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Kayben Farms

... your natural connection
Helping you make the most of your outdoor spaces

Box 60, Site 2, RR 2, Okotoks, AB T1S 1A2
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April 2009

Custom Container Planting

Let us start your planters for you in our green house, and look after them during the unpredictable weather of an Alberta spring. You pick them up in late May, full and beautiful and ready to brighten up your yard!



Spring Is Here! Are You Ready?

In the foothills, spring sneaks up on you. One day, you wake up and the snow is gone, birds are singing, and there's no frost scrape off your vehicle. Hooray! For experienced gardeners and beginners alike, spring is a very exciting time of the year. Before planting, here are some tips for spring to keep your garden looking healthy and vibrant all season long.

- You can begin by clearing away the clutter. Clean up scattered leaves and branches, and cut away dead stems from existing plants. Detritus can be scooped up by hand or fan-raked (heavy rakes can damage perennial roots below ground or tender shoots that have emerged). Cut perennial ornamental grasses to 3" to 4" off the ground.
- Prune broken, dead or diseased stems from woody plants, except birch or maple, and complete any structural pruning before they leaf out.
- Catch weeds early by digging dandelions out by the root and hoeing in annual weeds like chickweed. Loosen areas of compacted soil to discourage perennial weeds.
- Add compost or aged manure products, like Earth Renew products, to maintain a healthy balance of nutrients and humus in your soil. A 1 cm layer of compost spread over your garden should be plenty.
- Step back and see if there are any holes to fill or areas you would like to expand. Planning what to grow in these areas will save you money later.

A little hard work and planning at the beginning of the growing season can help keep your garden lower maintenance for the rest of the season, leaving you more time to enjoy it. So,

Bring your containers in to be planted before April 18th for the best plant selection and the fullest containers. This service is \$10 for the first planter and \$5 for each additional planter, plus the cost of plants. Drop by after March 30th between 9 am - 5 pm for container filling, no appointment necessary!

Kayben Connection Members - drop off 4 or more of your containers before April 18th and get a FREE 12" hanging basket!

Container Herb Gardens

Kayben Farms creates salad gardens containing your favorite herbs and veggies ready for you to take home, or we can custom plant one for you!



put on those garden gloves, get out your spades and secateurs, and have fun!

Workshops For 2009

The 2009 workshop series is here, with some classes back by popular demand and some new workshops exploring different aspects of gardening in the foothills. Whether you are planning to prune your own trees this season but don't know how, or are interested in learning about perennial wild flowers of Alberta, Kayben's hands-on workshops are the perfect way to get started. All workshops are Thursday evenings from 7 pm to 8 pm, refreshments served. Pre-registration is required and can be done online, by phone or in person. Workshops are \$10, half-price for Kayben Connection members.

- Vegetable Gardening - April 19th
- Herb Gardening - April 30th
- Pruning Trees and Shrubs - May 14th
- Designing With Ornamental Grasses - May 21st
- Do It Yourself Landscape Planning - May 28th
- Perennial Gardening With Wildflowers - June 4th
- Attracting Birds and Butterflies to Your Yard - June 11th

Not a member yet? Sign up now at <http://kayben.com/membership.html>

The Kayben Connection

The Kayben Connection, Kayben's Garden Center Membership, is back! For just \$10 per season, members get extra savings on workshops, custom container planting, exclusive specials, goodies and more! Go to <http://kayben.com/membership.html> for more information or to sign up. You can also sign up at The Kayben Farms booth at the Calgary Horticulture Society's annual garden show for half price, only \$. The show is at Spruce Meadows, Saturday April 4th and Sunday April 5th from 9 am to 6 pm. Parking is free, and tickets are \$10 at the door. A little tip - you can save \$2 per ticket if you purchase them in advance online at the Calgary Horticulture Society's website. <http://calhort.org/events/gardenshow.aspx?id=231>. Come meet us in person or check us out online at www.kayben.com.

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