



THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

JULY 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

O Canada! Our home and native land!

Five months into a different world with our neighbours to the south of us, we find ourselves flying the Canadian colours and supporting Canadian businesses.

How will the tariff situation affect the Canadian horticultural industry? Think of your local nurseries and garden stores. Supply chains for containers needed to hold plants and anything to move those plants to your local nurseries could be affected by the recent tariff implications. Plants that may have been sourced from the US may be an issue for significant increases in pricing.

This is a time to search out local nurseries that propagate many of their own plants and have a significant supply of BC native plants. Share that information with your garden club and community garden members.

Learn to propagate plants. When buying plants from a nursery, buy healthy, large plants that can easily establish themselves in your garden and will offer the opportunity to propagate and divide in future gardening seasons. Perennial plants (even perennial vegetables and fruits) make so much more financial sense now with the ability to create new plants in the following years.

Annual plants can be much cheaper but in most cases, last only one season. If you decide to purchase annual plants, choose self-seeders.

Compost everything. Make your own compost. Invite a compost specialist as a guest speaker to one of your monthly

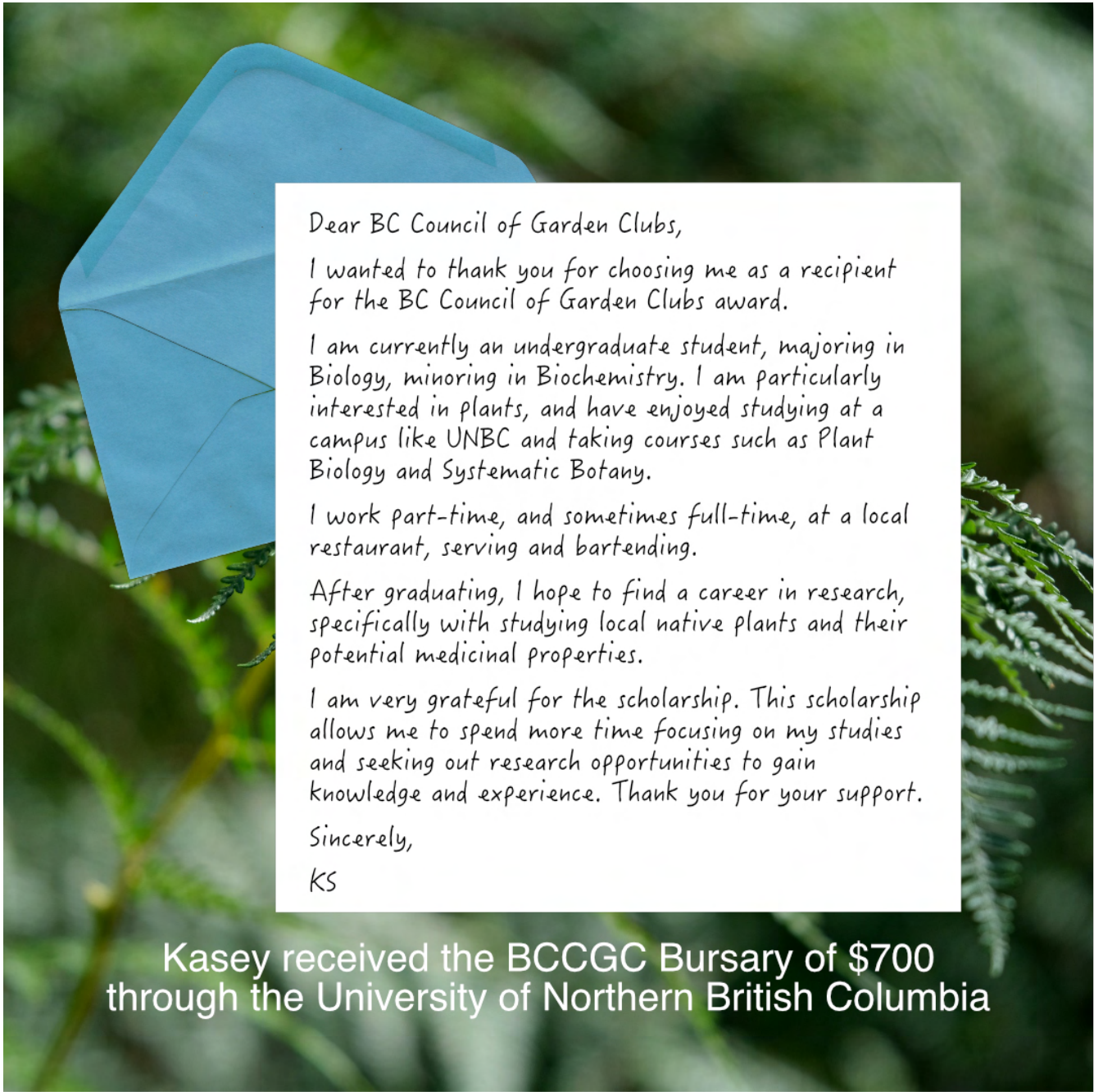
meetings. Compost should be applied regularly to garden beds and can even be used as potting soil — 2 parts compost, 2 parts coconut coir, other materials like perlite or vermiculite, and sand.

