

GARDENWORKS™

GARDENNOTES™

Issue #76 • Late Spring 2007 • An Information Newsletter For Valued Customers

Gardening in Full Bloom...

- double your fun with trailing annuals
- garden agenda
- container gardening
- gifts for gardeners and more...



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.

• visit us online at www.gardenworks.ca •

Dear Gardeners...



A LETTER FROM JOHN

We are right at the beginning of the busiest time of the gardening calendar – for you in your gardens and for us in our garden centres!

By the end of April, almost every area of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island has seen the last “frost day,” so it’s safe to begin planting many annuals, especially those like snapdragons and sweet peas that don’t mind cooler weather. I’d wait a little longer for more tender, heat-loving annuals, such as marigolds, portulaca, and zinnias—and I wouldn’t rush the tomatoes, cucumbers and basil unless you have a greenhouse or some other form of protection!

There is always lots of excitement in the air at this time of year as we keenly search out new types of flowers and vegetables. The local growers with whom we work closely once again have introduced several new varieties and improved cultivars of old favourites. One of our major suppliers, Valleybrook Gardens, has taken their annual “Top Ten” new perennials a step further and introduced the “Top Ten” perennials of all time. These perennials have been selected for their reliability, performance and beauty.

We have enhanced our customer loyalty program, the *Ardent Gardener*, for this year as well. Membership, which includes reward points on each purchase, advance notice of sales and promotions, regular monthly specials, along with a booklet of three coupons valued at \$60, is now available for only \$10, or \$5 for renewal if you joined last year. Just ask any of our staff for more details about this popular program.

Later this spring, we are looking forward to participating in the Vancouver Garden Show to be held at VanDusen Gardens. The show is back, bigger and more beautiful than ever. We are pleased to be a major sponsor and garden creator at the show, which runs from June 7 to 10.

At **GARDENWORKS**, we have always worked toward improving our customer’s understanding and use of safe products to solve insect and disease problems. Last year, we discontinued the sale of weed and feed products and increased our efforts to offer more organic solutions and beneficial insect controls. There is a perception on the part of some gardeners that these products are not as effective, but we know they are if proper application instructions are followed. Should you have any questions or comments about safe gardening practices, please contact me at jzaplatynsky@gardenworks.ca.

Good luck in your garden!
John Zaplatynsky, President,
GARDENWORKS

Upcoming Customer Appreciation Days

**Thursday,
May 17 &
Thursday,
June 21.**

Held on the third Thursday of each month at all **GARDENWORKS** locations.

15% discount*

on everything in the store!

*Sale excludes Landscape Design Services, Cafe food & beverages.

Don’t miss our **LARGEST** one day sale event of the year!

GARDENWORKS

6th Annual Sunrise to Sunset Sale

Saturday, June 16, 2007.

Open from sunrise until sunset at all locations.

GARDENWORKS Clinics & Hands-On Workshops

SATURDAY CLINICS

ALL STORES Free Clinics

Held at all 9 GARDENWORKS locations

Growing Container Tomatoes—New Varieties

Saturday, May 19, at 1 p.m.

Creating a Tropical Paradise

Saturday, June 9, at 1 p.m.

BLINKINSOP Free Clinics

Garden clinics held nearly every Saturday at 1 p.m. Call for subject and details.

Water-Wise Gardening Xeriscaping using native plants, mulching properly to retain moisture and more! Guest speaker - Deb Walker from the CRD.
Saturday, May 12, at 1 p.m.

Water Gardening in Smaller Yards

Featuring water-bowls and barrels for patios and smaller yards. Guest speaker - Glen Nyhus.
Saturday, May 26, at 1 p.m.

Patio Planters with Dusty Smith

Saturday, June 2, at 1 p.m.

BURNABY-LOUGHEED Free Clinic

Helping Your Plants Survive Your Summer Vacation

Saturday, June 23, at 1 p.m.

BUILD A PONDLESS WATERFALL WORKSHOP

Participants take part in a work party supervised by experts to learn hands-on how to install a pondless waterfall. Lunch is included. Registration fee is \$20 (*free for Ardent Gardener members*).
Sunday, June 17, at the Burnaby-Lougheed location.
Tuesday, June 19, at the Capilano location.

