



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF
GARDEN CLUBS

APRIL 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

The old saying "April showers bring May flowers" originates from the United Kingdom, where April for them is one of the more soggy months based on the position of the jet stream. In parts of England right now, there is some heavy flooding with many of their gardens under water.

Hopefully, with the rain in April here in BC, flowers will bloom because of the water provided by the April rains.

In some areas, April is a time when the last bit of snow turns to all rain as temperature climb.

This fun saying actually originated from a poem written in 1157, by Thomas Tusser.

My hubby and I are well underway with planting our vegetables under grow lights in our garage. We have done minimum cleaning of the garden beds, mostly cutting back dead stems and leaving them in the back of our beds to let the pollinator insects finish up their winter naps - known as the 'chop and drop' method. We are hoping the stems turn to mulch in a couple of months and will add a layer of compost on top to help them along the way.

Here on the west coast, daffodils are well in to bloom and tulips are starting to broadcast their bright colours in our gardens. Brunnera is showcasing all of its brilliant blue flowers,

with forget-me-nots just peeking out from under our leaf mulch. Leaves are showing on our clematises and roses are well underway. Our hydrangeas have been lightly pruned to a healthy set of leaves and we have removed dead and weak stems.

We have added a layer of compost on top of the leaf mulch and now can take a wee bit of a rest while waiting for the magic month of May to arrive to plant our tender plants and vegetable/fruit gardens.

Happy spring everyone!



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

ANITA IRANI, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIRPERSON (INCOMING)

Yeemi Tang was the recipient of the BC Council of Garden Clubs Landscape Design Award at Pacific Horticulture College.

Yeemi, a versatile professional born in Hong Kong and raised in the cultural hub of Toronto, brings a rich artistic background to the table. With a strong foundation in life drawing and painting, Yeemi transitioned seamlessly into the world of hairdressing nearly two decades ago, showcasing a unique artistic flair and meticulous attention to detail.

Beyond the salon, Yeemi recognized a profound connection between design and nature. This led to a relocation to the picturesque city of Victoria, where he furthered his education at Pacific Horticulture College, earning a certificate in Landscape and Horticulture. An advocate for sustainable urban landscaping and resource conservation, Yeemi envisions a future where design practices harmonize seamlessly with urban development.

Best of luck Yeemi!



SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT

PATTY MOLNAR, OUTGOING CHAIR

It is that time of year for our elections at the Annual General Meeting when the chairperson of the Scholarship Fund Committee exits and a new director steps up to the plate. That new person is **Debbie Mellenger**, who will be a strong addition to the committee. It is with mixed feelings that I leave this committee, having finished my third year here.

There is the positive legacy of the \$80 for 80 Years campaign where we raised \$13,989 for the scholarship fund, an amazing amount to celebrate the Council's 80th anniversary. I have enjoyed working with my co-directors (currently Anita Irani and Betty Girard), the people on the executive board, the academic institutions, and most important of all, the scholarship recipients whose studies and careers we work so hard to help.

Thank you to all who have donated to the scholarship fund and have helped make a difference. It has been an honour to be part of this committee, and the new committee will be a credit to the Council.





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!



Special Invite to Garden Clubs - Showcase a Place or Project

Get provincial recognition for community enhancing projects. Acknowledge volunteers and service groups.

How to Get Involved:

- Submit a Showcase Entry with 3 photos and a 250-word description per the info below.

Details:

- All entries will be featured in the BC CiB Growing Together Newsletter as they are received.
- Entries will receive special recognition and a frameable certificate if submitted before end of August.
- **Prizes will be awarded for three outstanding submissions.**
- Photos must be from the 2024 season.
- Submit 3 of your best photos with full rights in high resolution (a minimum of 300dpi at print size or a minimum weight of 800kb).
These photos will be used by BC Communities in Bloom for the promotion of your project and the BC CiB Program.
- \$50 fee waived for 2024 Program year.



