



Spring 2011 Newsletter

Greetings!

There are a few exciting developments with EarthFire Gardening. First, we have a new addition to the Drover family! **Kale Xavier** was born at the end of February and has been growing steadily ever since, just in time to make his gardening debut this spring. He will be joining us on site in your gardens, reminding us of the importance of taking the time to raise healthy and happy children. But don't worry, we'll still be working efficiently and keeping an eye on the clock so that you only get billed for the time we spend improving your gardens (and not for the time-outs we have to take for tending to little people).

Second, we are now offering **Deck Building**. Jamie added a fantastic deck and pergola to our house a few summers ago, and he is full of good design ideas for customizing a deck to your home and garden. See the photos on this page and we'll be happy to discuss your building project with you.

This spring, we have a selection of **Trees and Shrubs for Sale**. It is worth having a look at the trees on your property and making sure that they are a variety of different ages. When a mature tree dies off (due to natural causes or to accidents), it is best to already have established replacements growing to fill in the gaps. So, have a look at the selection below, and place your order before the end of April.

If you're looking an unusual new perennial to add to your garden this summer, consider the 2011 Perennial Plant of the Year Winner **Blue Star**, (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) featured on page 2.

With the weather warming up (finally!), I hope to start **Spring Clean-Ups** in the next couple of weeks (by mid April). If you haven't already done so, please contact me to book your garden maintenance for this year and to schedule any other gardening projects. Looking forward seeing you soon, *Annabel Drover*.

You're missing out if you're reading this newsletter in black and white!

Join our mailing list at earthfiregardening.ca and have a colour version delivered to you by e-mail.



Our deck and pergola as we wait for shade from the newly planted vine. Built-in benches are in the works.



Blue Star's striking yellow fall colour.



2011 Perennial Plant of the Year

Blue Star

(*Amsonia hubrichtii*)

Family: Apocynaceae (same family as Milkweed)

Native: southern United States

Zones: 4-8

Size: 3' x 3'

Light: full sun to part-shade

Water: medium

Flowers: steel blue in spring, last up to a month (see photo above)

Foliage: feathery, turns yellow in the fall (see photo in sidebar)

Uses: borders and wildflower meadows

Maintenance: low

Trees and Shrubs Available

These native trees and shrubs add value to landscapes while also providing habitat and food for wildlife. Measurements are the approximate height of tree/shrub when planted.



Dainty Serviceberry flowers are a sure sign that summer is on it's way.



Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) - The sooner it's planted, the sooner you can you're your very own Maple syrup! 175cm \$90

Hard to beat a **Sugar Maple** for a vibrant fall display!

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) - Fast growing evergreen with a distinct shape when mature. 100cm \$80

Basswood (*Tilia americana*) - Fine shade tree, flowers are great source of nectar for bees. 2m \$90

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) - Early flowering, try to beat the birds to the berries! 100cm \$30

Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) - Showy white flowers followed by bright red edible fruit. 100cm \$22

Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) - Dr. Seuss-like and looks great year round. 125cm \$22

* Other sizes and species (Larch, Dogwoods, Willows, Beech, etc...) also available. Please contact me for more information and place your order before the end of April.

Photos courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder <http://www.mobot.org/gardening/help/plantfinder/alpha.asp>