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

BURNABY-LOUGHEED Adult workshops

Pre-registration is required. For more information, please call (604) 299-0621 or e-mail croberts@gardenworks.ca. There is a \$10 non-refundable registration fee*. *Please inquire about supply needs when registering. You will receive a 10% discount on purchases made on the class day. *Free registration for Ardent Gardeners. If you're an Ardent Gardener Member, your \$10 registration fee will be deducted from your workshop supplies!*

Patio Ponds Build a pot of tranquility using water plants. \$80 (Adding a bubbler to discourage mosquitoes—\$90).
Thursday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m.

Mason Bees in Your Garden Learn about these industrious, non-stinging pollinators. Includes book, bees and a home. \$75.
Saturday, May 5, at 1 p.m.

Mini Moss Baskets For those of you with smaller growing spaces. \$30.
Thursday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Edible Globe It's a bountiful ball of flavour, thyme and thyme again. \$60.
Friday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m.

Upside-Down Tomatoes Say goodbye blight and lack of space! \$25 per pot.
Thursday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m.

Gravel Gertie's Garden Pot up alpine plants in terracotta pots with a gravel and grit base; they will last for years with minimal care. \$65.
Thursday, May 31, at 6:30 p.m.

Summer Contained Let your imagination loose! Sun, shade or combination planter. \$70.
Friday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Pepper Pots 2 ideas, you choose...
Strawberry planter \$65.
3 terracotta pots \$24
Saturday, June 2, at 1:00 p.m.

Privacy Plantings Peek-a-boo, hey, I can't see you! \$75 and up.
Thursday, June 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Tropical Infusion Planter Lush-ious. \$70.
Thursday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m.



BURNABY-LOUGHEED Children's Workshops

Pre-registration and parent participation is required. For more information please call (604) 299-0621 or e-mail croberts@gardenworks.ca.

Bee Happy Learn about Mason bees and how they pollinate your garden. Take home 3 non-stinging bees and a home for them to live in.
Friday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. \$20.

Picket Fence Garden It's an old-fashioned look and a nice idea for Mother's Day.
Friday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. \$14.

Bucket of Roses Another great Mother's Day gift idea. Arrange spray roses and greens in a silver bucket.
Saturday, May 12, at 1 p.m. \$12.

Puddle Gardens Wet and wonderful. Come learn how to grow water plants in your backyard.
Friday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. \$22.

Tool Holder Great for Father's Day.
Friday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. \$12.

Organic Pest Control



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

*These are my blossoms blasted in the bud,
And caterpillars eat my leaves away.*

— William Shakespeare, *Henry VI, Part 2*

Many people think organic pest control is just a matter of substituting natural poisons for currently used synthetic ones. Did you know that 11 municipalities in B.C., including Vancouver, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver (District), New Westminster, North Vancouver (City), West Vancouver, Port Moody, Comox, Nelson, Gibsons and Cumberland, have adopted or are going to adopt a bylaw restricting cosmetic use of pesticides?

The alternative to using pesticides, whether organic or synthetic, is to recognize that everything you do in your garden environment will eventually have an impact on the garden's pest population. Good soil care, suitable plants and proper plant care are powerful preventive measures.

Making the shift to organic pest control requires you to shift your basic thinking. Accept that most insects are not pests and don't try to kill every one you see. Also accept that occasional blemishes in your produce are a part of raising healthy organic food.

HOW DO ORGANIC PEST CONTROL PROGRAMS WORK?

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

STEP 1 - Set Levels Sighting a single pest does not always mean control is needed. Establishing the level at which pests will become a threat is critical to guiding future pest control decisions.

STEP 2 - Monitor & Identify Pests Not all insects, weeds and other living organisms require control. Many organisms are innocuous, and some are even beneficial. This monitoring and identification removes the possibility that pesticides will be used when they are not really needed or that the wrong kind of pesticide will be used.

STEP 3 - Prevention A first line of defense is to manage the crop, lawn, or indoor space to prevent pests from becoming a threat. This may mean using cultural methods, such as rotating crops, selecting pest-resistant varieties, and planting pest-free rootstock. These methods can be very effective controls that are cost-efficient and present little to no risk to people or the environment.

STEP 4 - Control When pest control is required and preventive methods are no longer effective or available, IPM programs evaluate control methods for effectiveness and risk. Effective, less risky pest controls are chosen first, including highly targeted chemicals, such as pheromones to disrupt pest mating, or mechanical control, such as trapping or weeding. Broadcast spraying of non-specific pesticides is a last resort, that we normally would not recommend.

ORGANIC ALTERNATIVES

Many chemicals are not available any more – just one more reason to switch to an organic approach. It is a sound choice for both the environment and the balance of nature.

