

GARDENWORKS™

GARDENNOTES

Issue #84 • Early Spring 2010 • An Information Newsletter For Valued Customers

Garden Clinics & Events

FOR ALL AGES

Small Space Design
Scent First Pinks
Dahlias

EASY
Veggies
from Seed

GARDEN
AGENDA
for early spring



We have everything to make your garden work. We take pride in the quality plants and products we sell. GARDENWORKS guarantees success in your garden.

www.gardenworks.ca

Free Garden Clinics

For more details on the following clinics, please visit our website at www.gardenworks.ca and click on the "customer clinics" tab, or phone the specific location.

STOREWIDE

Held at all seven locations on the following Sundays starting at 1 p.m.

- Early Season Vegetable Gardening** March 28
- Choosing & Growing Blueberries** April 11
- Building your own Moss Baskets** April 18
- Gardening with Native Plants** April 25
- Vegetables and Fruit for Containers** May 2

AT OUR LOUGHEED LOCATION

Held on the following Saturdays at 1 p.m.

- Seed-Starting Indoors** March 27
- 100-Mile Diet Begins in Your Backyard** April 3
- Vegetables: Asian & American** April 10
- Gardening with Children** April 17
- Edible Landscaping Incorporating Fruits & Vegetables with Ornamentals** April 24
- Permanently Productive Vegetable Gardening** May 1
- Herbs in Baskets, Boxes & Gardens** May 8

AT OUR MANDEVILLE LOCATION

Held on the following Saturdays at 1 p.m.

- Lawn Care & Chafer Grub Repair** March 13
- Dazzling Dahlias & Other Spectacular Summer Bulbs** March 27
- Planning the Patio Garden: Growing Veggies in Small & Shady Spaces** April 3
- Fabulous Fruit Trees** April 10
- Pond Care 101** April 17
- Native Shrubs & Perennials in the Landscape** April 24
- "Healthy Gardens" the Saga Continues!** May 1

AT OUR CAPILANO LOCATION

Held on the following days at 1 p.m.

- Small Space Veggie Gardening** Saturday, March 27
- Growing Prize Vegetables** Saturday, April 3
- Growing Prize Vegetables** Sunday, April 4
- Growing Prize Vegetables** Saturday, April 17
- Growing Apples and Other Fruit Trees on the North Shore** Saturday, April 24
- Planning Your Winter Vegetable Garden** Saturday, May 8



Dear Gardeners

A LETTER FROM JOHN

It's amazing, but another wonderful spring is just around the corner. At the time I am writing this, the weather is very warm and wet – a far cry from all the cold and snow of the winter of 2009! The excitement of the Olympics has passed – but I will never forget my Olympic experience of carrying the Olympic torch in Port Alberni on November 1. What better way to prevent the letdown than to spend some enjoyable time in the garden. Daylight Savings Time starts next week, allowing more time to venture outside after a day at work and see how Mother Nature is beginning to awaken plants in the garden and in containers on your patio.

We've been very busy in our garden centres over the past two months, doing the usual fix-up and painting, but more importantly accepting shipments of "everything you'll need to make your garden work"! There is an excellent selection, including seed displays full of many new varieties, especially more vegetables; packaged perennial roots or perennials in small pots; fruit trees and early-blooming shrubs; and tools, fertilizers, soil amendments, ceramic planters, willow trellises and arbours. It is all ready for you to browse through and find all you require to make your gardening easy and complete.

We continue to help visitors to our garden centres find solutions to garden problems with organic and natural products; we also assist customers who wish to find replacements for plants that have been identified as invasive in our British Columbia landscape. Increasing numbers of alternative products and plants are available, and our garden experts on staff are ready to show you how easy it is to work with them. Keep in mind that we're here all year long to provide solutions, regardless of the season.

This summer marks a significant transition at **GARDENWORKS**. I will be retiring and my partners Bruce Meyers, Leanne Johnson, Scott Pearce and Peter Fitzmaurice – who have worked with me for a combined total of 67 years – will be assuming full responsibility for operating our business. I may still work on a seasonal basis in the future, but after 25 springs, this will be my last. My partners have the same passion for the garden centre business and many of the successes we have enjoyed over the years can be attributed to their work in all aspects of the company. You will be in good hands!

