



GARDENWORKS™

GARDENNOTES™

Issue #67 • Summer 2004 • An Information Newsletter For Valued Customers

In this issue...

2 great patio garden articles
how to get a crystal clear pond
water wise gardening
summer garden agenda
community events
and more!

Summer Living

We'd like to make your gardening as easy as 1-2-3 this summer. Turn the pages for practical advice on making gardening easy & successful!



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

Summer days...

This month is one of the best times of the year to be in the garden centre business. The hectic pace of early spring has passed and, while our stores are still very busy, there seems to be more time to stop and chat with our customers about their gardens. Every annual and perennial you could imagine is available and most of them are in full bloom. It makes it very easy to be tempted by another new plant for which you know you can find a place.

This spring was one of the earliest we've ever experienced because of the many sunny weekends we enjoyed in late March and April. Despite the early start, most gardeners still waited until the beginning of May to look for those tender annuals and heat-loving vegetables. A good idea!

Earlier this spring GARDENWORKS and several other garden centres cooperated with the CFIA (our plant health regulators) to prevent the introduction of *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death syndrome). For a short time, sales of many plants were restricted while our Burnaby, North Vancouver and Colwood stores were tested for the disease. As well, a consumer recall on camellias purchased between September 2003 and March 2004 was successful, and almost all the plants were found. If you would like more

information on this issue, please contact me.

With all of the discussion in our communities regarding water conservation and use of pesticides, this is a good time to remember the importance of sound horticultural practices. We hope you have followed our mantra of selecting the right plant for the right place, as this is the foundation for success in the garden. If you've chosen wisely and planted in a soil rich in organic matter, your chances of a carefree garden are off to an excellent start. Watering slowly and deeply, mulching to preserve moisture and inspecting regularly for insects and disease will keep your garden at its best for the entire summer.

If you've done this and still have questions about your garden, please do not hesitate to visit or call your nearest store or visit our Website to find the answers.

Have a beautiful summer!

John Zaplatynsky,
President, GARDENWORKS



Sunrise to Sunset Sale

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 19, the day of our largest one-day sale event – the Sunrise to Sunset Sale. This year marks our third annual Sunrise to Sunset Sale and regular customers know it is a time to make those large garden purchases – trees, pottery, garden furniture, or any other item you might need to fill in the empty spaces in your garden.

That's right – we open at sunrise and don't close until sunset and during that time, everything in all of our stores is on sale for 30% off ticketed prices. That's **30% off the regular prices or 30% off the already marked-down price.**

Best of all, this is not a clearance of old merchandise. All our regular quality garden plants and supplies are on sale, and we even make special purchases of bedding plants, perennials, trees and shrubs for that day. We make sure our shelves are stocked with garden tools, fertilizers, soils, garden statuary and other decorative items.

Watch your community newspaper or the *Victoria Times-Colonist* on Wednesday, June 16, for the ad announcing the event, or call your nearest GARDENWORKS store. Sorry, no merchandise holds or special orders. The 30% sale discount applies only to merchandise in stock that day – **June 19, the longest day of the year and the best sale of the year.**

PLEASE NOTE the Mission store's sale is Saturday, June 12.

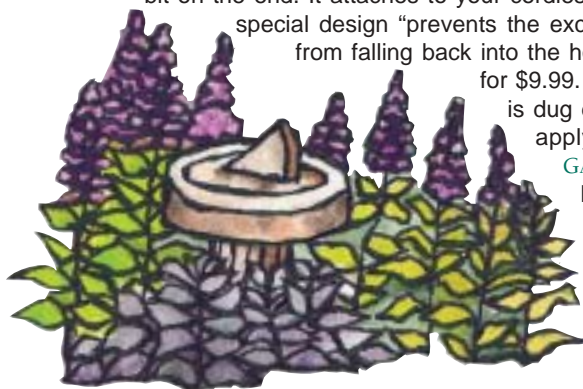
Summer Garden Agenda



By Debbie Hamilton, GARDENWORKS Burnaby

Gadgets! They're everywhere! My friend loves electronic gadgets for his computer, my husband has to have the latest fishing gadgets for the day he catches "the big one" and I love wandering through cooking stores looking at all the new kitchen gadgets and dreaming about the wonderful 5-star meals I will one day create. Did you know that GARDENWORKS carries some pretty interesting and unique gadgets for the garden, too? Keep reading!