PROJECT NAME:	
Name of Club or Group	Contact Person
City and Postal Code	
Phone	Email (required)
Social Media/Facebook	Website
Please supply a Description (250 words Maximum) and three JPEG or TIFF photos (Ideally 1MB each)	
Cost: \$50 waived for any Garden Club or BC Council of Garden Club Member. 2024 Fee \$0.	
Email form: c.kennedy@telus.net or Mail: Attn: Catherine, BC Communities in Bloom, 19951 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4E2	
To be recognized in this year's BC CiB Provincial Awards, please enter before August 31	

CITY OF COQUITLAM – TREE SPREE EVENT as featured in the BC CiB Growing Together Newsletter Oct. 2022 issue.

LAKE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB Xeriscape, Pollinator Garden with bug hotel project as featured in the BC CiB Newsletter Aug 2023 issue.

PURPLE DEAD-NETTLE, *LAMIUM PURPUREUM*

INVASIVE PLANT?

Farmers' fields here in Richmond are awash with the colour of purple.

Purple dead-nettle is native to Europe and Asia. It was introduced to North America through the horticulture trade. It grows in southern British Columbia and eastern Canada.

Purple dead-nettle grows well in disturbed areas — like farmers fields! It loves full sunlight or light shade and moist, fertile soil.

Purple dead-nettle spreads both through seeds and vegetative methods. Flowers can self-pollinate before opening (oh dear!) but can also be cross-pollinated by bees and wasps.

One plant generally produces up to 300 seeds but it can produce up to 1,000 seeds and will stay in the soil for several years.

Many plant foragers are fans of purple dead-nettle.

Why has it landed on the BC Invasive Species list? Purple dead-nettle outcompetes native plants by forming dense ground cover, shading out native species. It reduces available space, nutrients, and water available for other vegetation. And it reduces biodiversity!

Economically it reduces crop yield.

What can we do? Remove from your garden beds as soon as you spot the weed. Ensure the plants are disposed of in a garbage bag instead of composting. Check wildflower seed mixes to ensure they do not contain purple dead-nettle. Ensure

plants that have been divided to share do not contain the plant.

Sometimes these plants are found in floral arrangements. Again, dispose of the plant into garbage bags. Do not compost!

Purple dead-nettle can be pulled by hand before it goes to seed. Regular mowing will reduce the weed progression but won't eradicate the plant.

For more information and reporting information: <https://bcinvasives.ca/invasives/purple-deadnettle/>.





VICTORIA
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OF MUSIC

MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL Garden Tour

May 11 & 12, 2024 | 10am - 4pm

Enjoy two days of access to Victoria's most
enchancing private gardens in support of
the Victoria Conservatory of Music



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Bartlett Tree Experts

Garden City
Tree & Landscape

DoubleTree

Tickets

\$45

Order online at
vcm.bc.ca/garden-tour*

Or purchase in person at
the Victoria Conservatory
of Music and select
outlet locations

*Service charges and mailing fees apply



Notes

GARDEN ECOLOGY 101

Dr. Elizabeth Elle, SFU

Source: Summary compiled from Dr. Elizabeth Elle's course Garden Ecology 101, by Natalia Lopes

GUIDELINES

- Gardening Ecologically: besides considering the traditional aspects of light exposure, soil structure and aesthetics, we must also pay attention to local ecosystem context and history, being mindful of herbivores, predators, parasites, pollinators, detritivores and decomposers in our gardens
- Our gardens are part of the landscape ecology - they contribute to a region's healthy ecosystem processes



BEST PRACTICES

Maintain Soil Coverage

- Chop and Drop
- Mulch
- More perennials
- Don't remove biomass from site

Don't Disturb Soil

- Digging disrupts soil structure, damages fungal networks, affects water retention, etc.

Learn From "Weeds"

- Daisy, horsetail - acid lovers. Low N
- Dandelions, plantains - Soil Compaction
- Creeping buttercup - Moisture lover

Be Patient

- If you see pests, predators are on their way - give them a chance
- Less interference is better

Encourage Diversity

- Gardens can compensate for habitat loss
- Reduce lawn and invasive plants
- Include natives species

Manage carefully

- Learn to identify the beneficial insects
- Do integrated pest management - first action is prevention

GARDEN DESIGNING TIPS

Think "who you are designing for?"