Plant from seed and save your seeds. Many garden clubs/ community gardens hold regular seed swaps of healthy seeds.

Save the pots from purchased plants for future use — growing seeds, propagating plants, and other uses.

So support your local nurseries, buy healthy plants, compost and mulch, conserve water, and show your true colours on Canada Day!





Dear BC Council of Garden Clubs,

I wanted to thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the BC Council of Garden Clubs award.

I am currently an undergraduate student, majoring in Biology, minoring in Biochemistry. I am particularly interested in plants, and have enjoyed studying at a campus like UNBC and taking courses such as Plant Biology and Systematic Botany.

I work part-time, and sometimes full-time, at a local restaurant, serving and bartending.

After graduating, I hope to find a career in research, specifically with studying local native plants and their potential medicinal properties.

I am very grateful for the scholarship. This scholarship allows me to spend more time focusing on my studies and seeking out research opportunities to gain knowledge and experience. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

KS

Kasey received the BCCGC Bursary of \$700 through the University of Northern British Columbia



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!

Only five more months to reach 100% of our goal. We can do it!

DONATE TODAY!



NATURAL GARDEN STAKING

LYNDA PASACRETA, RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Early summer growth is fast and rampant, everything taking off at once. One minute you feel you have control of your garden, the next minute wind is wreaking havoc with tall plants.

This is the time to get ahead and create some natural garden staking.

Many of our plants shot up so quickly, they did not have much time to develop lignin in their cell walls; lignin is a type of plant glue that creates rigidity. It is important to the development of tree bark and wood.

Richmond Garden Club continues to maintain over 40 garden beds in four acres of perennial flowers in Paulik Park.

We are in a rush right now to get many of our tall and magnificent plants staked to deal with winds and other storms that may come through during the season.

We have created many natural structures to support our taller plants.

Using blueberry bush prunings (from a field of old blueberry bushes planted in the 1930s on the property) we have woven the prunings into a beautiful wattle fence to hold up lighter and taller plants at the edge of the gardens.

Using large branches that have naturally fallen off of some older deciduous trees in the park

we have created several teepee-like structures to support rambling roses and other climbers.

A couple of fancy structures in the park created by our volunteers support showy climbers and attract photographers en masse.

We have also added gate-like structures along paths of asters, lady's mantle, and geraniums, allowing visitors to walk amongst the colourful borders without stepping on any plants.

Any of the old trees that fall in the park are cut up into rounds by the City of Richmond. These rounds are used as structures to support plants and our beneficial insects!