I look forward to seeing you in our garden centres this spring.
Good luck in your gardens!

John Zaplatynsky,
President, **GARDENWORKS**

Hands-On Workshops for Adults

AT OUR LOUGHEED LOCATION

Pre-registration required. For more information or to register, please call (604) 299-0621 or e-mail croberts@gardenworks.ca. Registration deadline is one week prior to class date. There is a \$10 non-refundable registration fee. You'll receive a 10% discount on purchases made on your class day. Class prices are approximate, as you only pay for the supplies you use. **Free registration for Ardent Gardener Members.**

Spring Containers Bring in your baskets or containers or pick some up here, and we will help you create something that says spring! Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. Supplies: \$20 and up.

Herbs in Baskets or Boxes Pot up some herbs and flowers to delight both your taste buds and your eyes. Thursday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. Supplies: \$20 and up.

Hanging Baskets Fill ceramic, plastic or coir baskets with colour all spring and summer. Bring your own containers or purchase them here. Thursday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. Supplies: \$25 and up.

Moss Baskets Bring in your baskets or purchase them here and fill them with sun-or shade-loving plants or a combination of both. Thursday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. Supplies: \$50 and up.

Strawberry Pots Fill pots with strawberries, herbs or a mixture of both; these are great space savers on balconies and patios! Thursday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. Supplies: with your pot, \$35 and up; with our pot, \$75 and up.

Summer Vignette Plant three stunning containers of perennials and annuals for sun or shade. Bring your own containers or choose from ours. Thursday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. Supplies: \$50 and up.

AT OUR MANDEVILLE LOCATION

There is a \$10 registration fee plus the cost of materials for each workshop. **Free registration for Ardent Gardener Members** (excluding materials). Pre-registration is required. For more information please call (604) 434-4111.

Summer Bulbs, for Three Season Beauty Plant a container with bulbs and annuals to bring beauty to your patio now through to fall. Saturday, March 13, at 11 a.m.

Easter Basket Surprise Work with our talented floral designers to design a cut flower Easter Basket for your holiday table. Saturday, April 3, at 11 a.m.

Culinary Herb Gardens Choose a theme - Italian, Mexican or Asian - and plant up a container of fresh summer seasonings. Saturday, May 1, at 11 a.m.

Garden Buds Workshops for Kids

AT OUR LOUGHEED LOCATION

Pre-registration is required. Call (604) 299-0621 or e-mail croberts@gardenworks.ca. Registration deadline is one week prior to class date. Parent participation is required. For more details on the workshops visit our website or our store.

Adopt an Herb Paint a pot and learn about herbs. Choose your favourite herb to plant up and take home to grow and eat! \$6 Thursday, March 11, at 1:00 p.m.

Leprechaun Pot Pal Create a cute little leprechaun! Plant a shamrock in another pot to keep him company. \$8. Friday, March 12, at 1:00 p.m.

Fairy Garden Put your imagination to work and create a mini garden. It will look great in your room or in a sheltered spot under a tree. \$15. Friday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Bag-O-Spuds Grow a whole lot of potatoes in your bag. Fingerling or Yukon Gold, maybe even blue potatoes if we are lucky. \$8. Friday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Basket Plant up some succulents called hens and chicks, and then add some moss and a few pretend chicks as well. \$12. Thursday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Peter Rabbit's Garden What does Peter Rabbit like to grow in his garden? Plant up one of his favourites in a pot you have painted. \$6. Friday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Fairy Berries Paint a pot and plant some alpine strawberries in it; these tiny flavourful berries are the fairies' favourite! \$6. Friday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Mother's Day Gift Paint and plant a special gift for Mom. We don't want to say any more or it will ruin your surprise! \$15. Friday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m.

AT OUR SAANICH LOCATION

Suitable for children ages 4 & up. Pre-registration required as space is limited. Children participate hands-on with a garden-related project that is fun, educational and culminates in a finished project to take home. Parent participation is required. For more information or to register your child, please call 250-721-2140 or e-mail animmo@gardenworks.ca.

