

GARDENNOTES

Issue #90 • Autumn 2011 • An Information Newsletter For Valued Customers



IMPORTANT
Subscription renewal
information on
the back
page!

**GARDEN
AGENDA
FOR AUTUMN**

**Lasagna
Planting**
for continuous
blooms

**WINTER
PROTECTION**
IN "ZONE DENIAL"

**SELLING
YOUR HOME?**
Get the competitive edge

**TIPTOEING
THROUGH
THE TULIPS**



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.

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Dear Gardeners...



By Leanne Johnson

Fall gardening really marks the beginning of our gardening year.

I love to sit in my garden, cup of tea in hand, and think through my gardening plans, then put pen to paper and jot down ideas in my gardening journal. Shrubs I want to add, planting a hedge to create privacy, hardscape (non-plant) additions to the garden, a pergola, a wrought-iron gate...okay, this is fun!

Thinking of adding shrubs or trees to your garden? **Fall is the absolute best time to plant.** Cool temperatures and our ample rain allow roots to get established in their new homes before winter arrives.

Fall is the time for planting bulbs that will dazzle and delight in your spring garden. If you are new to bulb planting, you'll be surprised how easy it is to create WOW displays. It's a great activity to do with kids: **Dig, Drop and you're Done!**

GARDENWORKS has sourced a spectacular selection of bulbs from near (the Fraser Valley) and far (Europe). Our gardeners in-store would be happy to share all kinds of info and advice on stunning combinations, the best bulbs for planted-up containers, and selecting bulbs that will reward you with over 100 days of striking colour. We are proud of the selection of bulbs we have brought in for you this year.

Visit us early, be inspired, plan and plant now for the garden you've always dreamed of!

Don't forget to water in with Transplant Fertilizer when planting your trees & shrubs.

WINTER PROTECTION

By Scott Pearce

If you've ever listened to Stuart McLean's hilarious and often touching "Vinyl Café" series on CBC radio,

you may have heard the story of Dave's Italian neighbour who, getting older, finds it exceedingly difficult to overwinter his large fig tree, which he does each year by first digging a deep trench 20 feet long, then uprooting the tree, tying its branches close to the trunk and burying it. Uprooting and burying plants for winter has been successfully employed for generations to protect deciduous plants, most commonly in cold, dry climates with insulating snow cover for much of the winter. (Not so much on the West Coast!)

West Coast gardeners enjoy growing a variety of borderline hardy plants. Windmill palms, cordylines, New Zealand flax and "hardy" banana, are examples of popular plants that lend a tropical feel to gardens, but will either not survive our toughest winters, or will survive but with excessive damage. These same plants, in a mild winter, might breeze through unharmed! Other plants that benefit from winter protection include hebe, olive, citrus & gardenia. Many more broadleaved evergreen plants often suffer unsightly or debilitating winter damage that could be avoided if some form of winter protection were provided.

Zoned Out Plants?

Plants are assigned a "hardiness zone" rating which can help you determine just how well they will survive winter in a particular area. Plants with an Agriculture Canada rating of 7 or lower are more than likely to survive a Victoria or Vancouver winter unprotected. Plants rated 8 or above may require winter protection. Visit our website for a more detailed explanation.

"Zone Denial" refers to some gardeners' penchant for growing plants that are well outside their hardiness zone. There are many zone denial gardeners on the West Coast!

Winter Protection Methods

- Move plants to a greenhouse or frost free location for the winter.
- Place potted plants in an area outdoors that is well protected from wind and sun, and the coldest temperatures. Surround the pot with an insulating material to protect tender roots, or bury the pot in the ground.
- Mulch tender perennials or deciduous shrubs heavily.
- Wrap tender broadleaved evergreens with burlap or heavy-grade reemay.
- Spray broadleaved evergreens and tender conifers with an anti-desiccant like "Wilt Proof" to prevent moisture loss.
- Heavy, wet snow can damage even cold hardy plants if allowed to build up in the leaves or branches. Broadleaved evergreen trees like southern magnolia and shrubs like heavenly bamboo are particularly susceptible to this kind of damage. Damage can be minimized by knocking snow off favourite plants before it builds up, or by tying or wrapping trees so that branches are supported.

The best winter protection option will depend on the kind of plant you wish to protect and the facilities that are available to you. Most winter protection activities should begin in early to mid-November. For full details on how to implement each method, visit the "Gardening Tips" page on our website at www.gardenworks.ca. If all this winter protection seems like a lot of work, think of Dave & Morley's Italian neighbour, digging a 20-foot-long trench to protect his beloved fig tree each fall!