You will find beneficial insects frequenting your garden if you grow native and other desirable plants in and around the periphery of your property. When these plants are allowed to bloom, they attract insects with their nectar and pollen.

- Parsley family (parsley, fennel, coriander, dill and chervil)
- Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
- Native buckwheat (*Eriogonum*)
- Baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*)
- Tidy tips (*Layia*)
- Sunflower family (sunflowers, daisies, asters and cosmos)

Beneficial Insects are a great tool in practicing organic pest control. These insects feed on the "insect pests" in your garden. You can order the following beneficial insects and bacteria from any of our **GARDENWORKS** locations and add them to your garden.

- Beneficial nematodes, for control of European chafer, weevils, grubs and fungus gnat larvae
- Predator bugs, for aphids, mealybugs, mite and thrips.
- Ladybugs, for aphids, mealybugs and leaf hoppers
- BTK (not an insect but a bacteria), for moths and caterpillars

Look to a natural garden this year. In the long run we will all benefit from restoring the balance.

Garden Agenda...

For Late Spring



Summer is just about here, and the change to Daylight Savings Time in March has given many of us more daytime hours to get a head start on the garden. I can't wait to see what surprises the garden will bring this year, but there are still a few things to be done before I can sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of my labour.

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

Container Gardening

With real estate at an all-time premium, one of my favourite ways to garden is in containers. Now is a good time to clean out those used containers and get them ready for planting. If you haven't yet pulled out last year's bedding plants, it's time to do so. If you had no problems with disease or insects last summer, discard the dead plants in the compost heap. Usually I just throw the contents of last year's pots, soil and all, into the compost bin and start over with fresh soil each year. To be on the safe side, give the container a good rinse and wash it down with a bit of bleach mixed into the water. This will kill any insect eggs or fungal spores the container may be harbouring.

Use **GARDENWORKS** Planter Box Mix for bedding plants in containers. It provides excellent drainage as it has a good balance of organic matter, peat moss and pumice. To create beautiful window boxes, baskets and containers that will have colour all season long, visit your nearest **GARDENWORKS** store, where there is a great selection of annuals and perennials.

Have you always wanted to grow vegetables but have only a small space? Annuals and perennials do not have exclusive planting rights to containers. Vegetables grow very well in pots too, as long as you have an area that gets at least 4 hours of sun a day. Tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and zucchini all grow well in containers. Use at least a 5-gallon pot and make sure the container has drainage holes. I make a mix of 50% **GARDENWORKS** Planter Box Mix and 50% **GARDENWORKS** Mushroom Manure, then add a handful of bone meal to the soil before planting. One plant per pot is best.

I use a tomato cage not only for my tomatoes, but also for cucumbers and zucchini. It works like a charm.... the cucumbers and zucchini grow upward, not outward, and since the vegetables are not lying on the ground, there is less chance of damage from insects or rot.

Tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini are best planted around the May 24 weekend. Peppers require warmth and do best if planted in June. Be sure to site peppers where they get as much sun as possible. Finally, don't forget to water. Plants, especially vegetables, tend to dry out quickly in pots. So check them daily and give them a good deep soaking every time you water.

Lawns

The European chafer is a serious turf pest in the Lower Mainland. The European chafer is similar to a June beetle and is most damaging in its grub stage. Most damage to lawns is done in fall and spring. The grubs are not particular and feed on all grass types. Skunks or birds looking for the grubs dig up the grass, doing a lot of damage to lawns and boulevards. Good cultural practices are the only way to deal with this pest; at this time there are no chemical controls.

To learn more about the European chafer, visit our website www.gardenworks.ca and follow the links to the city of New Westminster's great page on this pest.

Keeping your lawn healthy is as easy as...

1. Keep the lawn well watered, which means deep, infrequent soaking to encourage a deep, well-anchored root system.
2. Make sure the lawn is well fed. Now is a good time to apply **GARDENWORKS** Lawn Fertilizer 14-4-8 to encourage lots of growth throughout the spring season.
3. When you cut the grass, set the blades so they leave the grass 5-10cm (2-3") tall. Longer grass shades the root system and the soil doesn't dry out as quickly. A thick, lush lawn not only helps prevent European chafer, but it also helps choke out weeds.

Odds and Ends

Keep checking your garden for weeds and don't let them get out of control. Remember, weeds can become a host for many different kinds of pests and diseases.

Check roses for aphids. Aphids tend to cluster around the new growth and buds. They suck the juices from the plant, causing damage to the rose. Many different organic sprays are available, but if you don't want to use a spray, squish the aphids with your fingers or blast them off with a hard stream of water from the hose.