A Spring Doorstep Garden Sunday, March 21, at 11 a.m or 1 p.m

Spring in a Bottle Sunday, April 18 at 11 a.m

Hummer Feeder Sunday, May 9, at 11 a.m or 1 p.m

GARDENWORKS Backyard Buzz

AT OUR LOUGHEED LOCATION

It's NEW! Meet us each week at the Garden Supplies Desk in the Lougheed location. We will pick a timely topic to discuss. You are welcome to drop by, pick up handouts and ask questions.

It's a chance for you to listen, lend a suggestion and learn from our staff and fellow gardeners. These sessions will be held every Sunday from March 14 to June 20 at 2 p.m.

Tea with Victor

Free Clinics for Seniors

AT OUR LOUGHEED LOCATION

Free seminars for seniors, 9:30 to 11:00 on Wednesday mornings at the Burnaby Lougheed location only. Pre-registration is required as space is limited; call 604 299 0621.

Birds & Bees March 10

St. Pat's Special March 17

Indoor Seed Starting March 24

Roses Made Easy March 31

Spring Containers April 7

Lawn Care April 14

Meditation & Healing Gardens
April 21

Strawberry Pots April 28

Hanging Baskets May 5



Dahlias

By Peter Fitzmaurice, **GARDENWORKS**
Hard Goods Merchandise Manager

Dahlias are one of the most rewarding of all the “bulbs” available to plant in the spring. Not only do they provide colour for the entire summer, but they also make a great cut flower that last for ages in water. (Note that we use the term “bulb” very loosely in the gardening trade, as Dahlia is in fact a tuber, like a potato, and not a bulb at all – just as *Gladiolus* is a corn, although we also call it a bulb.)

Dahlias require a well-drained location, sufficient nutrients, regular watering and at least a half day of sun. I always suggest a generous application of well-rotted compost, a handful of 6-8-6 and a handful of bone meal to encourage a strong root system.

The most popular dahlias by far are the striking and dramatic “dinner plate” and “decorative” varieties, which produce blooms that are on average 20 cm (8 in.) in diameter on an established plant. Given the right growing conditions, these plants grow rapidly to around a metre (3 ft.) in height in a relatively short period of time.

Dahlias to look for are the striking bronze-leaved varieties; the **Bishop series** (bishops of **Llandaff**, **Canterbury**, **Dover**, **Oxford** and **York**); and the **City series** (cities of **Alkmaar**, **Leiden** and **Rotterdam**). These dahlias all have deep bronze foliage with vivid blooms in pinks, reds and oranges.

Also watch for the new ‘**Purple Taiheijo**’, a stunning purple, frilled, dinner plate dahlia; ‘**Santa Claus**’, a red and white decorative; and ‘**Otto’s Thrill**’, a glowing medium pink dinner plate variety, to name but a few.



Tips for Small-Space Designing

By Audrie Vander Werf, CLD.,
GARDENWORKS Landscape Division Manager

It’s all relative. How many times, in how many different circumstances, have we heard that term? It can apply to everything from colour matching to reunions! Crocodile Dundee knew size mattered when his 12-inch blade outmatched his attacker’s 2-inch army knife, lending him the now famous line: “That’s not a knife... THIS is a knife.” Indeed, my first thought when asked to write about small-space gardening was: How small is small?

Having quite a travel history, I have had the pleasure of being in gardens of all shapes, sizes and zones. I compliment Greater Vancouver on its diversity. Hardly a street can be found with two homes exactly alike, making it appetizing for any landscape designer. It’s often impossible to predict the size of a backyard by its front, and what is small and unusable to some people is a smorgasbord to me. Wall here, level it out there, patio here, screen that, gurgler definitely here!

Okay there is a little more to designing small spaces than that, and here are a few principles that relate almost exclusively to the space-challenged area:

Colour: Relate the colours used in the garden to the house/ patio or maybe even the interior, since there is often little room for transition in small spaces.