Now that June has rolled around **there is still time to finish planting those summer bulbs, such as dahlias, gladiolas and cannas.** If you have trouble bending over and digging the holes for these plants you might want to try the bulb drill. This is a rod that is about 2 ½ feet (75 cm) long with a drill bit on the end. It attaches to your cordless drill and its special design "prevents the excavated dirt from falling back into the hole." It retails for \$9.99. Once the hole is dug don't forget to apply some



is dug don't forget to apply some GARDENWORKS Bone Meal to the planting hole to encourage root development.

If you are working in the perennial garden this summer don't forget to **stake or tie up those tall-growing perennials** with stakes and jute twine. **Invest in a good pair of pruners** for taking cuttings of flowers or trimming out dead or damaged stems. Felco pruners are the best. Side-dressing perennials with some GARDENWORKS All-Purpose Fertilizer 6-8-6 once a month – stopping at the end of August – will encourage healthy perennials throughout the summer season.

While I'm on the topic of fertilizing, don't forget to **continue fertilizing your annual hanging baskets, containers and vegetables** that you planted in the spring. Once every couple of weeks is good. You might want to check out a new organic fertilizer called Pacific Natural Organic Fresh Fish Fertilizer for Lawn and Garden 2-3-0. It is a "natural, complex, nutrient-rich organic product." The neat thing about this fertilizer is that it comes as a hose end sprayer,

What to do in the garden

which means that it attaches directly on to the end of the hose. When you turn the water on, the nozzle is already preset to dilute the fertilizer at the correct rate. There is no mixing or handling of the fertilizer. Just attach it to the hose and start fertilizing the garden. This product retails for \$9.99. One tip – **always apply fertilizer to moist soil to avoid burning the roots of the plants.**

Be water-wise this summer. **Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep, well-anchored roots and not waste water.** When watering your containers or hanging baskets, **invest in a Water Wand with a shut-off valve.** As you move from basket to basket the water can be turned off to help prevent wasting it. If a green lawn is important to you, I suggest you purchase a soaker hose. It puts out tiny little droplets of water and soaks the soil without losing moisture to the air, as a spray does. Soaker hoses are inexpensive and easy to use. Use it once a week on your lawn or in your garden beds for about an hour. That is all you will need for deep, healthy roots.

While on the topic of lawn care, another way to promote a vigorous, deep-rooted lawn is to not scalp it when mowing. **Try to remove only 1/3 of the grass length at one time.** This will create a thick, dense lawn and aid in choking out the weeds as well.

Pests are always a problem during the summer months. They can be insects or birds, but let's face it — slugs are in a league of their own. I think I write about slugs in every issue – I am fixated with the little devils and am always looking for a new way to eradicate them. This year I am going to try copper tape. I've heard that **copper and slugs don't mix.** The copper tape causes a small electrical current to pass through the slug and the snail slime, causing them to die. Apply the copper tape along the edges of planters, pots or around your favourite plants.

If you are having troubles with aphids, whitefly, or fungus gnats in your containers or hanging baskets, come to [GARDENWORKS](#) and pick up a package of Safer's Sticky Strips. They are a double-sided yellow plastic material covered with non-drying glue. Hang them up near your plants and the adult insects will fly onto the trap (the yellow attracts them) and will die. If the adults perish, then babies cannot be made. If birds steal your precious fruits from your trees and shrubs, pick up a package of Bird Scare Tape. It is a shiny flexible tape that you tie to the branches. It reflects the sun, scaring the birds away.

Keep up on the weeding this summer. Don't let it get ahead of you. Not only are weeds ugly and invasive, but they can be hosts for diseases and insects.

Lastly, if you are spending all sorts of time in the garden, you need to **check out the Ames Lawn Buddy**, available at the Burnaby store. It is a garden wagon but it's more than that. It has a fold-down seat, which is great if you are unable to kneel down to prune or weed; it has a push-pull handle; and it comes with moulded drink holders (very important not to get dehydrated out in the garden), long-handled tool clip, a large storage area and large, easy-rolling wheels. It retails for \$79.99.

I hope I have inspired you to get out in your garden this summer and try a few different things to make your gardening experience a bit easier. Now that you are on your way to [GARDENWORKS](#) to get everything you need to make your garden work, I am off to the kitchen store – I need to find a new attachment for my mixer.

Have a great time in your garden.

GARDENWORKS Special Events

Customer Appreciation Days

On the third Thursday of each month all of our store locations hold a Customer Appreciation Day, offering **15% off everything** in the store (excluding Dept. 56 Collectibles).