Next up we will create bug hugs. Using large branches we will create a tee-pee-like structure in areas that need some type of staking. Inside the teepee structure we will add layers of seed heads and garden debris, creating a lovely home for our bugs while supporting our long-legged plants!



Photos by Lynda Pasacreata



Photo by Alice Jensen-Stanley

FIRESMART PLANT PROGRAM

LIGHTLY ADAPTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BC FIRESMART PLANT PROGRAM

As more and more of our province deals with wildfire situations, it is timely to do some research on ways gardeners can help mitigate the spread of fires.

There is an excellent resource available online from the BC government — Emergency Management and Climate Readiness — <https://blog.gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagement/enhance-your-garden-and-safety-by-choosing-firesmart-plants/#:~:text=>. The FireSmart Plant program can offer plants that grow where you live.

If you are in an area that is prone to wildfires there are some basic steps you can take to make your property more resistant to fires, such as:

- Removing dead plants, branches, and leaves.
- Spacing out trees and plants.
- Reducing the number of places embers can collect — piles of leaves, conifer needles, dry garden debris.
- Choosing the right plants and where to plant them.

There is a list of plants available that are less prone to burn and contribute to the spread of wildfire.

The BC government has created a FireSmart Plant Program with a list of good choices to make for your residential garden.

The list includes plants that grow well in your community, are drought-resistant, and attract beneficial insects.

Before visiting your local garden centre or nursery there is an excellent resource (<https://firesmartbc.ca/landscaping-hub/fire-resistant-plants/>) for trees and plants to add to your garden based on your gardening zone. The site also advises which plants that are extremely flammable to avoid. There is also a list of garden stores and nurseries that support the FireSmart Plant program. When visiting the stores look for the FireSmart Plant Program plant tag.

Immediate attention to our landscape can involve keeping our grass cut below 10 cm and well hydrated (following your local water restrictions). Be aware of coniferous trees that are too close to your home — they should be at least 10 metres away. And finally, use this valuable resource from the BC government to determine your property's ignition zones.

Have a safe summer everyone!

Photo by firesmartbc.ca



Baptisia australis, commonly known as blue wild indigo or blue false indigo, stands as one of North America's most striking native perennials. This robust member of the legume family (Fabaceae) has earned its place in gardens and natural landscapes alike, offering both ornamental beauty and ecological value.

Native to the eastern and central United States, blue wild indigo thrives in prairies, open woodlands, and disturbed soils from Pennsylvania south to Georgia and west to Texas and Nebraska. The plant's natural habitat preference for well-drained, slightly alkaline soils makes it an excellent choice for challenging garden conditions where other perennials struggle.

The most distinctive feature of *Baptisia australis* is its spectacular spring flower display. From late April through June, depending on location, the plant produces tall racemes of deep blue, pea-like flowers that can reach 12 inches in length. These blooms emerge from sturdy stems that can grow 3 to 4 feet tall, creating an impressive vertical accent in the landscape. The flowers give way to distinctive inflated seed pods that turn charcoal black when mature, providing winter interest and rattling in the breeze.

Beyond its flowers, blue wild indigo offers attractive blue-green foliage composed of three-leaflet compound leaves. The plant forms a substantial clump over time, with a deep taproot that can extend several feet into the soil. This extensive root system,

characteristic of many native prairie plants, makes established specimens extremely drought tolerant and long-lived, though it also means the plant site should be considered carefully.

From an ecological perspective, *Baptisia australis* provides significant benefits to native wildlife. The flowers attract various pollinators, including native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. The plant serves as a host for several butterfly species, including the wild indigo duskywing and orange sulfur butterflies, whose larvae feed on the foliage.

Gardeners appreciate blue wild indigo for its low maintenance requirements once established. The plant tolerates drought, deer browsing, and various soil conditions, though it performs best in full sun to partial shade. Its slow establishment period, typically taking two to three years to reach maturity, requires patience but rewards gardeners with decades of reliable performance.