But, above all, relax and have a great time in your garden!

New Ways to Double Your Fun!

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

It is often said that gardeners are a traditional lot, out in nature, working with earth, nurturing living things, confident and comfortable with the knowledge passed down through the generations. Conventional red geraniums are still the most popular choice. Yet gardeners show a keen interest in anything new – let's face it, new things are fun – and breeders work feverishly to come up with new plants to satisfy this demand.

Well, there is something new and worth taking notice of in the world of *Calibrachoa* and *Bacopa*! Both are trailing annuals that produce a profusion of bloom in a wide range of colours. They have become extremely popular for use in planters and hanging baskets in the past 10 years. Every year has seen the introduction of yet another cultivar – usually sporting a new flower colour or growth and flowering habit. This year, for the first time, we'll have double-flowered *Bacopa* and *Calibrachoa*!

Our double bacopa comes courtesy of **Tried & True**[®], who have dubbed it 'Double Vanilla Shake'. Flowers are about the size of a pinky fingernail, with two sets of bright white petals. It has a mounding, semi-trailing habit, grows about 20 cm (8 in.) high and 25 cm (10 in.) wide. Like most bacopas, 'Double Vanilla Shake' thrives in sun and prefers a moist but well-draining soil. Keep it well fed with **GARDENWORKS** 20-20-20. Plant it in hanging baskets so you can

enjoy the detail of the double flowers at eye level!

Selecta First Class, a plant-breeding company owned by the Klemm family of Germany, with a North American base in California, has beaten the rest of the breeders to the market with the first double-flowered *Calibrachoa*, 'Mini-Famous Double Pink' (*photo shown*). Flowers are a bright magenta-pink, fully double and produced in abundance. These sun-loving plants are compact, with a moderately vigorous habit. They will look great in hanging baskets or planters, on their own or in combination with other trailers. A simple combination of 'Mini-Famous Double Pink' and 'Double Vanilla Shake' would be beautiful!

Selecta has already announced that more colours of double calibrachoa will be introduced in 2008. We hope to have a few of these to display at plant trials we have tentatively planned for this summer – watch for more details on our website as spring progresses!

Look for *Bacopa* 'Double Vanilla Shake' and *Calibrachoa* 'Mini-Famous Double Pink' at **GARDENWORKS**.



Gifts for the Gardener

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

You may already know you can find that unique plant that takes your breath away at our garden centres and that one of our helpful staff will give you all the information you need to have success with it—but did you know that when you're planting and tending it, you can also be making a fashion statement? Check out the "gifts for gardeners" section in our stores; you'll find items such as very stylish sun hats in an array of colors and styles brought in from San Diego Hat Company (*photo top right*). Some of them are travel friendly, so go ahead and squish them into your luggage—they'll pop right back into shape. The hats even have a built-in SPF of 50+ to give you the protection you need on those sunny days.

While you're at it, why not coordinate a beautiful apron and matching glove set to complete your look.

The rage for the last few years has been to bring the indoors outside and spend more time entertaining in your garden, and we have the

perfect outdoor carpet to finish off your patio. These weather-resistant carpets are called Mad Mats and are designed to look like a living room carpet. Made of recycled polypropylene plastic, these brightly coloured and long-lasting outdoor carpets are perfect for the garden or patio. When they get dirty, simply hose them off with a garden hose. They truly are care free.

For many of us, our gardens provide an oasis from crazy daily schedules, a place to regroup and get things back into perspective. The perfect gift to bring that message home: our wonderful line of meditating animals. These beautifully crafted concrete animals are calming reminders of the peace we find in our gardens. A glance at your perennial garden with a lovely statue of a meditating lion can inspire gratitude for the beauty we can create

The next time you're shopping for plants, stop by this area of our store and reward yourself or another lucky gardener with a gift especially for gardeners.



For the Love of Mom



By Joanne E. Betzler, C.H.T., **GARDENWORKS**
Ocean Park manager

I'm going to make my mother a beautiful patio planter for Mother's Day this year. It needs to be easy care since she doesn't get around like she used to and it must be sun loving so it can cheer the west-facing porch of her retirement condo.

The new puppy sent Mom's old planter tumbling off the steps, but at **GARDENWORKS** we have lots of beautiful pots in from Malaysia. I love all the great shades – sage green, rusty brown, brick red and glossy black – but I know bright cobalt blue would be **her** colour of choice. That part's easy. A 14-inch diameter will be big enough.

