



Spruce Cottage Farm's

Periodic Newsletter

May 13th, 2015

Greetings Gardeners,

What a lovely few days we have been having. Before we know it, we'll look out over the Dezadeash river valley and see a haze of bright green - the first glimpse of all the wonderful colours to come!

You may recall, I mentioned a new newsletter template, which I have; however, I still haven't figured out how to put it into the body of an email (I am a farmer, after all, not a techie!!), hence the old newsletter format.

The plants are loving this weather and they are looking great. The nursery opens this weekend (May 15) and I will be open every weekend, until the end of June (June 28). The hours are:

Friday, 2pm-6pm

Saturday, 10am-4pm

Sunday, 10am-4pm

The nursery is located at Mt Logan Lodge, 10 mins west of Haines Junction on the Alaska Highway, just before Bear Creek, on the left. Watch for the sandwich board! In addition to retail hours at the nursery on the weekends, I'll also be at the Junction Community Market, every Wednesday afternoon from 3pm-6pm (starting May 20), beside the Log Church on the Alaska Highway.

This season, I became a host farm for Worldwide Workers on Organic Farms (WWOOF). This is a worldwide volunteer work program, where volunteers connect with organic growers and come and help them with their organic growing endeavours in exchange for room and board. The program has been operating in Canada for 30 years and has over 100 countries participating in the program. We hosted WWOOFers quite often at the nursery I worked at in Victoria - it was always a wonderful experience, connecting with someone from a different country and the WWOOFers were always keen to help. I'm looking forward to sharing our wonderful community with any WWOOFer who comes to help me.

The middle of May marks the time where we start looking at our gardens and wondering what the next step is. Is the soil thawed enough to plant potatoes? Do I dare transplant my seedlings? Where did I leave my garden fork last fall?!

If you mulched your garden last fall, don't forget to pull the mulch off right now, to allow the soil to warm up. Once your direct seeding has come up or you've transplanted, pull the mulch back onto the garden to help with moisture retention and weed

suppression, not to mention feeding the soil food web with organic matter. Given that the May long weekend is traditional planting time throughout most of Canada, I try and get my outdoor garden direct seeded with carrots, beets, turnips, potatoes, peas, radishes, lettuce and spinach around this time of the month. All of these vegetable seeds can go in the ground as soon as it is warm enough plant. I usually wait to transplant my seedlings outdoors until the first week of June - my brassicas have been touched by frost too many times at the end of May!

Here's to a wonderful growing season, full of succulent vegis, flourishing flowers and happy herbs!

In growing harmony,

Jolene Billwiller

~ Gardening Maven ~



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