Space and Proportion: Go vertical. Often owners of small plots ask for new plants to be a maximum of 90 cm (3 ft.). Great...if you are going for a miniature village theme; otherwise, make use of the air above! There are some fantastic plants that can provide interest, privacy and conversation! *Cedrus atlantica* ‘Fastigiata’, or its weeping cousin, are fine examples. Not into blue? Try *Carpinus betulus* ‘Fastigiata’, *Magnolia* ‘Little Gem’ or *Fagus sylvatica* ‘Dawyck Purple’ for unbeatable seasonal colour.

Lines: This one has a “depends” attached to it, but generally speaking rectilinear lines, or line and tangent, fare better than curves in the small garden. Curves in a large garden lead the eye out and around the beds, plant- and element- hopping to the focal point. This is too busy for a small space.

Speaking of Elements: Your chosen features (containers, statuary, screens, rockery/water feature) must work harder, coordinating with colour, lines and proportions, since you can see them all from one spot. Your design must be flawless if you need to include sheds, hedges and any whimsical items that would be in the background in large settings.

Well-designed and -built privacy screens and pergolas offer architectural strength and definition, completing the look to make your space functional and fantastic.

If you need help with the menu for your garden smorgasbord, we offer various types of design sessions. Visit www.gardenworks.ca and check us out under the Landscape Design heading, or call 604-629-1419 on the Lower Mainland, and 250-721-2140 on the island.

Garden Agenda

for early spring



By Alan R. Reid, Ph.D., **GARDENWORKS** Botanist and Horticulturist

If you think back, you realize what a difference a year makes. Last year we were wondering if the snow would ever be over and what damage it would leave behind. On the south coast this year we were blessed with warm wet weather at the beginning of the year - but hang on a minute, that kind of weather can be tricky. Long spells without much frost can tempt you to get out into the garden and start to plant, prune and fertilize. It's best to hang back and let the garden tell you when it should be done.

Bedding Plants So when can we safely plant out our bedding plants? It's difficult to estimate when our last frost will occur, but there is great early colour for our gardens arriving right now. Use primulas, pansies, ranunculus and hellebores to give life to that special corner. Mid-May is a safe time to plant out tender summer annuals such as petunias, impatiens and marigolds.

Perennials Spring is an excellent time to plant perennials, but be sure to consider the whole year when you shop. It's easy to become over-enthusiastic with all the beautiful perennials that are blooming at this time of year, so remember to leave some space for a summer and autumn show later on.

Feed the soil and it will feed the plant. Amend the soil around perennials by digging in compost or well-rotted manure and raking it in gently. Sprinkle **GARDENWORKS** 6-8-6 All Purpose Fertilizer around each plant, or choose from our selection of organic amendments such as Sea Soil or Keefer's West Coast Soil Energizer.

Bulbs March and April is the time to check out our selection of perennial and annual bulbs, roots and tubers. Many of them can be planted in April, but others, such as dahlias and gladiolas, should be planted in May, so be sure to read the information on the tag carefully before planting.

Pruning If your first question is how do I prune this and how much, please put down the pruners and sit for a while. Pruning is often a frustration for gardeners. The major rule is to use the 3 D's: if branches are diseased, damaged or deformed, they should be pruned. But the specifics of how to prune vary from plant to plant. Some, such as roses, are pruned to encourage new growth and flowering. Prune spring-flowering shrubs, such as *Forsythia*, *Philadelphus*, *Osmanthus*, *Ribes* and *Weigela* just after they have finished flowering. Cut the oldest one-third of the branches to the ground, leaving new ones to produce lots of flowers next spring. Others need to be pruned for shape or to let in more light. If you're in doubt about how to prune a particular plant, drop by or call your local **GARDENWORKS**.

Fertilizing Feed rhododendrons and azaleas with **GARDENWORKS** 4-12-20 fertilizer four times a year: once before flowering, once right after, six weeks after that and another six weeks after that. Usually it works out to every March, May, July and September. These feedings supply enough nourishment for the entire year and will increase next year's show and the overall health of the plants. The same is true for camellias. Summer-flowering shrubs, such as *Hibiscus*, *Buddleia*, *Caryopteris* and *Potentilla*, should be fertilized now to encourage strong branching and many flower buds. Amend the soil around each shrub with a top-dressing of compost or mushroom manure and fertilize with **GARDENWORKS** 6-8-6 All Purpose Fertilizer.

