthetic potential"). In the future, IF you have ANY inkling that there is a potential for hail, you can cover parts of the garden with n-sulate row-cover fabric (the one we use for frost in spring and fall) in the morning before going to work. Use stakes to keep the wet fabric from smashing your garden. It can be left on ALL day without overheating or burning plants... air, water and 50% of light goes through the fabric. Please sent us any pictures of the hail we can post: info@villagernursery.com

Autumn Safety Notice:

Watch-Out where you park your car. The Douglas Tree squirrels (the very handsome brown ones) have had a population explosion and are dropping green Jeffrey and ponderosa pine cones off of every tree. A big green Jeffrey cone can weigh a couple of pounds and can do serious damage. They usually shred the cones on the ground somewhere in their search for the pine nuts (seeds) but I have seen them try to bury an 8" pine cone in a 6" pot, (to the detriment of the lemon thyme that was residing there previously).

Frost Free Growing Season

According to the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](http://www.noaa.gov), Truckee's frost free period is July 15-August 15 and we passed that last week. We can get frost on any night of the summer but as days shorten a bit, it's a good idea to start watching the forecasts again so you can toss row-cover over your tomatoes and extend the producing season.



Purple-Leaves:

Purpleleaf forms of *Physocarpus opulifolius* (Eastern Ninebark) is far more vigorous and has a rich burnt-orange fall color display while *Prunus x cistena* (Purpleleaf Sand Cherry) frequently suffers winter die-back.

Purple *Prunus cerasifera* (Purpleleaf Cherry Plum) is frequently offered from the drug-stores but has a very difficult time in many areas of Truckee ("annual trees" from the annual plant sale). Purpleleaf Crabapples (Royaty, Purple Prince, Royal Raindrops) and Purpleleaf Chokecherries (Canada Red, Shubert, Merlot - *P. padus*) are VERY hardy alternatives that thrive in all of our Sierra microclimates.

"Roxy Plum" produces delicious plums and is *most-likely* a very hardy selection of *P. cerasifera* or possibly a hybrid with a wild plum.



Fruit Trees:

All Fruit Production - Apples, Pear, Cherry, Hardy Apricot, Hardy Plum, Hardy Grapes, Blueberries, Raspberries, Goji Berries (REALLY hardy & drought adapted), Red-Lake Currants and Golden Currants are 20% off OR **buy 2, get 1 (of equal or lesser value) FREE!** (a 33.33% Discount). Plant an Orchard!

Awesome Lawn:

Many lawns (like most plants) had a rough time with last winter's freeze-drying and were slow to return this spring. Biosol (organic fertilizer) applications in the fall really helped but Dr.Earth and Topper in spring brought mine back from the dead. Dr.Earth lawn food provides millions of composting and plant assisting microorganisms. Topper never ceases to amaze me. It is a very fine textured compost that mulches the grass roots, adds billions of composting microorganisms and provides some mild nutrients. We put down just a dusting over the lawn (2 cu.ft. over 200 sq. ft.) but it makes an amazing difference. I did not get around to fertilizing and top-dressing my back lawn this year but with friends coming to visit, I put down Topper just after 4th of July. Within a week the lawn look good. Two weeks later and ever since, it has looked LUSH. ([learn more](#))



Native Plants:

In 4" pots: Sulfur-Flower Buckwheat, Rabbitbrush, Creeping Snowberry, Squaw-Mat Ceanothus, Twin-flowering Honeysuckle and Thimbleberry. Wildflowers: California Fuchsia (from Donner Summit), Showy Penstemon, Pussy-toes, Camas Lily, Swamp Onion, Lily, Bleeding Heart, Western Columbine, Lady Fern, Jacob's Ladder, Blue Flax, and many more. In Gallons we have Oceanspray, Snowberry, Pine-mat Manzanita (hyb), plus dozens and dozens more. ([learn more here](#)).

Along with our usual eclectic collection of hardy, rodent-resistant bulbs - we usually offer a few natives (Camas, Fawn Lily, Leopard Lily, etc...)

Perennial Vegetables:

Lovage, Ostrich Fern (shade: fiddle-heads), Asparagus (sun: spears), Rhubarb (now dormant) - are all long-lived perennial [vegetables](#). **And while supplies last they are 50% off.**



Half-hardy Perennial Clearance:

We call some perennials "annuals" here to protect clients from accidentally thinking they'll survive our winters (they actually WILL thrive in places like Auburn, Sacramento or the Bay Area). Many of these **"half-hardy perennials" are 75% off.** ([learn more](#)). Rosemary, Zonal Geranium, Dahlia etc... So if you have a second home in Truckee and a garden OFF the hill, come by and load-up on plants that will appreciate a warmer climate.

Truly annual color is 50% off during the sale (including hanging baskets). We just brought in about 50 flats of fresh summer color.



Mountain Bulbs

Bearded Iris and Colchicum can be planted any time and sooner is better than later. We have re-blooming Iris this year in several new colors. Autumn Crocus are never eaten and will grow and multiply for

decades. The dozens of varieties of hardy Narcissus and Daffodil along with Scilla, Allium and others, for animal resistance and longevity, will be arriving shortly. Don't plant these until at least mid-September, better in October. ([learn more](#))



Other Special Specials:

BIOSOL - really, what more can we say. **This stuff kicks.** Anytime. We have another 16,000 lbs arriving in early Sept. ...and more in Oct. (*see coupon on e-mail*) ([learn more](#))

Compost & Mulch: Buy 4, get 1 free (of same product) on ALL composts, mulches and potting soils including Dr.Earth, Fox Farm, Sunshine and ProMix. (*sale ends 9/10. We'll restock for fall planting season*).

Maples: Whoa - have we got maples. All kinds. Natives as well as some new hybrids and extra hardy collections from northern China. **All 20% off through 9/10/12**

'Autumn Brilliance' Serviceberry - One of our best fall color shrubs ("screamin' red-orange). Closely related to our native serviceberry, but much faster growing to 8+' tall and wide with showy white flowers in spring. 20% Off.

Goldflame Spiraea - Spring flowers, golden summer foliage and red fall colors, **HUGE, #5g specimens for 23.99**

Thimbleberry (*our own native raspberry*) - **All #3 & #5g size thimbleberries** (reg.24.99-34.99) **now \$10ea.** (4", #1 & #2g are 20% off).

Wine Barrels reg. 39.99 **\$5.00 Off** (or use the "25% Off one item" coupon in "the local's coupon magazine").

Indoor Gardening - Clearance specials coming this fall on All GH and DutchMaster products.

Landscaper Specials:

2, 8-10' Multi-Trunk Bigtooth Maples reg. 299.99 sale 199.99

2, 10-12' FAT Multi-Trunk Bigtooth Maples reg. 399.99 sale 299.99



3, ~2" cal. **'Prairie Rose'** Crabapple
(*Malus ioensis*, large fragrant, double blooms, red fall color) 199.99

and...

6, #15g Mugo Pines - really Fat! reg. 99.99-119.99 for \$59.99 each.