



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF
GARDEN CLUBS

AUGUST 2023 

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS



I just finished hand watering all of my plants, trees, and shrubs in my wee garden. My hubby handles the watering requirements of our edible gardens.

After an hour of deep watering, especially around my shrubs, I started to think about better solutions instead of using potable water for watering my plants.

A couple of years ago, I diligently added grey water to my routine. Grey water consists of recycled water from your sinks, bathtubs, and showers.

During this time of water shortage, grey water can be useful but it should be used with care.

Grey water varies in quality and may contain contaminants such as soap and detergents. Fortunately, soil and potting composts are effective at filtering them and the residues can sometimes act as a mild fertilizer.

Be careful of using grey water from the laundry machine, for example.

Some laundry detergents have a lot of salts in them.

To minimize bacterial growth, grey water should only be saved for 24 hours.

Grey water should not be used on edible crops due to contamination of pathogens in the water. Softened tap water can damage soil due to the salts used in them. Use only in an emergency.

Grey water is best used for fruit trees, shade trees, and larger ornamental plants because they need the water, unlike native, water-efficient plants.

So time to add the buckets back into the bathroom sinks areas, shower, laundry room, and kitchen sinks to recapture the grey water that typically just goes to waste. 💧

SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

BY PATTY MOLNAR, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIR

The 2023-2024 scholarship trustees, Patty Molnar (Chair), Anita Irani, and Betty Girard will address several objectives this year:

- Liaise with the educational institutions receiving the annual scholarship funds in order to continue streamlining communication and the exchange of information. A profile of each BCCGC award at each institution was prepared and an annual end-of-year report from the institutions was completed. A review will be made of the programs offered by the various institutions.
- Contact students who have received scholarship monies, obtaining feedback about their horticultural learning experience, and career objectives. This information will be shared with the BCCGC.
- Foster contact between BCCGC's member clubs, particularly those who have donated to the scholarship fund, and those academic institutions and students who are recipients of BCCGC scholarships and bursaries.

Regarding the final objective, we have launched a fundraising drive for the 80th anniversary of the BCCGC to build the fund further and raise awareness of the fund within member clubs. We are asking each member club to donate \$80 towards the fund as we celebrate 80 years of supporting gardeners across the province. Many clubs, groups, and individuals have stepped up to help achieve this objective.

It is truly a pleasure learning about and supporting students as they dedicate themselves to a career in horticulture. I look forward to hearing from members with their comments or suggestions and particularly if they would be interested in serving with the Scholarship Fund Committee.

\$80 for 80 years scholarship fund donation



Photo by Philip Knight,
South Surrey Garden Club,
Philtography.ca.



Join our \$80 for 80 years celebration donation drive! 🎉

Join clubs across BC in celebrating the BCCGC's 80th anniversary and the Scholarship Fund by contributing \$80 in 2023. Over **\$9,000** has been collected to date!

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:

Go to

www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca.

Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page.

Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar.

Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

OR

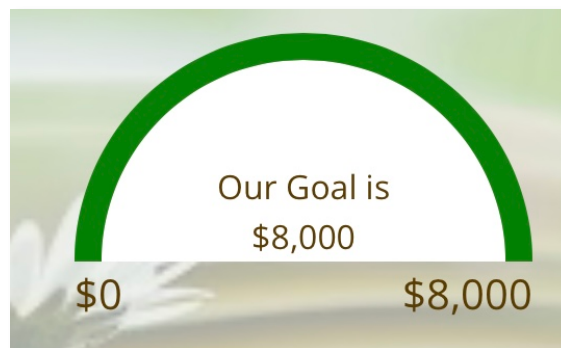
Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below.

Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page.

Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

Thank You!



YTD \$9,450!
Only \$550 to reach \$10,000.

SUMMER DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE GARDEN

LYNDA PASACRETA, PRESIDENT, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Our province is again dealing with drought conditions. Watering restrictions are well underway. Gardeners are fully immersed in watering and not much else.

Drought conditions can be a gardener's worst nightmare. When a hot, dry weather pattern settles in, it affects your gardens in a variety of ways. There's nothing you can do to prevent a drought, but there are some strategies you can do to help minimize the effect it has on your landscape.

The most obvious way a drought affects your garden is the way it **makes your plants look**: healthy green leaves wilt, developing crispy brown edges, or die completely; flowers fade more quickly or fail to appear at all; and plants (even weeds) grow more slowly. Drought weakens your plants, increasing how susceptible they are to attack from insects and disease. It also makes plants less winter-hardy, especially if the drought occurs in the fall as plants are going dormant. The hot, dry conditions have a lasting effect, too. Trees and shrubs in particular can take several years to fully recover from drought.

