

## **New Arrivals**

Worm power - organic (Nature's original fertilizer)  
Chicks                      Colorful tomato cages  
Pansies                     Easter plants  
Trellis'                     Birdbaths  
Fruit trees                 Summer bulbs  
Berries                     Windowsill Herbs  
Camellias                 Whitney Farms organic  
Gardenias                 Plant food  
Spring perennials

## **Special Events**

March 13th - Intro to Organic Lawn Care 6pm

March 16th - Chick Days

New Leash Animal Rescue

March 30th - New Leash Animal Rescue

April 3rd - Beginning Bee Keeping 6:30 pm

April 6th - New Leash Animal Rescue

Camellia Seminar 2 pm

April 11th - Container Gardening Basics 6:30pm

April 13th - L I Kitties

April 27th - New Leash Animal Rescue

May 4th - New Leash Animal Rescue

## **Looking Ahead:**

Cool season Veggies

Persimmons

Figs

Encore Azaleas

Roses

Perennials

Sweet Potatoes

## **A Last Thought**

Earth Day 4/22      Arbor Day 4/26

Commemorate Earth Day & Arbor Day by replacing some trees & shrubs damaged by this years past storms. Remember to select the appropriate tree for your space.\* We take for granted that these plants provide cooling shade, shelter, control noise, storm run off and they filter the water & air we breathe.

They add year long interest and character to our landscape! So plant a tree.

\*Match your growing conditions with the plants needs. Give them room to grow too.

PRSR STD  
U.S POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 45  
RIVERHEAD, NY

Talmage Farm Agway  
1122 Osborn Avenue  
Riverhead, NY 11901

March—April  
2013



# GREEN THUMB PRINTS

The Gardening Newsletter of Talmage Farm Agway

## *... Looks like we*

With the worst of winters weather behind us (we hope) spring migration and the sight of snow drops signal spring is soon upon us. The lengthening days will encourage and coax the spring bulbs from their winter sleep to brighten up the landscape. Spring brings with it a sense of excitement and renewal. Walk around your yard and relish all that Mother Earth has to offer. When you are ready for spring, stop in and see us.

## **March is the time to:**

- \*Assess winter storm damage from wind, snow & deicing salts. Prune broken limbs, use ties or cables to support misshapen branches
- \*Schedule mower & small equipment tune-ups and repairs.
- \*Sow tender veggies such as tomato, peppers & eggplant indoors.
- \*Time to plant potatoes, onions & peas.
- \*Set up birdhouses for new arrivals.
- \*Use seaweed/fish fertilizer as a spray on seedlings.
- \*Spray your second application of daconil for peach leaf curl (first application in the fall).

## **How to take a Soil Sample**

Soil tests are used as an aid in diagnosing problems with deficiencies or excess of lime and some plant nutrients. Soil tests are recommended every 3 years unless an area presents some problem or when planting new areas. To receive an accurate reading, lawn, vegetable and flower beds should be tested separately.

- 1.Remove thatch, mulch or leaf litter from the area to be sampled
- 2.Remove a sample of damp, not soggy, soil to a depth of 6-8" with a clean trowel and set aside.
- 3.From the hole remove a slice of soil and take a portion from the center of the slice. This is the 1st of your soil test samples. Repeat approximately a dozen times within your test area. (lawn or garden)

Place all samples in a plastic container and mix. This will provide an average soil sample representative of the area as a whole. Use a home test kit or Talmage Farm Agway can test your Ph(lime) while you wait. Your local extension service can provide an extensive analysis for a fee.

## Earth Friendly Choices: Milky Spore

Milky Spore Powder is a ready to use non-chemical, one time application that targets 47 different varieties of grubs. Use in lawns, flower and vegetable gardens. Apply anytime the ground is not frozen as it begins to work as soon as the grubs begin to feed. Not harmful to humans, animals, beneficial insects or the environment.