Lawn Care Get your lawn into shape in late March or early April. For established lawns, it's beneficial to first tackle any moss problems. Lime with a granular lime such as Dolopril, wait 2 weeks, then apply **GARDENWORKS** Moss Control 14-4-8 to the lawn. After 2 or 3 days, when the moss turns brown, it's time to de-thatch to remove the dead moss. Next, top-dress the area with sand or topsoil with at least 30% sand content to even out the bumps and lumps. Sand helps break up soil compaction and promotes rooting. Overseed with a grass seed that is appropriate to your area, such as **GARDENWORKS** Rapid Patch (100% perennial rye grass) or **GARDENWORKS** Shady Lawn Blend for those shady areas. The overseeding should be repeated three weeks later in order to replace any lost seed.

March 20 & 21 is our Annual Garden Planning & Preparation Weekend

It is the season kick-off event in all our garden centres! We have been hosting this activity-filled weekend for seven years as a way to help gardeners get started on a beautiful floral display or a bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables.

Each location will feature local garden clubs, community organizations, presentations by **GARDENWORKS** experts, and many more activities.

Check our website for more details and specific activities at the **GARDENWORKS** closest to you!

– www.gardenworks.ca –



Easy Vegetables *to grow from seed*

By Alan R. Reid, Ph.D.,
GARDENWORKS Botanist & Horticulturist

We hear a lot of talk these days about how good vegetables and fruit are for us. Health Canada recommends approximately eight servings each day. You can buy produce at the supermarket, but growing your own can help the budget and provide a lot of enjoyment - not to mention healthy outdoor exercise.

First you will have to look at the space available and determine the soil conditions and amount of light the area gets. Most crops will benefit from a soil amendment such as Sea Soil or West Coast Soil Energizer; lightly sprinkle it over the area and gently mix it into the top 5 to 10 cm (2 to 4 in.) of the soil. Space may be at a premium but you can always use pots, planter boxes and raised beds to get the required area for planting. If you're growing in small garden plots or containers, be on the lookout for key words, such as bush, compact and space saver.

The vegetables you can grow in a container are limited only by the size of the container and your imagination. How about a summer salad container? Plant a tomato, a cucumber and some parsley or chives in a large (60 to 75 cm/24- to 30-in.) container. They grow well together and have the same water and sun requirements. Try to position your vegetable bed in an area that gets about 5 to 7 hours of good quality light...that is, bright, uninterrupted light but not blazing hot sunlight.

The following is a list of easy-to-grow vegetables and their recommended cultivars that grow well in most any garden. These will take a minimum amount of space and are relatively disease free.

Carrots A great source of Vitamin C that can be grown anywhere. Plant seeds several times throughout the growing season, early spring into fall, for a continuous harvest. Soil should be loose, sandy and deep. For even easier planting, these seeds now come in a seed tape. Just cut off a length of the tape and watch the seeds germinate in nice straight rows. You may need to protect carrots from the carrot rust fly by draping Reemay cloth over the planted row. This allows sun and water to penetrate but not that nasty fly. **Cultivars to try:** Nantes, Chantenay, Touchon, Fly Away, Thumbelina. **Space needed*:** 1 sq. m (3 sq. ft.) or a window box 60 x 20 x 15 cm (24 x 8 x 6 in.)

Spinach Spinach prefers cooler climates, so it is ideal to plant in early spring or autumn (check the variety on the seed packet). Like chard, leaves can be picked off and the plant will just keep on growing. The slugs and caterpillars will have a gentle nibble at it but largely leave it alone. You can plant it directly into the soil and thin out the seedlings when they come up. **Cultivars to try:** Tye, New Zealand. **Space needed*:** 1 sq. m (3 sq. ft.) or a window box 60 x 20 x 15 cm (24 x 8 x 6 in.)