There are some things you can do during drought conditions to conserve water and to keep your plants healthy. Most garden plants like about an **inch of moisture per week**. In most cases, it is better to apply the water weekly. It's a bit of a waste to give your plants less water more frequently. Doing so discourages the roots from growing as deeply into the soil (where it stays moister longer) as they can, and it's also inefficient as more water is lost to evaporation.

A two to three inch deep **layer of mulch** over the soil can do wonders. It keeps the soil cooler and shields the ground from direct sun. The benefit is that moisture stays in the soil longer, where it's more available to your garden plants.

Run a **soaker hose** underneath the mulch to maximize water savings. Water will be delivered directly to the ground (reducing evaporation) and slowly (reducing water loss to runoff.) It will also keep plant foliage dry,

which helps prevent many common fungal diseases such as black spot on roses.

If you **apply fertilizers**, stop at the onset of a drought. Fertilizers encourage plant growth. The more a plant grows, the more moisture it needs. If fertilizer salts build up in your soil because they're not naturally leaching out with rain or irrigation, they can build up and burn plant roots, causing further damage.

Getting those **weeds out of the garden** is especially important during drought. The reason: weeds' roots steal valuable moisture from the soil.

Removing spent blooms before they have a chance to set seed saves energy for your plants. They don't need to put extra energy (which they need water for) into producing seeds.

During times of drought our gardens show signs of stress. Our **lawns will brown out**. Take heart, though – in most cases the lawn is not dead but merely dormant and will regain its green colour as soon as adequate moisture returns. (A lawn requires only one-quarter of an inch of water every three weeks to stay alive.)

The **initial symptom of drought stress on trees and shrubs** is a marginal scorching of leaves, and in some cases wilting of entire plants. Yellowing of interior needles on evergreens may also occur. When watered, by either irrigation or rainfall, most plants will recover. The season following a drought, plants may show reduced shoot and diameter growth, smaller or fewer leaves, and varying degrees of dieback. Weakened trees and shrubs can also be expected to have more disease and insect problems for several years to come. Evergreens especially may brown, drop needles, and die suddenly.

Concentrate your efforts on plants that mean the most to you, are hardest to replace, and most valuable. **Annuals should be your last concern!**

SUMMER DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE GARDEN, CONT'D

Woody plants most in need of supplemental irrigation are those that were planted this year or within the last few seasons. Trees and shrubs that have been in the ground longer are more likely to have better developed root systems that can use large volumes of soil to get the water they need.

Another category of vulnerable woody plants are **shade loving trees and shrubs**, especially those that have been planted in a full sun location. Examples are: flowering dogwood, Japanese maple, rhododendron, and other broad-leaved evergreens. Ash, birch, and maple are particularly sensitive to drought stress. Even if leaves wilt during a hot day, most plants will recover at night if sufficient soil moisture is present. Plants that do not recover overnight must be watered to prevent permanent damage. For those people living in condominium or townhouse complexes, **do not forget to water the trees on the boulevards in front of your complex!**

When watering, **avoid splashing water on the leaves**. Many plant diseases flourish on wet leaves. Water when there's no wind, as wind speeds evaporation. Move mulch aside, water, and replace mulch; or if you prefer, place your watering hose permanently under the mulch. Low flow irrigation equipment, such as soaker hoses or drip irrigation, is recommended. A shallow berm two inches deep, encircling the "drip line" of the plant, or along rows of plants, will help confine water to the root area and discourage runoff. You can also bury perforated tin cans, large plastic soda bottles or short lengths of pipe at intervals along the drip line or between rows, and fill them with water for slow, even distribution with little waste. Aside from applying what precious little recycled water you have, one of the best things you can do during a drought period is nothing at all! **Do not fertilize, prune, or apply pesticides.**

Do not prune except to remove dead or diseased branches. Excessive pruning will stimulate new

growth that will not be drought tolerant and, in addition, may not harden off before the dormant season sets in.