In landscape design, *Baptisia australis* works beautifully in prairie gardens, perennial borders, and naturalized areas. Its architectural form and seasonal interest make it an excellent backbone plant, while its nitrogen-fixing ability improves soil quality for neighboring plants. This remarkable native perennial should be more widely planted.



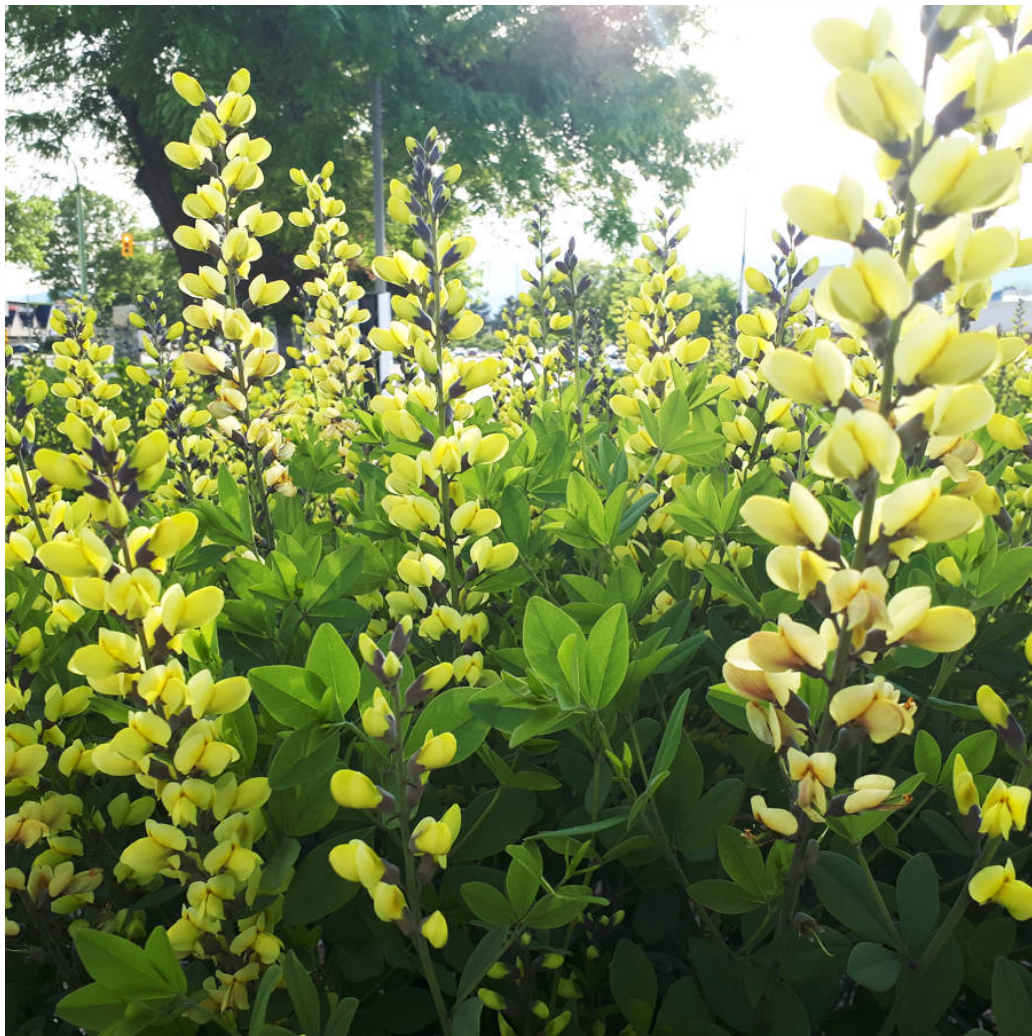
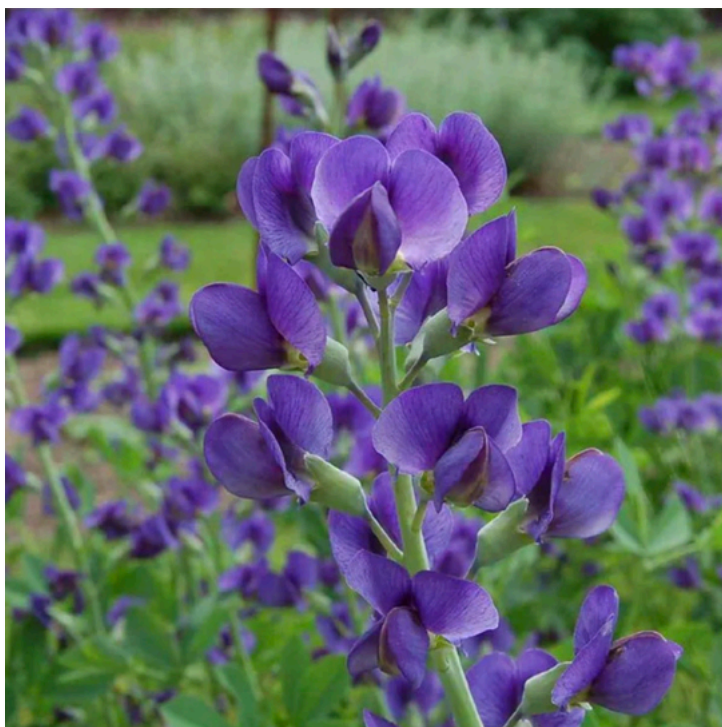