Upcoming Customer Appreciation dates include **June 17**, and **July 15** and **August 19**.

Sunrise to Sunset Sale Saturday, June 19*

The longest day of the year and the best sale of the year. For more information on this event read the "Sunrise to Sunset Sale" article in this issue.

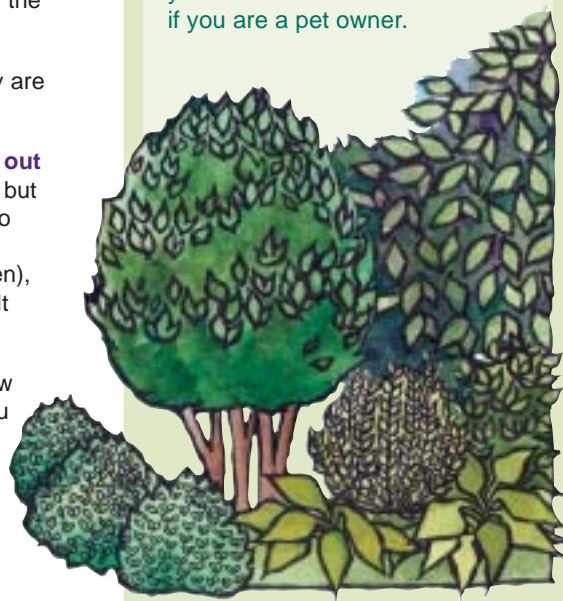
*Mission store - Saturday, June 12

Celebrate Canada!

Thursday July 1 - Saturday July 3

Oak Bay [GARDENWORKS](#) will be holding a three-day Canada Day Celebration. There will be in-store specials, light refreshments and special guests. For more information call the Oak Bay location at (250) 595-4200.

CORRECTION - In our last issue in our "Daphne Diversity" article, we neglected to mention that **daphnes are toxic**. Please take this into consideration if you have small children or if you are a pet owner.



So, you have just installed a pond, spent countless hours picking the perfect fish and plants for your private water oasis and now your water looks like pea soup. Undoubtedly, the most common pond question we get is, "How do I get rid of my green water?" With a few simple steps and a little patience, your water can be clear so you can actually see your fish.

Now for a little science lesson.... The murky water is caused by a change of phosphate (insoluble) to phosphorus (soluble) due to a high red light content from a large amount of sunlight hitting the water. Once in its soluble state, the phosphorus is the perfect fertilizer for all plants, including algae. Limiting the production of phosphorus will greatly decrease the growth of algae.

There are several ways to do this. One of the easiest ways is to increase the amount of oxygen in the water (oxygen inhibits the production of phosphorus). This can be achieved through increasing water movement – adding more splash from the waterfall or spitter, for example.

Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) is a water plant that significantly increases oxygen in the water. It's sold as a bunch with a lead weight attached so it sinks to the bottom of the pond. It's winter hardy and will spread with age.

Another method is to cover over at least 60% of the water surface with plant material. Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and water lettuce



Crystal Clear

By Rob Zieber, C.H.T Nursery Manager, GARDENWORKS Burnaby

“I know my fish are in there somewhere”



(*Pistia stratiotes*) are floaters that quickly spread throughout the season. They will decrease the amount of sunlight getting into the water as well as provide vital coverage for your fish, so the herons and raccoons don't have free sushi. As well as great surface coverage, hardy water lilies (*Nymphaea* spp.) have the added bonus of gorgeous flowers throughout the season. Duckweed (*Lemnaceae*) and fairy moss (*Azolla*) are tiny, winter hardy floaters that will quickly cover the surface of the water, creating a very natural pondscape.

If you are an impatient gardener, there are several products you can add that will naturally decrease algae production. Barley straw pellets bind the algae into clumps, which causes them to fall to the bottom of the pond where the filter will collect them. The pellets are most effective as close to splashing water as possible. Micobe-Lift is an organic additive; it adds beneficial bacteria to the water that consumes the algae, as well as increasing the available oxygen for both fish and plants. EcoSystem's Nature's Choice reduces the nitrates and ammonia in the water caused by overfeeding and poor water circulation.

If you add some of these plants and products to your pond and exercise a little patience, your pond can be crystal clear within a season, and it will continue to be clear for years to come. Now, if only getting rid of herons and raccoons could be so easy!