Autumn in the Garden

By Dr. Alan Reid



When the frosty kiss of Autumn in the dark
Makes its mark
On the flowers, and the misty morning grieves
Over fallen leaves;
Then my olden garden, where the golden soil
Through the toil
Of a hundred years is mellow, rich, and deep,
Whispers in its sleep.

'Mid the crumpled beds of marigold and phlox,
Where the box
Borders with its glossy green the ancient walks,
There's a voice that talks
Of the human hopes that bloomed and withered here
Year by year,--
Dreams of joy, that brightened all the labouring hours,
Fading as the flowers.

From Autumn in the Garden, by American author,
educator and clergyman Henry Van Dyke 1852 – 1933

Van Dyke's poetry sums up the feelings we have as we see our gardens begin to fade after their summer glory. Just as we need to sleep in order to perform well, the garden needs to rest so it can return and be bountiful again next year. Here are a few tips you should be thinking of this autumn.

September

- Return nutrients to the soil in the form of compost, SeaSoil or West Coast Soil Energizer. Add a 3 to 5 cm (1½- to 2-inch) layer over the surface of vegetable and perennial bed and work gently into the soil. As the vegetable garden is harvested, plant cover crops such as fall rye to reduce weed growth.
- Apply parasitic nematodes to soil beneath rhododendrons and azaleas that show root weevil damage (notched leaves).
- A great selection of spring-flowering bulbs should be appearing in the stores now. This is the time to choose your daffodils, tulips and crocuses for spring bloom.
- Divide dahlias and irises. This can be tricky but one of our staff will be happy to advise you about it. Visit your favourite **GARDENWORKS** and ask for help.
- In the Lower Mainland and greater Victoria area it is okay to plant lawns until mid October if the weather is still warm enough to let the lawn germinate and establish. But why not investigate a lawn alternative? Many people are now experimenting with clover as a ground cover and others are reducing pesticide use by letting moss and other plants such as veronica colonize the lawn.
- Plant or transplant woody ornamentals and mature herbaceous perennials. Remember to

use **GARDENWORKS** Transplant Fertilizer to reduce the shock of transplanting.

October

- When all the summer bulbs are stored away there will be plenty of room to plant your spring-flowering bulbs, and October is the best time to do this. Don't forget to pick up a box of **GARDENWORKS** Bulb Food (3-15-8) to help encourage root development and food storage over the winter.
- This is the time to dig out all those tender bulbs, corms and tubers, such as cannas, gladiolus, begonias and dahlias. Cannas can be cut back to a few inches, cleaned of excess soil, dusted with sulphur and stored in flats of peat moss in a cool, dry, dark place until spring. Gladiolus and tuberous begonias can be stored in the same manner. Dahlias can be dug out closer to the end of October; they will be okay even if touched by a light frost. When digging out bulbs, inspect them carefully and cut off and discard any rotten, diseased or insect-riddled parts.
- Recycle disease-free plant material and kitchen vegetable scraps into compost. Do not compost diseased plants unless you are using the "hot compost" method (120° to 150°F/50° to 65°C).
- This is a great time to prepare soil for next year's garden beds. **GARDENWORKS** recommends digging a combination of manure, kelp meal and bone meal into the existing soil to replenish it. Bone meal adds phosphorus to the soil, manure adds nitrogen, and the kelp meal replaces any micronutrients that may have been eroded throughout the season.

- You should be thinking of trimming or staking bushy herbaceous perennials to prevent wind damage. It is also a good time to start planning your pruning. Look to removing the dead, damaged or diseased materials first. Also remember to wash, clean and oil tools and equipment before storing them, as plant residue is acidic and will dull the blade.
- Pot and store tulips and daffodils to force them into early bloom in December and January. Plant amaryllis bulbs for holiday blooms.

November

- Rake up leaves and any other debris around the garden. This will eliminate possible nests or hiding places for rodents and other pests. Don't throw it away; it makes a great addition to the compost bin.
 - Take a last look around and see if there are plants that need to be cut back or trees or shrubs with broken or damaged branches to prune.
 - Toward the end of October and the beginning of November, cut back your hybrid tea roses to knee height. In the past I have just taken a clean sharp pair of pruning shears or hedge shears and cut straight across. It doesn't hurt to hill up a few inches of soil around roses to protect the roots from a possible cold winter.
- Remember one of the lines in Van Dyke's poem: "Dreams of joy, that brightened all the labouring hours," and contemplate all the wonderful things you'd like to accomplish in your garden for the year ahead.

