



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

July 2021

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CINDY TATARYN

(PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO ALL YOUR CLUB MEMBERS – THANK YOU!)



Thank you to all the Affiliated Member Clubs that sent in a garden picture for our Garden Days photo contest. You can enjoy the garden photos that were submitted on our website at www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Welcome to summer!

Now that summer is finally here, hopefully the weeds are few and far between and there is lots of time for you to relax and enjoy your garden!

Oops did I say relax? Maybe I spoke too soon. Have you ever planted a winter garden? Summer is the time to plant for winter. Sounds a bit strange, doesn't it?

For some of the vegetables you can plant in July and enjoy into the fall and winter (and some through until spring) see the West Coast Seeds Vegetable Planting Chart at www.westcoastseeds.com.

In July, you can plant arugula, beans, beets, overwintering broccoli, overwintering cabbage, carrots, overwintering cauliflower, endive/radicchio, fennel, kale and collards, kohlrabi, lettuce, overwintering onions, scallions, pac choi and choi sum, parsley, parsnip, peas, rutabaga, spinach, swiss chard, and turnips.

My first attempt at winter gardening happened by accident. Last year I planted some red cabbage (in my front flower bed) that stayed in the garden over winter. This spring I had one that was over 11 pounds! What the heck was I going to do with an 11-pound cabbage?

I quartered it and sliced it up, slowly simmered it in batches on low heat, with margarine and lemon juice to hold the colour (stirring occasionally), until it was tender then added some brown sugar (enough to counter the lemon juice). I divided it into small meal sized portions and put it in the freezer. It tasted great for months. I'll definitely be trying that again, along with some carrots, peas and lettuce.

Happy Gardening!

Cheers,

Cindy Tataryn

First Vice President, BCCGC

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SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND NEWS

BY PATTY MOLNAR, TRUSTEE

Hi Anne and Patty

Thank you so much for supporting the UBC Horticulture Training Program and for awarding me with this year's scholarship. I am honoured to be a part of this profession and I look forward to contributing to the forward progress of horticulture in BC. The Horticultural Training Program offered me practical skills in the garden as well as business, plant science and new ways to think of how and why we work with plants.

Also, I was fortunate to have been the student liaison on the IDEA committee. The committee is working to increase inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility in botanical gardens. I am so grateful to have learned from the immensely talented folks at the UBC Botanical Garden.

Please let me know if you need more information from me. I hope our paths cross in the future!

Sincere thanks,
Alison Coolican



How to Donate to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund

If you wish to make a donation by cheque please send it to:

BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund
c/o: BC Council of Garden Clubs
10952 McAdam Road
North Delta, BC V4C 3E8

Please ensure that the cheques are made out to the “Vancity Community Foundation” and the memo field shows “BC Council of Garden Clubs.” If the person or organization that the donation is from does not clearly show on the cheque, please include a brief note with the cheque indicating who the donation is from and a return address (so that an income tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

1. Go to www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca
2. Click the “Funds” button on the top right side of the home page
3. Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching “garden clubs” in the search bar
4. Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click “Give to this Fund” and complete the form

OR

1. Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com
2. Go to the “Scholarship Fund” on the top bar and click on the “Donate” page below
3. Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Trust Fund page
4. Click on “Give to this Fund” and complete the form

Thank You!



HOW AND WHY TO GO NATIVE

Most folks know that native plants are native to a particular area, growing naturally over a long period of time. Native plants actually occurred in different regions long before human habitation. The plants evolved and adapted to local climate and growing conditions, becoming an essential part of the ecosystem.

Regional wildlife including bees, birds, butterflies, and birds adapted to using native plants for food and shelter. Woodlands and well-established meadows help deter invasive plants that can take over and upset the balance of nature. Large scale development and industrial farming have destroyed large swaths of habitat. We gardeners can help by creating natural landscapes that provide a safe haven for wildlife and benefit the environment.

Native plants are easier on the environment, requiring less water, nor the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Native plants are easier to grow than non-native plants as they are adapted to the area.

Adding just a few native plants to your gardens will go a long way towards supporting wildlife.

Common native plants to grow in BC:

- *Dicentra formosa* (Pacific bleeding heart)
- *Aruncus dioicus* (goatsbeard)
- *Viburnum dentatum* (arrowwood viburnum)
- *Polystichum munitum* (Western sword fern)
- *Allium cernuum* (nodding onion)



Nodding onion



Pacific bleeding heart



Arrowwood viburnum

NATIVE GARDEN DESIGN TIPS:

- Research native plants that will do well in your area. Select plants that meet your goals — are you trying to attract pollinators, birds, or other wildlife?
- Choose plants that will stay in scale with the size of your yard.
- Choose plants that will adapt to your site conditions, including light, rainfall, and drainage.
- Use a mix of plants such as foliage, flowers, fruit, bark, and seedbeds that will capture four-season landscape.
- Provide wildlife habitat that includes the basics of food, water, and shelter.
- Choose plants with nutrient-rich flowers, berries, and seedheads that will provide food for wildlife through all seasons.
- Use native plants to solve problems such as improving drainage or for erosion control.
- Garden organically, which is beneficial to wildlife and the environment

(Resource: Garden Design, Janet Loughrey)



WELCOME BACK KELPMAN!

KELPMAN®

We hope all of our gardening friends are safe and well!

KelpMan® has missed our valued garden club members,
across BC, during the past two challenging seasons.
We have also missed many garden club events and shows.
We learned a new appreciation for the richness of life.
the incredible people around us and the stories they tell.

