



Post Garden Tour Issue

August 2010

## Summer Cartload Sale

Save  
**25%**

For 2 days only - you get **25% off** of all the plants you can fit on a blue Villager 3-wheel cart. Really, ALL the plants you can balance, stack or pile on ONE cart... trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, fruits, vegetables, seeds, statuary and gifts. Go for it! Load-up. **Bring your friends.** Have fun.

Good only August 14, 9:30-5 and August 15, 10-4... Only one cart per customer. Plants materials and seeds only.

Quick Links

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[Class Schedule](#)

Subscribe to Our Newsletter!

Free Class this Saturday 10-11:30: (Drought Tolerant Landscaping)

Dear Sarah,

The Lake of the Sky Garden Tour was fun. There were so many fun plants, great people and interesting questions although there were a couple of plants that had me stymied. I had to speak to several friends, colleagues and world experts to sort them out. The dwarf robust *Campanula punctinata* (Spotted Bellflower) along a waterfall, *Geranium x oxonianum* (syn. *G. endressii*) 'Wargrave Pink' (Hardy Geranium) in Homewood and a beautiful and abundant *Digitalis lutea* (Yellow or Straw Foxglove). [Thanks to Megan at Tahoe Tree for helping me out]. Next year the tour is in Truckee, I think they've already decided which gardens will be visited. Thanks SO MUCH to the great people who let all of us wander and wonder through your gardens. I wrote a Garden Tour blog including pictures on the [Villager website](#) but it was lost in the ether. Another one soon.

There have been so many questions recently that we probably should have addressed sooner but here we go.

### What is that great plant in front of the ....

We've had quite a few questions about plants in the various roundabouts this spring. There is a massive display of *Kniphofia uvaria* (Torch Lily, Red-Hot Poker) with its red, orange and yellow spikes north of I-80 at 89 south. On the same sides of those roundabouts, there's a load of stately *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' (Feather Reed Grass). It has become our most requested grass and for good reason, it works well here.



In the roundabout just south-east of the Villager, a Thyme To Plant added a number of showy blooming perennials over the past few years including *Lychnis chalcidonica* (Maltese Cross, Burning Love). This 2-3' RED flowering perennial is seldom attractive in the nursery pot (some perennials are just that way) but when planted in the ground it is strong and upright and uniquely red.

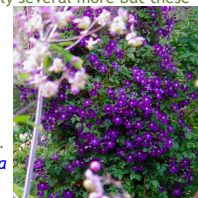
The *Genista lydia* (Lydia Woadwaxen) was bright as always this year but somehow seemed much brighter especially after the endless winter weather.

### Untangle them and they're buy 2 get 1 free!

We have a pretty large supply of Clematis and the vigorous growers are beginning to cling to each other. There are 4 species of Clematis (beautiful flowering vines) that REALLY thrive in Truckee. There are actually several more but these are the "sure-things" for Truckee gardeners.

1. Early spring brings nodding blue or pink bells of fast growing *Alpine Clematis*.
2. Mid-summer shows off the magnificent (see pic.) Italian *Viticella Clematis* including, 'Etoile Violette', 'Warsaw Nike' and 'Polish Spirit'. We have a few still in bloom (needing untangling)
3. Mid-summer California Native *Clematis ligusticifolia* (Western Virgin's Bower) is as fast as Hops yet it does NOT die-back to the ground. It's VERY robust and has clusters of white blooms.
4. Late summer and well into fall, the Golden Bells and showy seed heads of *Clematis tangutica* look great with blooms of fall color galore.

· We also have about 8 varieties of brewing Hop vines (some with fresh flowers) and we have a few ornamental Golden Hops. Put a few on your Cartload for 25% off.



## Buy 1, get 1 Free - Herbs and Veggies\*



\*All vegetables, annual and tender herbs (including rosemary, basil, parsley and more). Buy one of any size and get one of equal or lesser value for free. Some of these are hardy perennials off the hill. There are a few tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and beans still out there. Don't bother putting these on your Cartload, they're 50% off on their own.

There is still a lot of growing season left but it is almost time to have the N-sulate frost protection fabric at the ready (yes, we have a good supply available).

## Pruning, Fertilizing and Mulching

All of us have noticed the feel of late summer this past week and dare I say, fall. It seems like winter is always "just around the corner" especially when our growing season started in mid-June.

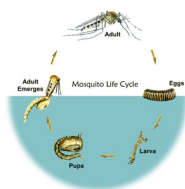
In reality the soils continue to collect the warmth of the sun and plants grow well into December and beyond (well the roots certainly do).

We do want plants to know that some colder nights are eventually arriving so we try not to fertilize or prune (both of which may encourage new growth) too late. NOW is a great time to summer prune and an excellent time to give your gardens, lawns, hedges and trees a boost. I often use Maxsea or Big Bloom in a spray for foliar feeding. It's a great way to get nutrients directly into the foliage.



If your mulch is wearing thin - RE-MULCH! Remember, "NO BARE SOIL" should be your mantra. Use less water, pull fewer weeds, fertilize less and your plants grow faster all with just a few inches of mulch. Gromulch is on sale @ Buy 4, get 1 FREE. Our BEST mulch of all.

## KILL the Freakin' Mosquitoes



There is a great safe little biological control for mosquitoes. *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis (Bti)* is a bacteria that attacks and kills the larvae of mosquitoes, fungus gnats, and blackflies and they don't affect other animals.

**Bayer Mosquito Preventer** - contains little floating granules covered with dormant bacteria. When they are tossed and sprinkled into water that has mosquito larva, the bacteria wake-up and attack their prey. If you have any standing water, pond, bird baths, saucers etc... sprinkle some granules into them. These 1lb containers are usually \$12.99. We brought in a few cases so we could distribute them cheap. We are subsidizing the death of some mosquitoes by selling these at \$3.99.

Also - We have **6-packs of Lemon Thyme**. I've read that Lemon Thyme is 100 times more effective at repelling mosquitoes than Citrosa (Mosquito Fighter). Dr. G.A. Surgeoner and J. Heal at the University of Guelph in Ontario tested 'Citrosa' and lemon thyme (*Thymus x citriodorus*) against the biting activity of mosquitoes. They found that crushing 'Citrosa' leaves on the hand and wiping one's hand through the 'Citrosa' plant appeared to provide about 30-40% repellency while crushed lemon thyme produced 62% repellency. Deep Woods Off produced 90.4% reduction in biting activity. (Lemon Thyme is a hardy perennial and it's also great on fish and chicken!)

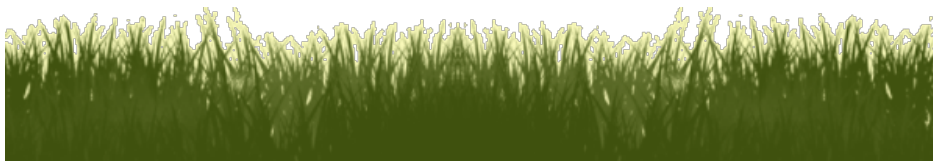
So bring a friend down to the Villager, pass this newsletter along (forward it), have some fun and Fill-a-Cart with your favorite hardy plants from the greatest mountain nursery on the planet.

Sincerely,

Villager Botanical Nursery & Gifts

P.S. This Saturday's Class (August 14 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am) is Drought Tolerant Landscapes & Gardens - "X"-rated Plants, and Water Aware Gardening in the Sierra Rain Shadow. A selection of the time-tested hardiest and most drought tolerant species plus some very, very simple ways to use less water and grow your plants faster at the same time.

10678 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, California 96161  
530 587 0771



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