



2008 Summer Newsletter

The long days of summer are upon us. At this time of the year we will spend many hours out in the garden. Whether you are a new gardener or an expert wanting to expand your flowerbeds, Parkland Garden Centre has what you need. Come visit us for all your plants, garden accessories, statuary and much more!

Top Ten Reasons Gardening Is Fun

10. Does not require a remote control.
9. Has nothing to do with politics.
8. You can blame the weather for anything that goes wrong.
7. Looks enough like work to assure solitude.
6. Legal to exterminate your enemies.
5. Right to bare arms – and bare legs.
4. Allows you to turn your junk into art objects.
3. Does not require fluency in Latin.
2. You can bury your mistakes in the compost pile.
1. You won't be arrested for ignoring "the rules".

How to Buy Healthy Plants

The right plant in the right place is key to a healthy garden, so take some time to consider the plants that will flourish in your yard.

Here are some pointers on how to recognize healthy plants.

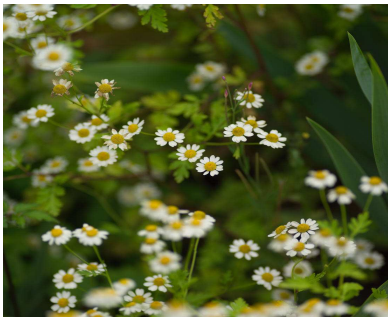
- Choose a garden centre with knowledgeable staff; tune into Parkland's gardening tips weekdays, Monday – Friday, at 9:45AM on CKGY.
- Check the ratio of plant size to the size of the pot. Has the plant outgrown its pot, leading to roots that visibly circle or kink inside the pot?
- If possible, lift the plant from its pot and check that roots are symmetrically distributed. Check for frost damage, i.e. free of diseased or damaged parts.
- Look at the plant's trunk and branch structure. Is it healthy, vigorous and properly trimmed?
- Choose plants with vigorous new growth and normal growth patterns.

Beneficial Bugs

Bugs are wonderful garden helpers. Encourage beneficial bugs to live in your garden.

Look out for ladybugs, one of the most beneficial insects in your garden. It is estimated that adult ladybugs each consume around 5,000 aphids in their lifetime. Ladybugs also eat mealy bugs, scales and spiders. Lacewings, which look as pretty as their name suggests, eat aphids, scales, mites, caterpillars and other unwelcome insects. If you see a white or yellow-and-black striped fly hovering over flower heads, it is probably a hover fly. It enjoys a meal of aphids and should be welcomed. Spiders also consume a lot of other insects.

There are many plants that will encourage beneficial insects to settle in your space. Some suggestions are: cornflower or bachelor button, sweet alyssum, borage and golden marguerite. We also carry books such as “Bugs of Alberta” to assist you in identifying predators from other beneficial bugs.



Remember any plant in a pot can be planted out anytime throughout the summer. We carry flowering annuals in pots right through to mid-summer so you can always fill in empty spaces or spruce up the garden in time for a special event.

This applies to perennials, trees and shrubs also. They can be taken out of pots and planted out any time your landscape is ready to accept them, right up to October.

When planting, help them out at the beginning by making sure you use Plant Start 5-15-5. Water thoroughly when you plant. Re-water regularly but not excessively there after.

Enjoy your summer and if you should have any questions regarding plants or planting, come out to see us at the garden centre.

10 Tips for Birdscaping

Bird watching is one of the top leisure-time activities in America. The single most important element of a successful bird habitat is trees, shrubs and perennials. The easiest way to bring more birds to your back yard is to imitate Mother Nature by meeting the bird’s basic needs for food, water and shelter. A sunny garden for birds would contain crabapple trees, dogwood, junipers and flowering perennials such as purple coneflower. A shady garden would feature arborvitae, juneberry, highbush cranberry, columbine and wild bergamot. Now is the time to add a “bird corner” to your yard!

10 Tips for Creating a Bird Habitat

1. Mother Nature’s landscape features a wide variety of plants arranged in clumps and sweeps rather than a lush, green lawn.
2. A back yard that has a birdbath, fountain or pond will attract many more birds than one with feeders only.
3. Birds spend much of the day and night out of harm’s way, so clump plants to provide hiding places.
4. Sunflower seeds are favorites with many kinds of birds. Thistle feeders attract finches, blue jays and cardinals prefer platform feeders and specialty feeders with suet or peanuts are magnets for woodpeckers and nuthatches.

5. Birdhouses are favored by chickadees and titmice. It is important to size the box to the bird.
6. Many feeders and nest boxes need predator guards for protection while feeding or nesting.
7. Native plants are the best choice since birds easily recognize them and they often require less care than non-natives.
8. Birds appreciate plantings that allow them to use the “hop-skip” approach before alighting at feeders or birdbaths. E.g. a tall tree, then skip to a mid-size planting, then the feeder or birdbath.
9. Places to perch are important. Birds like to fly to a branch, fence, arbor or other structure to eat seeds, survey the scene and dry out after a bath.
10. Use natural or organic fertilizers and pest control products.

To create a songbird habitat, your yard should have some evergreen trees or shrubs and berry-producing plants such as viburnums, and dogwoods. Perennials such as purple coneflowers are seed cafes in winter for inches and sparrows, while tubular flowers such as Bee Balm, Trumpet Creeper and Cardinal Flower satisfy nectar-seeking hummingbirds all summer long. Native plants offer three benefits: they tolerate local weather, produce seeds and fruit that local birds recognize as food, and they host the kinds of insects that birds feast on.

Parkland Garden Centre offers a one-stop shopping destination for the bird enthusiasts in our area.



	<p style="text-align: center;">Please present this coupon and receive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One (1) free Starter Perennial</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Limit one coupon per customer While quantities last Expiry date: July 30, 2008</p>
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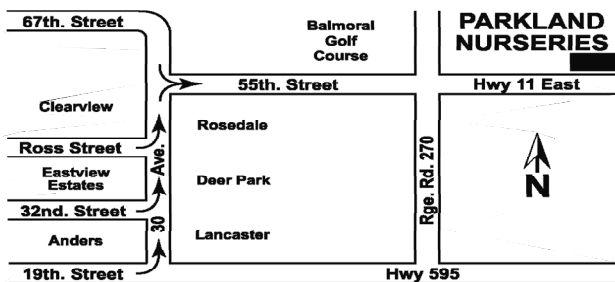
New Product Lines Now Available in our Garden Shop!

- 1) **Honey & Me – A MUST SEE!**
 - Country décor
 - Raggedy Ann
 - Antique replicate dolls

- 2) **Rocky Mountain Soap Company**
 - All natural line of soaps
 - Made in Canmore
 - Gently soothes and cleans your skin
 - All natural essential oils
 - Headache or PMS Therapy: a little on your temple, neck or back will relieve symptoms
 - Gentle mixture of flowers, citrus and herbs

Why Garden?

- Gardening is relaxing. It doesn't require a lot of deep thought or grueling and time-consuming physical labor.
- Gardening is therapeutic. It engages the mind and the body on many levels, yet neither is overly taxing.
- Gardening is gratifying. The end result is evident to others and provides a sense of satisfaction and pride.
- Gardening is self expression. A garden is a reflection of the gardener and often an indication that the homeowner is responsible and has some aesthetic talent.



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