Our common bond... love of plants and nature
So it is time...to get busy and make magic happen again!

(KelpMan's new store opens July 15).

If you live in the lower mainland Vancouver
make it a day trip to *Ambleside by the Sea* in West Vancouver
Remember to bring your club card for a 10% discount!
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WATERWISE GARDENING

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WRITTEN BY INGRID HOFF

It's all there in the name, let's get a bit "more wise" with our watering. Do you remember back in the day when we only had water restrictions during really hot dry summers, instead of every summer? Perhaps not, but I do. It seems like water restrictions are just standard now and I think we can all agree that the earth's climate is changing. Summers seem to be hotter and drier and so I think we all have an obligation to be a little bit smarter about how and when we use water. But if I'm being honest, I also hate being a slave to the watering hose all summer.

So, how exactly do we go about being more waterwise? Luckily, we've got options, so here is an à la carte menu of tips and tricks you can use in your garden and become wiser about water.

Start Off Right: If you are planning a new garden bed or are thinking of renovating an old one, then start off right by planting the right plant in the right place. If you have a hot sunny spot then choose drought tolerant plants. This is where it pays to check out the plant labels, look for terms like "drought resistant." As a general rule you want to look for plants that have fleshy, silvery, and/or small leaves as this is usually a sign that the plant has adapted to surviving in hot temperature, low water conditions. Some of my personal favourites are lavender, nepeta, and all the sedums. There is

actually a term for this, xeriscaping. This is when you plan your landscape, by choosing the right type of plants, so that it needs no water other than what falls from the sky.

Don't feel left out if you have shade. There are a number of plants called ephemerals that are glorious in the spring (when water is plentiful) but then go dormant for the summer, right as the thermometer starts to climb. Some of our beautiful native BC plants such as shooting stars (*Dodecatheon* sp.), dogtooth violet (*Erythronium* sp.), as well as the lovely bleeding heart (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*). Okay the last one is not native but it's related to our native bleeding heart.

Lastly, if there are some plants that are "thirsty" and you just can't live without them, consider grouping them together. That way you can concentrate what watering you need to do over a smaller area. So, consider the water needs of your plants and then place them accordingly.

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch: If you only take one thing away from reading this then let it be.... mulch your garden. It's easy to do and it may well be the best thing you can do to use less water and spend less time dragging a hose around your yard. It is the equivalent of tucking in our plants with a cozy, protective blanket. It creates a barrier on the soil that prevents erosion, drying out, and weed growth. Find the mulch of your choice: bark, leaves, compost, stones, straw, and lay it on thick (5-7cm). Just make sure to water before you mulch, you want to trap the water in the soil not the other way around.

Water the Right Way: When you do water try and be smart about it. Water less frequently with more so the water penetrates deeper in the soil, this will build a bit of a "water bank." Also, water the soil not the plant. Sprinklers are fun to run through but your plants need the water on the soil. In fact, water on the leaves just evaporates and, in some cases, ahem... tomatoes... can actually set up the conditions for disease. Consider drip irrigation or soaker hoses. Water in the morning, not during the full heat of the day when evaporation is at its highest.

Amp Up the Organic: Organic matter acts like a bit of a sponge in the soil so the more you have the better the water retention. So, add some compost, manure, Sea Soil, or even last year's leaves if you got them.

Embrace a Golden Lawn: I love a lush green lawn, but I put forth an idea to you, gold is also a lovely colour. Imagine an amazing plant that changes colour over the season give you lovely green in the spring and fall, but changes colour in the summer to a golden hue. Yep, embrace your golden lawn and just stop watering it. It is perfectly adapted to go dormant and turn gold, but then green up again when the rains come. Some other tips to help your lawn be less thirsty are to let it grow longer (this also helps with European chafer beetle) and to use a mulching mower.

Bag Your Trees: I'm sure you've seen them about town, those green bags that are wrapped around the base of newly planted trees. In theory once a tree is well established you shouldn't need to be watering, but for the first few years they need a little help. These watering bags are the best, you just fill them up every once in a while, and they slowly release water to the tree. One less job for you do.

Bigger is Better: If you are planning on growing in containers then just know this, small pots are like puppies and kittens, cute but a lot of work. The bigger a container is, the more soil and therefore water it will hold. Unless you like watering your containers multiple times a day then just know that bigger containers are better.



So, before the real heat of the summer starts consider how you want to spend your time, dragging a hose/watering can around your yard/patio or sitting back and enjoying the beauty of the garden. I know which one I prefer. Have a look around your space, is there something you can do to be wiser about water?



Source: GARDENWORKS

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR 'GARDEN DAYS' CONTEST PHOTOS

We were thrilled to see all of the photos that were sent in from all parts of BC for our BC Council of Garden Clubs 'Garden Days' contest. So many beautiful private and community gardens.

Congratulations again to our winners (chosen by a draw):

\$50 to Williams Lake Garden Club:



\$75 to North Island Rhododendron Society:



\$100 to South Burnaby Garden Club



Our PowerPoint presentation of all the entries will be posted on our website: www.bcgardenclubs.com.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would love to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter. You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos). Photos should be high resolution and you should include the name of the photographer if possible. Articles should be in the range of 300–500 words. If you have an idea for a longer piece, connect with the newsletter editor in advance to discuss your idea.

Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. If they are submitted after that date, they will be held for the next issue. **The next due date is July 15th for August 1st.** Submissions/inquiries: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com.

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor
Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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