- Predatory insects:** lacewings, ladybugs, hoverflies, and parasitic wasps. Their offspring eat garden pests, but adults need alternative food, especially nectar. Make sure to include plants that feed these insects - plants with small flowers, like sweet alyssum, and the Apiaceae (dill, fennel, cilantro) are best.
- Birds:** will eat large numbers of caterpillars during the growing season; during the rest of the year, they need seeds, fruit, nectar, and insects.
- Butterflies:** need host plants that their caterpillars can eat. Research your native species and their needs (see Resources below).
- Bees:** most bees in BC are solitary species. They complete their entire life cycle in 4-6 weeks. Most of our bee fauna nest in the ground (south or west facing, well drained soil). Also common are cavity nesters, they need plant stems like raspberry, elderberry, hydrangea, some perennials like sedum, coneflower, and many grasses.

Diversity of plants = diversity of pollinators

- Plant species are adapted to different pollinators - some have long tubes, some have strong scent and some only release pollen with vibration.
- An easy way to ensure the highest diversity of organisms can benefit from your garden is to pick "easy access" flowers that don't exclude any particular group:
 - Apiaceae**, like fennel, Astrantia, dill, Angelica
 - Asteraceae**, like yarrow, sedum, asters, coreopsis, coneflower, black-eyed susan
 - Rosaceae**, single/old fashioned roses, apples, cherries, raspberries

"Cover all Grounds"

- Don't plant just one of each plant - use groups of 3's or 5's together
- Include layers to provide habitat for different animals: from birds to earthworms
- Ensure season interest and activity by having flowers/fruit/seed most of the year

2-YEAR CYCLE OF CAVITY NESTER INSECTS



A YEAR IN THE GARDEN

Fall

- Plant trees and shrub
- Sheet mulch a lawn
- Remove unsightly things, but remember: less garden cleanup is better for the soil
- Include late bloomers in your garden plan

Winter

- Don't start any spring cleanup too early - let overwintering bugs emerge
- Plan for next year
- Include plants that flower in winter - they feed early insects and hummingbirds

Summer

- Control seed spread for things that seeds aggressively - leave less aggressive ones as bird food
- Clear out diseased plant material (don't compost)
- Monitor pests and beneficials
- Deadhead to encourage re-bloom
- Chop and drop - returns nutrients to soil

Spring

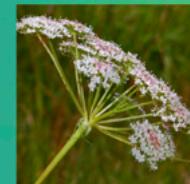
- Provide early bloomers to attract pollinators and predators
- Leave the leaves from last fall
- Cut back perennials and shrubs with nesting potential to max 8-12 inches, NOT the ground.
- Leave older stems for bees to emerge, or cut and stack till June

RESOURCES

- Earthwise Society's List of Bee Friendly Plants for your Garden and Farm (<https://feedthebees.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Bee-Friendly-Plants-for-Your-Garden-and-Farm1.pdf>)
- David Suzuki's Foundation - 8 popular butterfly species in the Lower Mainland (<https://david Suzuki.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DSF-8-Butterfly-illustrations-Lower-Mainland.pdf>)
- The Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA) search page (https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species_search)
- Metro Vancouver's Ecological Health Framework (<https://metrovanvancouver.org/services/regional-planning/Documents/ecological-health-framework.pdf>)
- Xerxes Society's Guides and Resources for the Pacific Northwest Region (<https://xerxes.org/pollinator-resource-center/prnw>)



Ribes - good early pollinator for bumblebees



Easy access flowers will support the largest number of pollinators (like Apiaceae)



Avoid flowers will double petals - the nectar is not accessible by pollinators!



Allow some vegetables to bolt early spring - bolting plants attract predators of plant pests



Elderberries are a good plant for cavity nester bees because the wood has pithy center



Aquilegia formosa, a native that is a typical "bird flower" - red and tubular

TAGGING THE GARDEN WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS

JEAN SORENSON, VANCOUVER DAHLIA SOCIETY

Tagging can be one of the most important steps for growing dahlias or any flower whose roots need storage over winter. Even the most veteran gardeners will confess to stories of mixing tubers or rhizomes or bulbs and having the garden pattern disrupted because one rogue bloom breaks rank. Or, there is the mad scramble to dig through the pile of old purchase labels to name the orphan.

So good tagging practices can save some time and effort, but there's not always store-bought tags at the ready — so here are some common household recyclables that can be used instead.

But first, there are three phases of tagging: digging and dividing clumps, taking cuttings, and the plant in-situ.