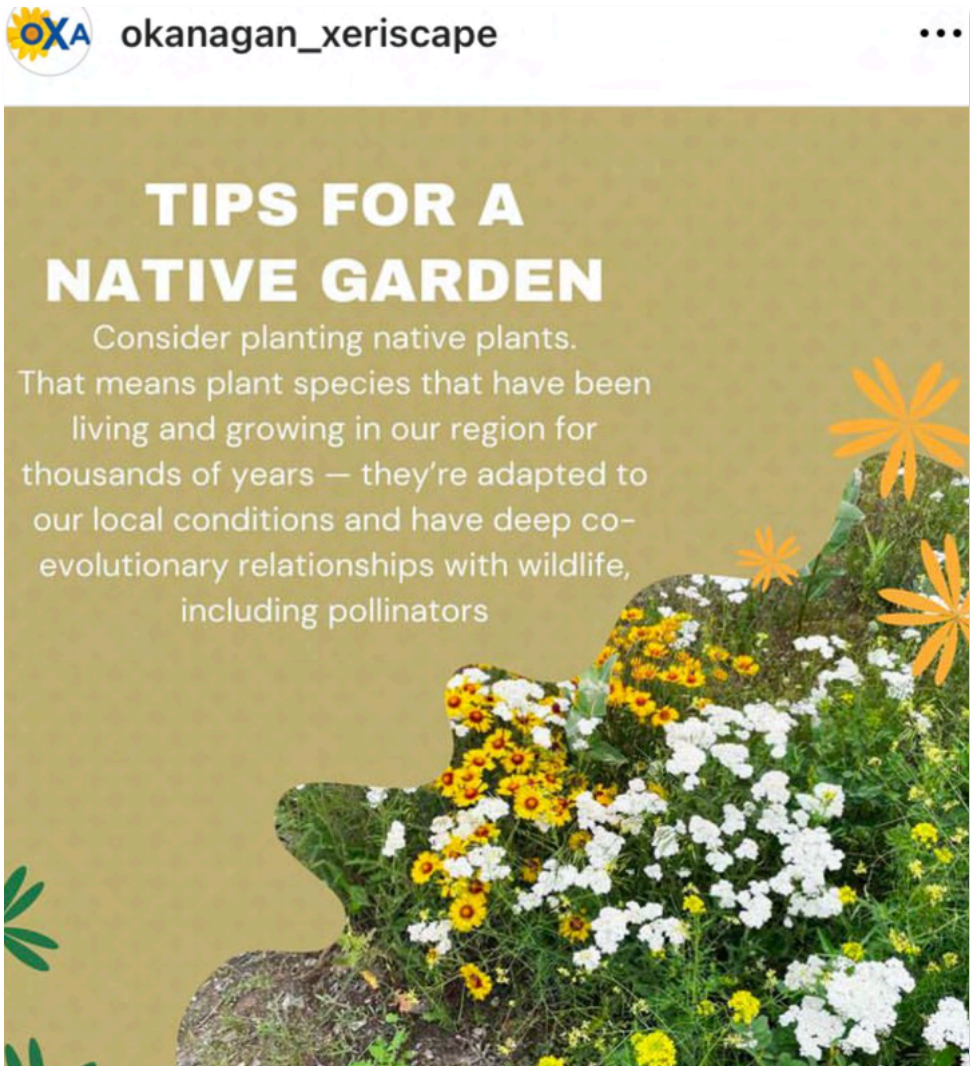
Plants that are healthy are better able to resist attack by insects and diseases. Therefore, if plants are to withstand a drought, they must be kept as healthy as possible. It is important to **monitor for insects and diseases** and manage them before they take hold.

Mulching is one thing you can do to help your plants. It is estimated that three quarters of the rain falling on bare soil is lost to plants through evaporation and runoff. Both of these are reduced up to 90% by adequate mulch. Mulches help conserve moisture and keep the soil cooler. Use compost, wood chips, bark nuggets, shredded bark mulch, shredded leaves, or any other organic material to cover the surface of the soil. Apply mulch to a depth of two inches, beginning a few inches away from the trunks of trees.

Lawn clippings are an excellent mulch...for your lawn. Do not pick them up unless they form clumps. Contrary to popular belief, clippings do not contribute to thatch build up and will help conserve water in your lawn. Grass clippings may also be used as mulch in a vegetable or flower garden, spread one inch thick. If the lawn has browned and is dormant, **do not mow**. Foot and machine traffic can damage the grass crowns. Do not use **weed killers or fertilizer** during drought conditions.

Weeds will compete with desirable plants for moisture and nutrients. Keep your gardens and areas beneath trees and shrubs weed free. Once the weeds are eradicated, apply mulch.

These are some simple procedures that can be followed to help conserve water and at the same time to promote a healthy garden. 💧







Wildflower garden, Paulik Park, Richmond, BC.
Photo: Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond Garden Club

THE 3 H'S

NATALIA, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Do you ever have trouble telling a *helenium* from a *heliopsis* from a *helianthus*? Natalia has created a chart to help us become experts at identifying these delightful summer flowers.