Have a great time in your garden!

Lasagna Planting

LAYER YOUR CONTAINERS FOR 100+ DAYS OF COLOUR

By Leanne Johnson

Layering your bulb planting gives you months of continuous blooming beauty. Here are some simple steps to guide you...



- Select your container – bigger pots (at least 30-40cm across) create more “wow” factor! Try colour coordinating your pot with what you are planting.
- Fill the pot 1/4 deep with **GARDENWORKS** Planter Box Mix soil, and mix in a small handful of “Bulb Food” fertilizer.
- Big bulbs (like daffodils) go in bottom layer – I like the reliable beauty of ‘King Alfred’ daffodils. Pointy bits up please.
- Add a 3 to 5cm layer of Planter Box Mix.
- Next layer: Tulips! Try something new like ‘Brown Sugar’ – This fragrant, Triumph Tulip is carmine rose coloured with rich apricot edges! Gorgeous! Layer on additional Planter Box Mix.
- Next layer: Dutch Iris! Also new this year is ‘Lion King’ Dutch Iris. These will be your late bloomers (May-June) and are stunning with 10 cm blooms of rich purple standards and bronze falls that are striped with dark purple! Add an additional layer of Planter Box Mix.
- Next: Crocus bulbs - Try the “Large Flowering Mixture”, their multi-colours celebrate the start to spring!
- You guessed it – add another layer of soil.
- Final layer: Snowdrops. Try snowdrops ‘Double’ – These little charmers will be your container’s first blooms of 2012!
- Then finish off your planting with perky winter pansies, chrysanthemums or primulas!

IMPORTANT TIP: When planting follow guidelines on the package of each variety of bulb for proper spacing.



Sprucing Up to Sell

By Audrie VanderWerf, CLD

Considering selling your home? You will quickly find that marketing a property is not the way it used to be. Nowadays, people sit at home and click away through homes for sale on the Internet, looking for their next nest.

Often, one photo is enough to tell them “Yes I want to see that house”. Your goal is to persuade potential buyers to actually visit your home, and the starting point is ALWAYS the entrance. If the kitchen is the heart of the home, then the front of the house is the welcoming smile.

There are improvements you can make that will give you that competitive edge. The checklist is short: make the area feel welcoming; give your garden flow; screen less desirable views; and emphasize desired views.

Welcoming: Take a fresh look at your home from the street, and ask yourself: “Is the front door visible and pleasing?” Prune trees for security and visibility; paint the door a different colour from the house; and build up the entrance area with a landing to give the door more prominence.

If you have to walk up the driveway to get to the front door, consider making a pedestrian walk. Run steppers or a full walkway through the lawn and garden to the front door. This provides a more pleasing entry than a garage or carport.

Garden flow: Are your plants overgrown and otherwise out of proportion? This looks like work, and prospective buyers may be put off. Prune or replace these plants. Fresh mulch does wonders to liven up a garden. This also reduces weeds and creates a low-maintenance effect. Combat the choppy look of isolated garden beds by connecting them to create a graceful, flowing look. Finishing touch: potted plants are very impressive at the front entry!

Less desirable views: With new and old varieties of tall, slim trees, it’s easy to block a poor view. A beautiful pergola, screen or well-made shed can be a more immediate solution.

Desired views: If your best panorama is at the front of the property, a sitting area is a definite must! No matter the size or amount of use it gets, the look is updated and inviting. If your backyard is the highlight, create an enticing peek-a-boo in the side yard plantings to let it show through, if possible.

For assistance with these or any other landscaping needs, call 604-629-1419 (mainland) or 250-721-2140 (Island) today!



Before



After

Entrance Landscape Renovation

Tiptoeing

THROUGH THE TULIPS

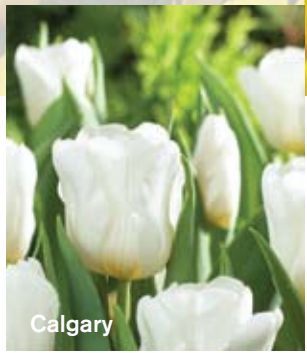
AN EVER-EVOLVING LOVE AFFAIR

By Peter Fitzmaurice

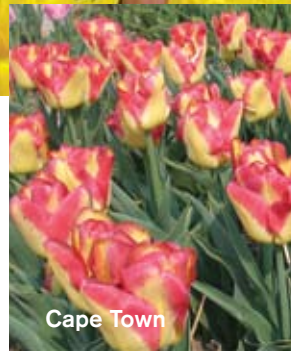
It's hard to justify being away from our garden centres just as the season is beginning to pick up, but this spring I was thrilled to be invited to Holland by our primary bulb supplier, the Van Noort Bulb Company. Seeing Holland, the bulb and gardening capital of the world, was worth the risk, especially if you have a guide to show you all the intricacies of the industry. Carl Van Noort, the president and owner of the company, made all the arrangements and we (Carl, his son Markus, and I) left just after the Easter weekend.