Watering Tips

- **Turn your tap on halfway or less** to reduce the water pressure and save water.
- **Watch the weather** - Mother Nature's water is the best.
- Always use a hose gun, watering wand or hose end sprayer that has an **automatic shut-off**.
- **Water less frequently but water well** - a deep soak is better.
- **Use a soaker hose** - they use less water than sprayers, as they allow the water to seep into your garden.
- **Water in the early morning**, the earlier the better. This allows the water to dry and helps prevent mildew.
- **Set up a rain barrel.**

Water Wise

GARDENING

By Alan R. Reid, Ph.D. Garden Supply Manager,
GARDENWORKS Burnaby

In the Greater Vancouver area landscape irrigation increases water use by over 30% during the summer. **On the hottest summer days it increases water use by over 100%.** This places a tremendous pressure on our water supplies. **Our current landscape design and maintenance practices need to be modified to our region's natural resource base.**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Soil Start with the soil. **Soil quality is the key to any good garden.** Plants in a healthy, fertile soil grow fast and vigorously. They develop strong, large root systems for their type, which gives them superior ability to access available moisture. Studies have shown that less water is required to produce a pound of plant matter where soils are fertilized than where they are not fertilized. **Our native soils are alive and filled with rich beneficial organisms** that will enhance water retention capabilities.

Mulching Healthy plants will have an enhanced tolerance of drought. Plants can be drought-proofed with the judicious use of mulches. The time to apply mulch around plants and between rows is after the soil warms thoroughly in spring.

To **avoid creating a haven for wood bugs, earwigs and slugs**, use very thin layers only of loose materials such as chopped straw. Grass clippings placed in shallow layers add nitrogen to the soil as they decompose. Mix grass clippings or another source of nitrogen with aged sawdust to counteract the temporary nitrogen-depleting action of sawdust on the soil.

The Plants Choosing drought-tolerant plants for parts of the garden destined for low-maintenance care, or along edges or banks that are watered only occasionally, is a key feature of water-wise gardening.

The Location When planning a new garden or changing an existing one, **group plants with similar moisture requirements together.** Easy to water areas or areas close to the house are the best locations for plants with high water requirements. If little water is available for the garden, plant in containers, preferably plastic, or in small areas of concentrated growth.

Working with Mother Nature Where water supplies are low or watering restrictions severe, **consider reviving the old-time rain barrel.** Water can be diverted from the roof into such holding areas. Keep rain barrels and other garden water containers covered to eliminate evaporation. A few drops of oil, like canola oil, will **discourage mosquitoes from breeding** in the water.

Water is a precious commodity. We ourselves are 98% water and all life, as we know it depends upon that precious clear, clean fluid.

TWO Hot Patio Garden Articles

Flower Pots 2004



Hot Sun in the Summer

By Jennifer Jones, [GARDENWORKS](#) Capilano

After a humbling winter that killed off many of our prized tender plants, such as dracaena and phormium, it is now a great time to restock and pray we won't see such a cold snap for a good few years!

Our climate is changing – summers are hotter and drier – so, when planning your summer pots, keep in mind that water restrictions will most likely be imposed. Consider using drought-busters like Spanish lavender, ornamental grasses and African daisies (*Osteospermum*) for anchor plants and the ever reliable geraniums and petunias for burst of colour. Livingstone daisies, sweet alyssum, dusty miller and portulaca also can handle dry conditions.

There is a wide range of perennials suitable for drought-conscious pots: artemesias, grasses, erigerons, rock roses and sages. A particularly nice combo is Spanish lavender with blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon*), *Artemesia* 'Silver Brocade' and lots of *Brachycome* 'California Pink' tucked in. For a more vibrant effect, try orange geraniums with purple heliotrope, apricot lantana, purple brachycome and orange trailing mimulus.

Dracaena 'Red Star' makes a welcome addition to the "spiky" family – it is a lovely dark wine colour. There are also lots of great succulents in shades of green and red. Try mixing them with encrusted saxifrage and creeping baby's breath for an interesting tapestry effect.

Consider adding a mulch to the top of your pots – sphagnum moss or some of the new natural dyed bark mulches (the black offsets lime foliage beautifully and the rust mulch is a perfect fail for silver hues).

Having your pots on wheels will allow you to move them into the shade during the hottest times. You'll find flowers will last longer when they are not overly stressed.

Try to water early in the day – 6 a.m. is a great time to get some stress-free quiet time! While pot trays are helpful for retaining water, give them a blast with the hose every few days to wash out any mosquito larvae, or use pot feet.

Come and see us for more ideas on drought-defying garden tips.