	<i>Helenium autumnale</i> 'Moerheim Beauty'	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> 'Sunstruck'	<i>Helianthus annuus</i> 'Lemon Queen'
			
Common Name	Helen's flower, sneezeweed	Smooth oxeye, False sunflower	Sunflower 'Lemon Queen'
Etymology	Helenium - Borrowed from Ancient Greek ἡλέλιον (helélion).	From the Greek helios for "sun" and opis for "appearance."	From Greek helios for "sun" and ἄνθος (ánthos, "flower").
Family	Asteraceae	Asteraceae	Asteraceae
Genus	Helenium	Heliopsis	Helianthus
Height	90-150cm	40cm	180-210cm
Width	60-90cm	30-40cm	60-90cm
Nice to know	Called sneezeweed because historically its crushed dried leaves and flower heads were used in snuff - intended to cause sneezing.	Its dried roots or fresh leaves were used medicinally by First Nations groups.	Some sunflowers display "heliotropism": flower buds will face the sun in the morning and follow the sun as it moves during the day.
Perennial?	Yes	Yes	Yes
USDA	3-8	4-9	4-9
Native	Native to much of the US and southern Canada.	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> is native to eastern and central North America.	<i>Helianthus annuus</i> are native to western US, Canada, and northern Mexico.
Exposure	Full Sun	Full Sun	Full Sun
Habit	Tall, upright, clump-forming.	Upright clumps, most effective when planted in groupings.	Tall, upright growth. Very abundant flowers.
Flower	Flower has a prominent centre - subglobose, or in the shape of a semi dome, small knob. 	Yellow-orange rays surround a brownish-yellow centre cone. 7 - 20 petals/rays. Size: 2.5 - 7.5 cm. 	Pale yellow ray florets. Disc florets reddish brown to dark purple. Corolla size 2.5 cm - 5 cm. 

UPCOMING FLORAL DESIGN EVENTS

CINDY TATARYN, CANADIAN WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FLORAL ART CLUBS

The following events all have Floral Design components, either a competition or displays. If you want to see some great floral designs go to the following events!

BC Floral Art Society:

DISPLAY: Saturday, September 16, 2023 (10:00 to 4:00 pm), Darts Hill Garden, 16 Avenue and 170 Street, Surrey.

Mid-Island Floral Art Club:

Demonstration by Andrea Strachan, 2:00 pm, Thursday, September 14, 2023, at St. Stephen's Church hall, 150 Village Way, Qualicum Beach (at the back of the Church). Tickets: \$10. Please contact Catherine for tickets (cjvanbev@hotmail.com). Seating is limited so order your tickets as soon as possible.

DISPLAY: The Parish of St. Mark's Anglican Church, 138 Hoylake Road, Qualicum Beach. Flower festival, Saturday, September 9, and Sunday, September 10, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm each day. Open to the public free of charge or by donation.

Victoria Floral Artist Guild:

DISPLAY: August 12 and 13. Floral installations. 'Art and Music in the Garden' at the Horticultural Centre of the Pacific, 505 Quade Road, Victoria.

Vancouver Dahlia Society:

SHOW: August 26 and 27 at VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver.

The South Burnaby Garden Club:

SHOW: Fall Fair, Saturday, September 9, Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.

Fraser Valley Dahlia Society:

SHOW: September 16 and 17 at Garden Park Tower, 2825 Clearbrook Road, Abbotsford.

BC Council of Garden Clubs:

SHOW: Fall General Meeting, Saturday, October 28, Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.

Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs:

SHOW: Design entries from the 2023 Annual Floral Design Show. See www.cwafac.weebly.com

Show schedule for the upcoming fall virtual show coming soon!

UPCOMING FLORAL DESIGN EVENTS, CONT'D

FAIRS:

Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Country Fest:

<https://www.mrpmcountryfest.com/>

SHOW: July 29 and 30, Albion Fairgrounds, 23400 Jim Robson Way, Maple Ridge.

The Chilliwack Fair:

<https://chilliwackfair.com/>

SHOW: August 11 – 13, Chilliwack Heritage Park, 44140 Luckakuck Way, Chilliwack.

Saanich Fair:

SHOW: September 2 – 4, Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stellys Cross Road, Saanichton.
Demonstration booth and floral design competition.



Best in Show, BC Council of Garden Clubs spring meeting. Ann Peters, BC Floral Art Society.

FUN FACT!