Lettuce Lettuce is easily grown and can be planted throughout the growing season. My personal favourite is Tom Thumb, as they can be picked very soon after sowing and their size is suitable for a single portion. The main problem with lettuce is that slugs and snails love the leafy greens and can destroy your whole crop. Eco-friendly slug pellets are one of the few chemicals that I would use on a garden. An alternative slug barrier is to use copper strips. These strips prevent the slug crossing into the planted area. Plant seeds as soon as the soil can be worked in spring, when the frost has passed and the days are getting warmer, but protect plants from hot weather. Water lettuce in the morning as it reduces the possibility of diseases. **Cultivars to try:** Black Seeded Simpson, Buttercrunch, Nevada Mesclun mix. **Space needed*:** 1 sq. m (3 sq. ft.) or a window box 60 x 20 x 15 cm (24 x 8 x 6 in.)

Radish Radish was the first vegetable that I ever grew as a kid. These are a must on your list of starter vegetables and have a big advantage in that they come up quite quickly. They have a nice spicy tang and are best eaten on their own. Sow seeds during the short, cool days of spring. They prefer a damper or colder climate and need very little maintenance - simply thin them out sufficiently to ensure there is enough space for the bulbs to develop. **Cultivars to try:** Cherry Belle, White Icicle, Scarlet Globe. **Space needed*:** 30 sq. cm (12 sq. in.) or small 15 to 30 cm (6- to 12-in.) pots

Green Beans Plant these seeds after the danger of frost is over. Bush bean types are easier to manage, but pole bean types are more productive in an equal space (because they're taller!). Experiment with growing pole beans over arches, creating a tunnel of runner beans through which the children can walk, or make a bean teepee! Beans grow well here in the Lower Mainland and don't forget the young growing tips or tendrils can be eaten in a fresh salad! **Cultivars to try:** Blue Lake, Contender, Kentucky Wonder. **Space needed*:** 1 sq. m (3 sq. ft.)

So what are you waiting for? A beautiful summer salad awaits. All you have to do is grow it.

* Space needed is an estimate for a household of 2 people with a medium appetite.



Book your Birthday Blossoms Cherry Tree Early & Save

As a proud sponsor of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival 2011 community tree-planting initiative, **GARDENWORKS** is delighted to offer you the special opportunity to reserve your ornamental cherry tree.

The David and Dorothy Lam Foundation and the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival are offering you participation in beautifying our city in time for Vancouver's 125th Birthday on April 6, 2011. Get involved in planting these 3,000 cherry trees all over the city on private property, school grounds and company lawns, adding to the blossoming beauty that is Vancouver. To quote our Blossom Benefactor, the Honourable Dr. David C. Lam's belief, "the cherry tree brings joy; one's enjoyment of it brings invisible wealth."

An ornamental cherry tree (Akebono, Kwanzan, or Pendula) is yours for only \$30 (valued upwards of \$75), which will help support the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, a charitable non-profit society dedicated to the education, celebration and preservation of the 36,000 cherry trees that help make our city unique, attracting admirers from around the world.

As supplies are limited, reserve your flowering cherry tree online at the Festival's website at www.vcbf.ca this month to avoid disappointment. The trees are growing beautifully now in the nursery and will be available for pick up from **GARDENWORKS** next April 2011.

For more information on how to order your cherry tree, the various cultivars for adoption, how to prepare for your new cherry, planting and care instructions, please visit www.vcbf.ca, phone 604-257-8120 or mail a cheque payable to **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** for \$30.00 (plus \$3.50 PST & GST) to:

Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival
C/O VanDusen Botanical Garden
5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, B.C.
V6M 4H1

If paying by cheque, please indicate the **GARDENWORKS** location where you will pick up your Cherry Tree:

- **GARDENWORKS** at Mandeville
 - North Burnaby/Lougheed
 - North Vancouver, Capilano



Birthday Blossoms

VANCOUVER 125
CELEBRATING OUR PAST
PLANTING OUR FUTURE

Put Scent First

Exquisitely scented perennials

By Scott Pearce, **GARDENWORKS** Green Goods
Merchandise Manager

If you've ever leaned over to smell a particularly pretty blossom, only to be disappointed by a lack of fragrance, you'll be pleased to learn of a new series of exquisitely scented perennials, the **Scent First Series** of Dianthus.