The dig and divide: The closer to source, the better. The sooner that label is placed on a clump the less chance of confusion. Flagging tape marked with a Sharpie is commonly used, but you can make your own (see next page). Once they are washed and drying and ready for dividing, use an indelible marker (purchased through garden supply or stationery stores) to write the name on the root, a big help if dividing several bundles of roots at once. One suggestion: if there are lots of bundles of roots or tubers to label, give each type a number, and write it on the root to coincide with a kept master list of names.

Cuttings: These are usually started in a tray, making it easy to lose track over time. One way to make it easier is to give each species adequate space, leaving empty rows between them. Or, use vertical tags marked with the date the cutting was taken and the name. As a back-up: draw a sketch on paper nearby.

Out-planting: This is where most problems occur because the plants are subject to being disturbed by traffic ranging from kids to raccoons and rain. There's also the challenge of finding labels that don't detract from the beauty of your garden.

So, here are some labelling suggestions using recycled materials that can save some pennies.

FLAGGING TAPE – Make your own. During summer barbecues there are all those Dollar Store plastic tablecloths used. Keep them and cut into long strips to use when digging and ink the name with a Sharpie.

YOGURT AND OTHER PLASTIC CONTAINERS – These containers are handy, easy to cut and, depending on the size, can be used in different applications. Take a container and cut the walls into vertical strips. The name of the dahlia can be written on the clean inside portion and if one end is cut to a point, it slides neatly into the earth. Good for identifying cuttings and pots, but not so much in the garden as they tend to get lost.

POPSICLE STICKS - Buy them in bulk or collect them during the summer from the kids' treats. They are great for the tagging pots, cuttings, and seed trays. They are not long-livers as the wood decomposes and they fall over like dead soldiers.

PULL TAB LIDS – Found on cat food, tuna, some pasta cans, and other food items. Keep the pull tab intact and gently bend back flat. Mark with a Sharpie on the inside lining, let dry for a day, place a string through the pull tab's eye, and affix to the growing plant or stalk.

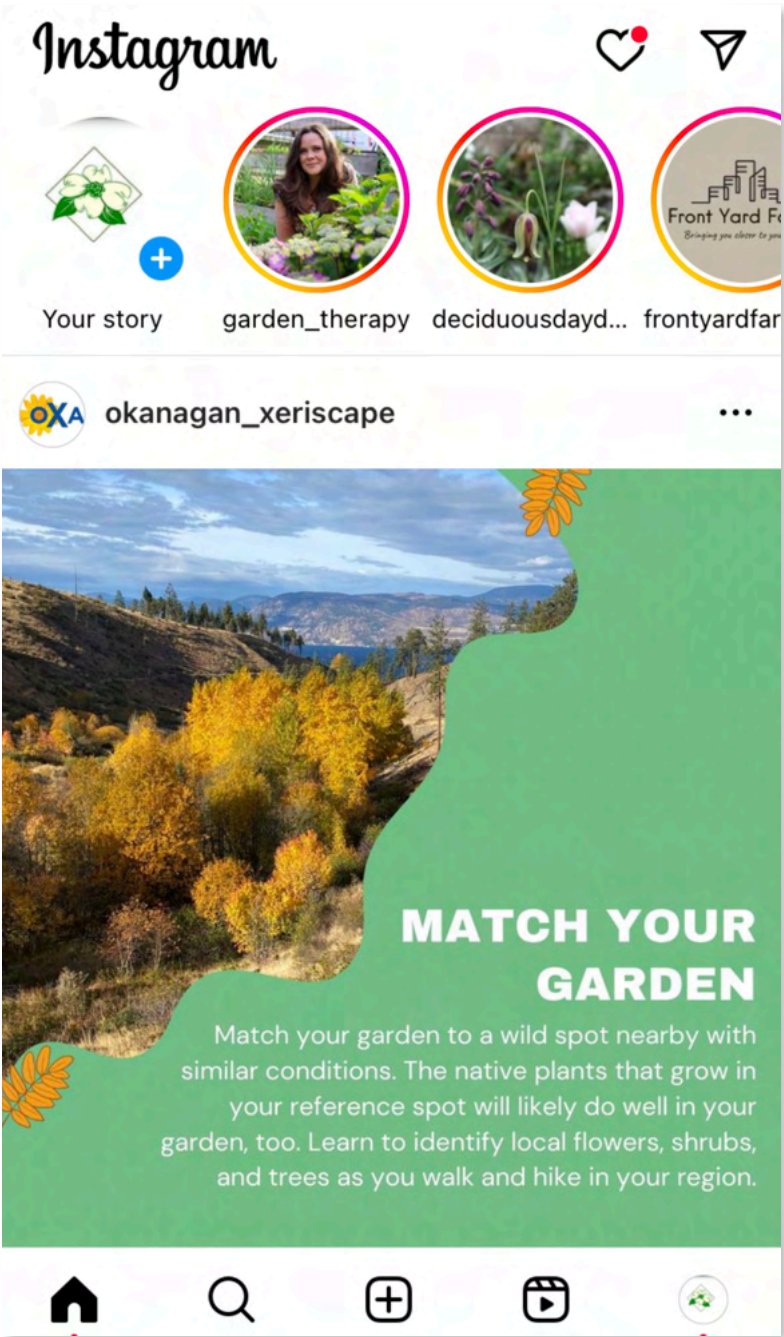
TAGGING THE GARDEN WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS, CONT'D