### April is the time to:

\*To protect shrubs & trees from browsing deer, apply repellents on new emerging tender shoots, twigs and leaves.

\*Maximize your growing space by growing peas, tomatoes, beans & cucumbers vertically.

\*Use floating row covers to protect seedlings from temperature fluctuations.

\*Aerate lawns if thatch is heavy or your soil is compacted.

\* Fertilize roses when 2" of new growth appears.

## Garden FAQs: Impatiens Downey Mildew

Impatiens, the most popular staple of the annual shady garden, has been stricken with this disease. Early signs of infection include droopy light green leaves and a downy like growth on the under sides of the leaves. Advanced symptoms include leaf & petal drop, then complete plant collapse. If your plants suffered from downy mildew last year, there is a risk of infection this year. Clean area of all debris, bag & toss in the trash. Do not compost. Consider the many alternatives for shade, such as Begonias assorted varieties, dragon wing, torenia, coleus sunpatiens or caladiums to name a few.

## Garden Trivia

The yolk of an egg provides a baby chick with nourishment for approximately 72 hrs. From the 1st split cell to a fluffy chirping bird it takes 21 days yet it takes 70 days to grow a carrot!

## Talmage Tip

Going on vacation? Try decorative plant nannies for watering your houseplants while your away.

### Something Different:

This is the time of year when many new products start arriving.

For the garden: Add to your arsenal of deer repellents (remember you should switch them occasionally) Ortho Deer B Gon. It's a long lasting repellent with a no stink formula.

Bird lovers may be interested in hummingbird feeders and swing. Yes, swing. Place them near your feeders and the hummers will perch waiting for their turn at your feeders.

Baby animals arriving? We supply bottles, nutritional supplements, feed and more. Stop in, visit and browse for all your pet, plant and farm needs. Don't see something? Please ask.

## Talmage Tip

Prior to planting asparagus into prepared beds, incorporate 5 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100sq.ft.. In following years apply 2 lb. of 10-10-10 per 100sq.ft. in early spring.



## Garden Project: Straw Bale Gardening

A customer mentioned how much she enjoyed this method of gardening. Because of the heat generated from the bales of straw she was able to start gardening earlier, no digging or rototilling and everything was biodegradable. In a sunny area (sun for 6-8 hrs.) place newspaper or mulch master (shredded straw) on the ground to keep weeds from growing around the straw bales (optional).

Place bales sheared side up, twine horizontal to the ground, on top of newspaper. Begin conditioning bales by thoroughly & repeatedly wetting them for 2 days. (continued on next page)

## Garden Project: Straw Bale Gardening (con't)

Day 3-5 Sprinkle the bale with 1/2 cup Espoma urea\* and water well. \*for organic applications use compost or fishmeal. Continue to keep moist. This will allow the bale to heat up & "cook", then cool.

Day 6-7 Reapply urea @ 1/4 cup (similar amounts of compost or fishmeal)

Day 8-9 Keep bales moist

Day 10 + Pull straw apart to "measure" heat. If bales are 'cool' you may safely plant.

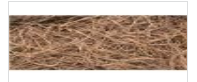
Separate straw & plant directly into the bale. Allow the straw to close around the plant.

If you plan to seed instead, place a layer of compost mixed with soil on the top of the straw bale. Plant according to seed packet directions regarding plant depth & spacing. Sprinkle seeds directly onto the mix & cover seeds lightly & water well.

When planting tomatoes, stake when planting to train the plants as well as stabilize the bale.

Seedlings require feeding every other week with liquid fertilizer and mature plants every week.

Monitor daily during the summer months and water accordingly.



Talmage Farm Agway  
1122 Osborn Avenue  
Riverhead, NY 11901

631-727-3100

Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 to 5

\*Beginning April 1st - 8am-6pm

Saturday, 8 to 5 Sunday, 9 to 5

[www.talmagefarm.com](http://www.talmagefarm.com)