Dianthus are commonly referred to as "pinks," so it will come as no surprise that the Scent First pinks were developed in England by Whetman Pinks, a specialty nursery located in Devon, nestled in one of the picturesque valleys surrounding Dawlish. Growing dianthus since 1936, the Whetman family knows a thing or two about pinks, and has introduced many varieties.

Dianthus in the **Scent First Series** are naturally compact, producing semi-double to double flowers that rise above tufted evergreen foliage to offer delicious, marvelously sweet fragrances with a hint of spiciness. Blooms appear early in the season and if spent blooms are removed, plants will continue to bloom until fall. Their compact growth and repeat blooming nature make them great perennials for patio planters and window boxes! Three varieties have made their way across the pond this year:

'**Tickled Pink**', a Royal Horticultural Society award winner, is very floriferous, producing richly scented, deep lavender blooms. (*top photo*)

'**Candy Floss**' features sugar pink flowers with a sweet perfume. (*middle photo*)

'**Passion**' is aptly named, with rich, velvety red rosettes and an evocative fragrance. (*bottom photo*)

Dianthus prefer full sun and well-drained soil. The dianthus in the First Scent Series all grow to about 15 cm (6 in.) tall, with flowers slightly higher than the tufts of foliage.

Although these are the only 3 varieties available this year, there are 12 varieties in the series. We're hoping to see more of them in years to come, but you can be sure that we're not holding our breath – we want to be able to enjoy that exquisite fragrance!

Garden Note: The common name "pinks" does not refer to colour, but to the frilled edges of the flower petals, which appear as though they have been trimmed with a pair of pinking shears.



Great Garden Accents

By Michelle Tornai, **GARDENWORKS** Visual Merchandise Manager

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, I look forward to one of my favourite things: dining alfresco with friends and family. The beautiful blooms and delicate fragrances of spring provide the perfect setting for entertaining outdoors, and to maximize the experience, we've found some great new products to help create a small piece of paradise in your own backyard.

First the lighting: candles are a "must have" as the evening sky transforms to darkness. We found the best romantic lighting comes from LED battery-operated candles. These candles are made of wax on the outside and the light flickers, creating a very authentic, flame-like feel – all available at the touch of a remote-control button.

Next on the list: works of art. We've found some whimsical sun faces that are moulded from concrete and have metal rays, which makes them durable for the outdoors. They are handcrafted and each has a different personality and story to tell – from the wide-open smile of "little grin", to "mischievous wink" (*photo right*), to the wind-blown rays of "sweetie" that create a feeling of movement in the landscape. They're a great way to bring smiles and laughter into the garden.

Another find was a safari-style sunhat that has a cooling channel. Immerse the hat in water for 5 minutes, and it keeps you cool while you're out in the garden. The oversized brim gives you maximum protection from the sun, and the adjustable drawcord keeps the hat snug on your head for those windy days. Functional, yet very stylish – just what I like.

Take time to enjoy your garden this spring. Add ambiance and delight with these innovative garden ornaments, and stay cool and chic in your new sunhat!



garden accents

GARDENWORKS Seven great garden centres serving you in B.C.

**NORTH BURNABY
HEAD OFFICE**
6250 Lougheed Highway
Burnaby V5B 2Z9
(604)299-0621

**NORTH VANCOUVER
EDGEMONT**
3147 Woodbine Drive
North Vancouver V7R 2S3
(604)980-6340

**NORTH VANCOUVER
CAPILANO**
705 West 3rd Street
North Vancouver V7M 3E3
(604)988-8082

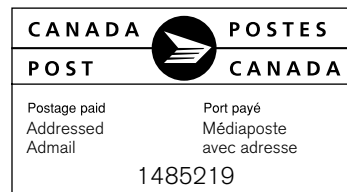
MANDEVILLE
4746 Marine Drive
Burnaby V5J 3G6
(604)434-4111

SAANICH
4290 Blenkinsop Road
Victoria V8X 2C4
(250)721-2140

OAK BAY
1916 Oak Bay Avenue
Victoria V8R 1C7
(250)595-4200

COLWOOD
1859 Island Highway
Colwood V8B 1J3
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