GARDENWORKS Planter Box Mix is the medium I will use to fill the container, and while I'm at it, I'll blend in some Soil Moist water retention crystals so Mom won't have to water quite so often. At the top I'll work in some Plant Prod 14-14-14 controlled-release fertilizer to be sure there are sufficient nutrients to keep the colour coming

CONTAINER GARDENING

until frost. I won't have to remind her to deadhead – she's gardened longer than I can remember.

Geraniums are reliable, showy, sun-loving annuals that keep on blooming and blooming, so I'll go with that. Red is my own personal favourite but again there is a plethora of other colours to choose from – white, salmon, coral, many shades of pink and mauve – but I think I'll opt for bright orange. It will flatter the blue of the container and remind Mom of her favourite hockey team. Two will be good.

Mom loves daisy-like flowers and a trusty osteospermum will definitely please her. At first I thought yellow, but with the orange and blue, purple will be a better choice.

For height and drama, I have pondered dracaena, phormium and assorted grasses – both yellow and bronze – all worthy contenders. I want to do something a bit different, though, so I've decided to include a bronze fennel. While initially it will be small, by summer it will be a good 60 cm (2 ft.) or more and create a lacy, feather-like effect.

To soften the edges, I *could* use any number of trailing plants: white lobelia, dark blue trailing verbena, terracotta calibrachoa, mauve Swan River daisy or a cheerful red diascia. But I think in keeping with the herb theme, I'll tuck some golden thyme and purple sage along the rim. A white bacopa or two will keep things bright, and if there are any holes to fill at the end of the day I'll pop in some parsley.

My goal is to create a colourful, low-maintenance, multi-dimensional gift that lasts a very long time. I hope Mom finds the concept as agreeable as I do, but then again, we seldom agree on anything.

PS. I love you Mom - Happy Mothers Day!

The possibilities are endless...

For "container inspiration" visit your local **GARDENWORKS** centre or go to www.provenwinners.com for a photo library of container combinations.

Article photos courtesy of Proven Winners.



Community Gardening Events & Clubs

Island

Victoria Flower Arrangers Guild Meetings at the Garth Homer Centre, 813 Darwin Rd., Saanich. Meetings include a variety of speakers and demonstrations. Many of our members are gardeners first and flower arrangers second. New members and visitors welcome. Call 250-652-9334 for information.

Meetings held the second Tuesday of each month (except December)
Upcoming presenter Keiko Bottomley, topic: "The Magic of Broom."

Tuesday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Denman Island Conservancy presents the 17th Annual Country Home & Garden Tour This fund-raising tour offers a peek into beautiful homes and gardens on this pastoral island, including the world of renowned author Des Kennedy. Tickets \$15 (available May 16) at www.denmanis.bc.ca or reserve at 250-335-2918.

Saturday June 16 and Sunday June 17 from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mainland

White Rock and District Garden Club Meetings At 2141 Cranley Dr. (160th St.) Surrey. New members always welcome. For more information phone 604-531-8593.

Every 2nd Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Dogwood Garden Club Plant Sale
Blue Mountain Park - Boy Scout Hall, Winslow Ave. and Porter St. Coquitlam. Perennials, annuals, heritage tomatoes and hanging baskets. Master gardeners onsite. For more information contact: Shelley, 604-936-0874
Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Vancouver Rhododendron Society Annual Show and Sale At Park and Tilford Garden, Brooksbank Avenue, North Vancouver. Choice species and hybrid rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plants. For more information visit www.rhodo.citymax.com
Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2007 New Westminster Horticultural Society Plant Sale Held in the very spacious gymnasium of Glenbrook Middle School at 7th Ave. and Park Crescent Dr. (near 8th Ave. and McBride Blvd.) in New Westminster. Unique plants from members' gardens plus vegetable and bedding plants! For more information, call Audrey at 604-526-8284 before 8 p.m.
Sunday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lynn Valley Garden Club Annual Plant Sale At St. Clement's Anglican Church, 3400 Institute Road, North Vancouver, B.C. No charge. Raffle and lots of perennials. Proceeds donated to worthy recipients in our community. For more information contact Doreen Marby at 604-987-0559
Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

GARDENWORKS Nine 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

**SOUTH SURREY
OCEAN PARK**
2124 - 128th Street
Surrey V4A 3V6
(604)535-8853

MISSION
32270 Lougheed Highway
Mission V2V 1A4
(604)826-9112

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
(250)478-2078

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