By Joanne E. Betzler, C.H.T

Bedding/Tropical Manager [GARDENWORKS](#) Burnaby

West Coast gardeners wait a long time for summer's warming rays of sunshine and we set out masses of flora in celebration of its arrival. Loved as it is, the full force of the sun's intensity on south-facing patios and balconies can be a container gardener's nightmare and the selection of suitable plants is critical.

Choose a container with good drainage, fill it with [GARDENWORKS](#) Planter box mix, and work in enough Plant Prod 14-14-14 slow-release fertilizer for the pot size. If the container is large enough and you have an interesting rock or piece of garden art you'd like to feature, place it off centre and arrange some sun-loving specimens that require minimum maintenance around it.

As a feature, try *Lewisia congdonii*, a long-blooming perennial that flourishes in a sunny dry location. It displays clusters of extraordinary peachy-pink flowers that rise above tight rosettes close to the ground.

Sedum spurium 'Dragons Blood' (or 'Blaze of Fulda') with its rich bronze/red leaves is another good choice. This undemanding succulent produces a thick low mat and offers bright pink flowers that will cascade over the edge of your portable garden.

Lithodora 'Grace Ward', with its narrow, dark green leaves and small, intense blue flowers, blooms all summer and is a cheerful alpine accent for sunny container gardening.

A dependable zonal geranium is one of the sun-loving plants I recommend the most for endurance and prolific blooming. Hot pink is a good choice to accent the subtle peachy hues of the lewisia.

A bit of *Thymus* 'Doone Valley' inserted into the container will offer an enticing aroma and deep green foliage fringed with golden yellow to brighten your arrangement.

Helichrysum 'Lemon Lime' at the edges of your container will add a bit of cheer to your composition and soften the overall effect as it tumbles alongside the sedum.

There it is – a colourful, long-lasting, sun-loving container that will require little more maintenance than a bit of watering and the occasional deadheading. A rewarding venture, indeed.

Community Events

IT'S FREE to place your gardening event in our listing. Send us the information by fax (604-299-4403) or e-mail editor@gardenworks.ca. We announce the events we feel most widely interest our readers. Deadline dates are January 5 for March edition, March 1 for April edition, May 1 for June edition and August 1 for September edition.

Mainland

5th Anniversary/Open House Burquitlam Community Organic Garden Society, 550 Ebert Avenue, Coquitlam. Guest speakers; fun for children. Bring a non-perishable food item to support the local food bank. For info call Ron at 604-391-4965.
 • Saturday, June 19, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

11th Annual East Vancouver Tour of Private Gardens Admission: \$10 per person. Tickets available at Britannia Community Centre, 604-718-5800, and Figaro's Garden Centre, 604-253-1696.
 • Sunday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gardens In Bloom Tour - Canadian Federation of University Women Tour 8 gardens in the Surrey/White Rock/Langley area. Passports are \$15, available at the Surrey **GARDENWORKS**. For info call 604-535-7874.
 • Sunday, June 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BC Fuchsia and Begonia Society Annual Show Competition and Plant Sale VanDusen Botanical Garden Floral Hall, Cedar Room and Breezeway
 • Saturday July 24, Plant Sale 10 a.m. Show 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
 • Sunday July 25, Show and Plant Sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Island

14th Annual Denman Conservancy Home & Garden Tour 2004 Tickets: \$15. For info call Roxanna at 250-335-2576 or visit www.denmanis.bc.ca/gardentour
 • Saturday June 19, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 • Sunday, June 20, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Happy Valley Lavender & Herb Farm 3505 Happy Valley Road, Langford. Wander our display gardens. Admission is \$5 with \$2 going to a local charity. For info call Lynda at 250-474-5767 or visit happyvalleylavender.com
 • Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays July 1 – 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer Gardening Events at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, 505 Quayle Road, Victoria. For more info phone 250-479-6162 or visit www.hcp.bc.ca

Saanich Summer Fest Enjoy the beautiful garden. See the new Children's Garden. Free admission.
 • Saturday, July 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Artists in a Country Garden A variety of artists display, sell and demonstrate their work. Admission \$5. Light refreshments available.
 • Sunday, August 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

BURNABY - HEAD OFFICE

6250 Lougheed Highway
 Burnaby V5B 2Z9
 (604)299-0621

MISSION

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

SOUTH SURREY

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

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

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

VANCOUVER

8697 Granville Street
 Vancouver V6P 5A3
 (604)266-9313

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