Photo Credits:

Baptisia australis 'Pink Lemonade' photo
by Sigrie Kendrick (OXA)

Baptisia australis photo by Tim Waters
(Kentucky Native Plant Society)



Sooke Garden Club plant sale. Photo by Lonnie Chekerda.



Gorge Park Community Garden Plant Sale. Photo by a member of the community garden.



North American Lily Society (NALS) Show and Symposium July 9 to 13, 2025 Sidney BC

The Victoria Lily Society is hosting the 75th International North American Lily Society (NALS) Show and Symposium July 9 to 13, 2025 at the [Mary Winspear Centre](#) in Sidney BC. The show, plant sale, and Saturday guest speaker segments are open to the public as follows.

- The show is Friday 1:00 to 5:00 pm, Saturday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Admission is by donation.
- The plant sale is Saturday from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm and features potted lilies, and some local specialty growers will be selling a variety of plants. On Sunday, at 3:15 pm (show ends at 3:00 pm) a limited number of cut lily stems from the show will be for sale.
- The guest speaker presentations are on Saturday starting at 1:30 pm with Dr. Colin Tamboline speaking about "Lilies – Summer Splendor". At 2:45 pm Ms. Barrie Agar will speak about "Stalwarts In The Perennial Garden - A Personal And Subjective Look At Top Performers In Perennial And Mixed Gardens". The cost for both sessions is \$5.00, and tickets are available at the show desk.

For more details, please visit the NALS 2025 website at <https://nals2025.lilies.org/index.html>.



The poster features a blue background with a white lily flower in the upper right corner. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event title and dates at the top, followed by the location and hours. A list of event highlights is provided in the middle, and the bottom section includes logos for the organizing societies and the website information.

75th Annual International Lily Show

July 11 – 13
Mary Winspear Centre
2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC
Friday 1:00 - 5:00 / Saturday 9:30 - 5:00 / Sunday 9:30 - 3:00

Judged exhibits
Admission by donation
Wheelchair accessible
Lots of Free Parking

Lily and Plant Sale
Local Specialty Growers
Saturday 9:30 – 3:30

Lily Stem Sale
Sunday 3:15

nals2025.lilies.org

Presented by The Victoria Lily Society & North American Lily Society



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 July 15 for August 1**. Submissions/inquiries: newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

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