Hot Air Balloon



Calgary



Cape Town



Baby Sings the Blues

form. You will love its long sturdy stems and its long-lasting bloom. (Another great cut flower!)

We toured extensively up and down the Dutch coast, stopping in at trial grounds where the selections were planted in the open to see how they responded to less than the perfect conditions of Keukenhof. It was interesting seeing them this way.

I fell in love (again) with *Tulipa* 'Cape Town'!

This sturdy yellow triumph tulip is marked with a deep red edge. Simply beautiful! I didn't grow up seeing tulips in the garden so I was very pleased to know that there was one named in honour of my beautiful hometown.

One of the breeders we met showed us his new development, a gorgeous double peony tulip. Almost completely spherical, this creamy yellow, red and green tulip reminded me of a colourful balloon that might float across the landscape. The name stuck, and it became Hot Air Balloon...

I have to be careful in expressing my wild imagination!

These are just a very few of the beautiful bulbs I saw on my tour of Holland with Carl and Markus. I am deeply grateful to the Van Noort family for showing me their passion and livelihood. I know you will love the fabulous selections I've chosen - visit **GARDENWORKS** this fall to select some to try in your garden, and discover the rest of our extensive selection of spring-blooming bulbs.

Simply Dig, Drop and (you are) Done!

Arriving in Leeuwenhorst, which is southwest of Amsterdam, it was a wonderful day; more like early summer than early spring. Europe was experiencing a heat wave. With time being precious, we went straight from the airport to our first stop, the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens. The flower beds were packed with tulips in full bloom from the warmth. It was probably 4 weeks earlier than usual! I didn't mind that I may have missed some of the earlier blooming varieties because I was thrilled at seeing some of the fancier late-blooming ones. These would not have been in bloom had we arrived earlier at the peak of bulb season.

Huge swaths of colour made from a myriad of tulip combinations were everywhere.

One of the highlights was "Baby Sings the Blues"; a stunning combination of *Tulipa* 'Baby Blue' with *Tulipa* 'Innuendo'. At 40 cm (16 in.) tall, 'Innuendo' has petals that are a blend from white to pink with magenta edges. 'Baby Blue' stands the same height in a soft lavender blue. Photos don't capture the perfect blend! Great cut flowers too!

We marvelled at a snow white tulip that glowed in the shade of the massive oaks above. 'Snowboard' reminded me of our recent heritage from the 2010 Olympics and also of my favourite white tulip, 'Calgary', which I have always admired for its perfect

Contain Your Passion

By Michelle Tornai

A new season is the perfect time to contain your passion for gardening by creating a beautiful focal point in the garden with an arrangement of pots. But with so many styles of pots and varieties of plants, it can sometimes be difficult to choose. One way to simplify it is to decide on a theme for your container garden. Here are three different examples.

Rustic Allure

An oak half wine barrel is the perfect container for a rustic fall garden theme. With a 26-inch (66 cm) diameter there is plenty of room for an array of colours and textures. I like to combine perennials and annuals to extend the season a little. The yellows of rudbeckia and the ambers of heuchera and coleus give this arrangement a casual country feel.

Contemporary Design

Clean lines and an uncluttered look is a good way to describe this container. The tall cylindrical shape of the pot is a good foil for these compact hens and chicks, a perennial favourite. Use an assortment for a variety of texture and colour or a single variety for a simple but dramatic look.

Whimsical & Fun

Take a look around your home for items that would make interesting and unusual containers. I used a red plastic garden trug and drilled a couple of drain holes in the bottom before adding the soil. I started with taller plants in the back and placed smaller ones toward the front. This left some room on one side for a galvanized orange watering can that had its own little trailing plant in it. Insert a butterfly with flapping wings on a stake off to the side and voilà! – a whimsical and fun container garden.

These are a few ideas to get you started. Use them as guidelines, or let your imagination take flight to create your own fabulous fall container!



RUSTIC
ALLURE



CONTEMPORARY
DESIGN



WHIMSICAL
& FUN

Special Events

Celebrate Fall Saturday, Oct. 8 – Sunday, Oct. 9

We make it easy with our "Celebrate Fall" weekend held at all **GARDENWORKS** locations on the Thanksgiving long weekend. Join us as we celebrate the autumn season with special events, clinics and fall flier specials.