LISA COLBY, VICE PRESIDENT, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

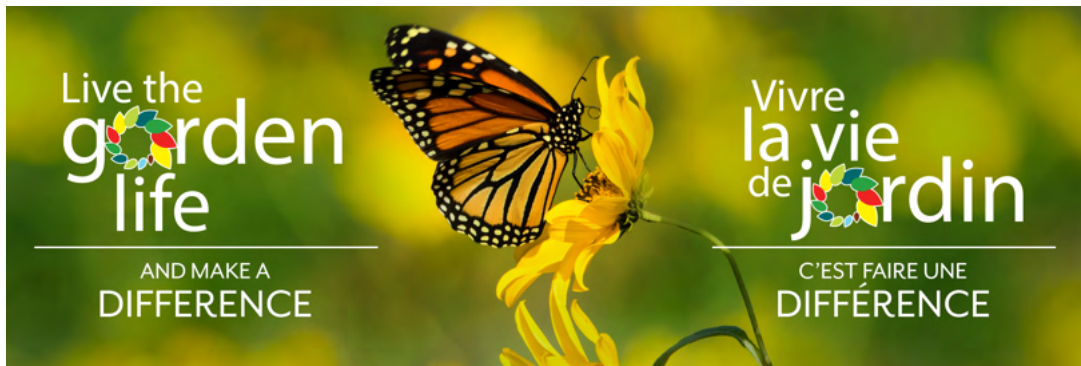
Did you know that there is a variety of seed named Outhouse Hollyhock? There is a fun tribute to the folklore reputation of hollyhocks (*Alcea rosea*) — the outhouse flower. These pretty flowers were tall enough to conceal the outhouse (the privy), so were often used to do just that by visually sensitive homeowners, in times before most had indoor plumbing. Guests could discreetly locate the outhouse by looking for the hollyhocks. Well, how about that?

Sources:

- Granny
- <https://www.rareseeds.com/blog/post/hollyhocks-the-outhouse-flower>.



Photo by Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic, Richmond Garden Club photographer.



Nominate your favourite garden hero! Richmond Garden Club chose Jill Wright as our garden hero!



Live the Garden Life
Vivre la vie de jardin

AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE | C'EST FAIRE UNE DIFFÉRENCE

Congratulations for being selected as your organization's

2023 GARDEN HERO

The Canadian Garden Council thanks

Jill Wright

for contributing to Canada's garden culture and your community's garden experience



CONSEIL CANADIEN DU JARDIN
CANADIAN GARDEN COUNCIL

Alexander Reford

President, Canadian Garden Council



MIDSUMMER NIGHT CELEBRATION

BY LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

City of Richmond generously makes available annual grants for local not-for-profit organizations with a strong focus on supporting the environment.

This year we were awarded \$1,800 towards environmental enhancements in our community.

So what better way to focus on the environment than showcasing all the work we do in Paulik Park's perennial garden beds on the first day of summer?

The community at large was invited to join us for tours of our pollinator gardens, meadow flower gardens (planted to out-compete grass), and wattle fences created using blueberry bush and *Kerria japonica* prunings.

We also showcased our native plantings, highlighting their ability to deal with extreme weather conditions.

With over 100 visitors to the event, everyone was treated to ice cream cones, and to meet and greet Paulik Park volunteers and Richmond Garden Club members.



Growers Delight

Granular Soil Activator

NEW ORGANIC HOUSE BLEND 4-2-2 with HUMIC

Growers Delight is a soil activator enriched with organically sourced materials. Along with NPK plus CA, also includes many other trace elements. Improves soil structure and activates the soil's fertility naturally.

OMRI LISTED
OMRI Certified Organic

Enriched with Calcium, Humic Acid, Nitrogen, Soluble Potash

Made in Canada
For more information:
info@organicdirtsupplements.ca
or visit our website

Perfect for:

- General row gardens
- Repotting plants
- Trees & shrubs
- Lawn maintenance & care

www.organicdirtsupplements.ca

Growers Delight is now a member of COTA, the Canada Organic Trade Association. Check us out: <https://organicdirtsupplements.ca/>. Use code BCCG12 for special discounts.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would love to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter.

Tell us about some of the projects your club or community garden is involved in.

You are invited to submit an article at any time (please include photos and name of author). 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 August 15 for September 1**. Submissions/ inquiries:

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

Lynda Pasacreta | President

Lorna Fraser | Past President

Cindy Tataryn | First Vice President

Ron Ouwerkerk | Second Vice President

Pam Robertson | Secretary

Ann Peters | Treasurer

Patty Molnar | Scholarship Fund

Lynda Pasacreta | Communications Coordinator

Lorna Herchenson | Membership Committee and Insurance

Lynda Pasacreta | Newsletter Committee

Frank Girard | Website

bcgardenclubs.com | www.facebook.com/bcgardenclubs