



Spruce Cottage Farm's

Periodic Newsletter

June 22, 2017

Greetings Gardeners,

What a whirlwind time of year this is! The Summer Solstice was yesterday and I am just now feeling I can stop and take a breath. The market garden is planted (and despite the snow that fell on it on June 17!), it is growing. The plant nursery is coming to a close as well. This weekend (June 23, 24, 25) is my last weekend and all annual stock is half-price! I'm open Friday 2-7, Saturday and Sunday 10-4. The nursery is located at Mount Logan Lodge, 10 mins west of Haines Junction on the Alaska Highway.

This growing season is markedly different from last season. We had warm nights in the spring last year and this year, the warm nights are slow in coming. The plants and the garden are showing this lack of warmth in slower growth: warm nights really make a difference to plant growth. Here is hoping that it will warm up, so our gardens can really thrive!

I've noticed many ants this season: in the garden, around the house and in the greenhouse. My first option for getting rid of

ants is to try a mix (half and half) of Borax and sugar, either adding water or not. I place little cups of this in the ants' path, so they take it back to the nest. The boric acid in Borax acts as a poison to the ants. It is important to note that Borax contains a small amount of boric acid, so may not be as efficacious as pure boric acid. While most ants are not a garden pest (in fact, ants often eat the larvae and insects that we don't want in the garden), some ants will farm aphids in order to eat the honeydew that aphids secrete and wood-eating ants are never welcome in wooden structures! Ground-dwelling ants could disrupt a garden bed too, by building their nest in the middle of it.

A wonderful growing season to all of you - here is to a long and bountiful summer!

In growing harmony,

Jolene Billwiller

~ Gardening Maven ~



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