CANNING LIDS – Spent canning lids are also a good source of tag material. Drive a nail through one corner of a lid and tie a string through the hole.

VENETIAN BLINDS – Those slotted blinds made of either plastic or metal can be recycled with the slats used for labels. The hole where the cord goes through makes a convenient place to use as a tie. If the blinds are the wider and sturdier type, they can be staked in the ground. The thinner blinds make good shorter labels.

PLASTIC KNIVES – Save those plastic knives from restaurants and picnics. They make good pot labels with a broad blade to write the name on.





Thank you to Okanagan Xeriscape Association for their permission to use!

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.

Growers Delight
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BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

ABOUT ▾ DONATE GALLERY ▾ ROTARY COMMUNITY GARDEN MASTER GARDENER EVENTS ▾ MEMBERSHIP ▾ PG SEED LIBRARY

2024 Spring Plant Sale
Sunday, May 19th & Monday, May 20th 10:00am to 2:00pm!
UNBC Parking Lot A and DDBGS Compound
Annuals, perennials, flowers, vegetables, herbs, fruits, grasses, trees, shrubs, specialty plants, seeds, houseplants and much more.

Reminder! One of our most active areas in our website is the event section. Your community is looking for gardening events.

A gentle reminder from our webmaster, Frank Girard, is to submit your events for the year in order for him to manage your event entries on our website as soon as possible and in a timely manner. Plant sales will be our first events throughout the province as we move into spring.

It is easy to post an event on our website, www.bcgardenclubs.com/events.

Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs (CWAFAAC)



Canadian Western Association of Floral Art Clubs



World Association of Floral Artists Limited

SAVE THE DATE

"FANTASIA" AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Doors open from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Northwood United Church

8855 156 Street, Surrey

You are invited! We are so excited to be hosting this event and we want to share it with all of you!

Come and explore the world of flowers. What is floral design? This is the perfect opportunity to come and see for yourself the wonderful designs that are done by amateur floral artists.

There will be floral displays by member clubs and a judged Floral Art Show which you can enter. The show schedule can be found at www.cwafac.weebly.com.

There will also be a demonstration from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM by Susanne Law AIFD. Demonstration tickets are \$30.00 and can be purchased in advance by contacting Cindy Tataryn at ctataryn@telus.net.

If you belong to a garden club that also does flower arranging or an Ikebana group you are also invited to participate by having a non-judged display. To reserve space for your display please contact Cindy Tataryn at ctataryn@telus.net.

This event is open to public and the entrance to the floral displays and judged floral art show is by donation, cash or cheque only please. There will also be light refreshments available to purchase.



Canadian Western
Association of
Floral Art Clubs



World Association of
Floral Artists Limited

Floral Art Show “Fantasia”

and
Flower Festival

**Demonstration
by Susanne Law AIFD**

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

NORTHWOOD UNITED CHURCH

8855-156 STREET, SURREY

**Entrance to the Floral Art Show and the displays are
by donation - Cash or cheque only**

Tickets for the Demonstration are \$30

Available from Cindy Tataryn 604-585-6786 ctataryn@telus.net

Show Schedule available at: www.cwafac.weebly.com

PLAIN RINGLET BUTTERFLY

CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Plain ringlet, *Coenonympha tullia* (insulana subspecies)

Common ringlet, *Coenonympha*

Range: Ringlets in BC can be found locally in the Victoria and Duncan area, where it is common. It can also be found in the Nanaimo lowlands, and is found in specific locations. The northern ringlets occur in grass and alpine tundra habitats in northwestern BC.

Larval Food Plants: The larvae of the plain ringlet can be found on various grasses.

Adult Food Source: The adult ringlet has been found nectaring on fleabane (aster species).

Time of Flight: The plain ringlet can be seen in flight from April to July.

Life Cycle: All ringlets hibernate as larvae. The hibernating instar varies within as well as between populations.

Description:

Larvae: Larvae food plants are grasses, but whether specific grasses are chosen is unknown.

They are green with a yellow-green line down the side and a darker green line down the middle of their back.

Adult: Ringlets are small, grey-brown butterflies with eye spots, which can be reduced or absent.

Females have orange-brown areas on the upper side, and males have tints of orange-brown. In BC the common ringlet is tan or orange-brown in colour of both sexes. The name 'ringlet' refers to the small 'ringlets' or eye spots on the wings of most species. Ringlets are small white, orange-brown, or grey butterflies with the peculiar bouncing flight pattern.

Native Plant:

Grasses: Blue Wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*)

An attractive clumping grass with small blue-grey leaves. Ideal for planting under oak or Douglas fir, at dry meadow edges or on eroding banks.

It is an attractive bluish, tufted perennial usually forming small clumps about 1.5 m tall. It has fibrous roots or short rhizomes. The leaves are flat or slightly in-rolled, usually lax, hairless to roughened 5-12 mm wide. The nodes are exposed and often covered with dense short hairs.

The inflorescence is a spike which is erect and stiff about 5-21 cm long. There are usually two spikelets per node. It has a yellow flower in early summer.

This grass prefers open forest, both coniferous and deciduous, and dry to moist openings, rocky slopes, and clearings. It is common at low to middle elevations.

It is one of our tallest grasses in BC and provides forage for both domestic stock and wildlife.

Sources:

Butterflies and Butterfly Gardening in the Pacific Northwest, by Mary Kate Woodward (2005, Whitecap Books).

Native Plants in the Coastal Garden: A Guide for Gardeners in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest, by April Pettinger with Brenda Costanzo (2002, Whitecap Books).

Plants of Coastal British Columbia Including Washington, Oregon & Alaska, by Jim Polar & Andy Mackinnon (2014, BC Ministry of Forests, Partners Publishing and Lone Pine).

E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia [efauna.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.

E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the plants of British Columbia [eflora.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.



Common ringlet. Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Blue wildrye grass. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

**BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD APRIL 6, 2024, BONSOR RECREATIONAL COMPLEX, BURNABY
APPROVED MOTIONS**

Having reached a quorum at our 2024 Annual General Meeting, two motions were approved by the membership:

1. Motion to accept the agenda for April 6, 2024 Annual General Meeting. 1st by Susan Lilholt, South Delta Garden Club, 2nd by Victor Froese, Floral Artists of the Fraser Valley. Motion passed.
2. Motion to approve minutes from our 2023 Annual General Meeting. 1st by Martine Arnold, South Burnaby Garden Club, 2nd by Gail Hory, White Rock Garden Club. Motion passed.
3. Motion to approve election of officers (BCCGC Bylaws, Article 3 — Elections and Appointments of Officers, 4.). 1st by Janet Bennie, Gibsons Garden Club, 2nd by Lorna Cloutier, New Westminster Horticultural Society. Motion passed.
 - First Vice President - Cindy Tataryn
 - Treasurer - Ann Peters
 - Communications Coordinator - Lynda Pasacreta
 - Scholarship Fund Committee - Debbie Mellenger



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 April 15 for May 1**. Submissions/inquiries: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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Lorna Fraser | Past President

Cindy Tataryn | First Vice President

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Frank Girard | Website

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