Christmas Open House Thursday, Nov. 17.

An Extra Special Customer Appreciation Day held at all **GARDENWORKS** locations. Let us show you our appreciation! Start your holiday season with special events, sales and decorating inspiration.

Chicks, Cheese & Christmas Tuesday, Nov. 29, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

At the **GARDENWORKS** at Mandeville location. A great girlfriend bonding evening filled with fun, excitement, entertainment, and an amazing Christmas decor and gift selection. Join us for a fun filled evening including snacks, wine and prizes. Extra parking is in the sports field across the street. Event is FREE and no need to RSVP.

Clinics & Workshops

Our stores offer a variety of garden clinics, seminars, and demonstration classes throughout the year to give you the information that is relative to gardening in our climate or to help you through a specific project.

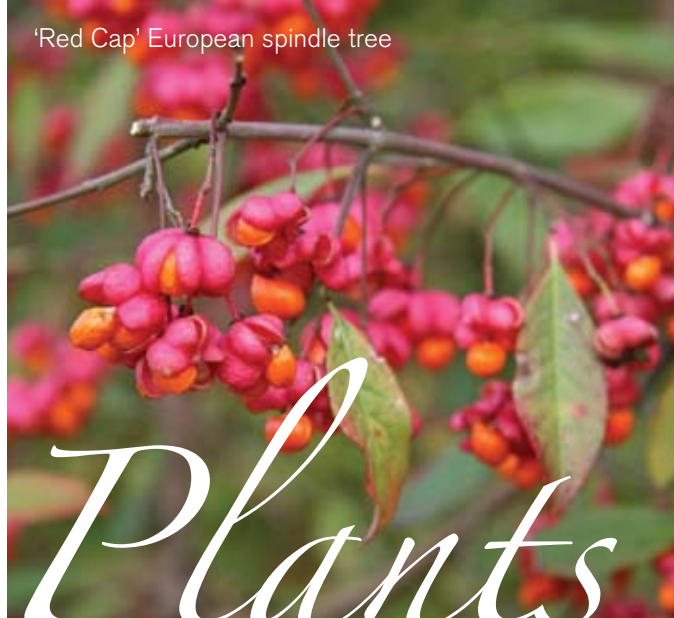
For more details on any of our clinics, workshops, or seminars please visit our website at www.gardenworks.ca and click on the "customer clinics" tab, or phone the specific location.



'Profusion' beautyberry



'Red Cap' European spindle tree



Tour de Plants

Each summer, nursery experts from each of our stores get together to share their knowledge, compare notes and tour the many plant nurseries that specialize in growing a wide selection of trees, shrubs and vines.

Our goal is to source and reserve the plants that we'll offer for sale in the fall and next spring, although we often find ourselves distracted by the wonderful floral display of summer bloomers like hydrangeas, hebes and Rose of Sharon. It can be hard to stay focused on the big picture!

While touring, we keep a keen eye out for interesting and unique plants that will entice and inspire visitors to our garden centres at all times of the year. For fall and winter, subtle characteristics, including attractive fruit, colourful bark and an interesting winter silhouette often tip the scales in favour of otherwise inauspicious plants.

'Red Cap' European spindle tree (*Euonymus europaeus* 'Red Cap') is a deciduous shrub that can be trained to become handsome single stemmed tree. The leaves become a kaleidoscope of bright orange and red in the fall, at the same time that very unique pinkish-red fruits burst open to display orange seeds.

'Red Majestic' contorted filbert (*Corylus avellana* 'Red Majestic') is similar to the well-known Harry Lauder's walking stick with a fantastically gnarled branching pattern that takes centre stage once its leaves drop in late fall. (Late November is an ideal time to prune a few of the contorted branches for use in winter containers.) In late winter the drooping rosy-purple flower clusters, referred to as "catkins", add another ornamental element. 'Red Majestic' then offers a whole new season of interest as the leaves emerge deep burgundy red in spring.

'Magic Marlot' skimmia (*Skimmia japonica* 'Magic Marlot') is a variegated form of the popular Japanese skimmia that features deep pink cone-shaped clusters of flower buds that form in late fall and persist through mid-spring, then open white and sweetly fragrant. With uniquely variegated foliage, 'Magic Marlot' is particularly striking when planted in containers along with other winter favourites.

'Profusion' Beautyberry (*Callicarpa bodinieri* var. *giraldii* 'Profusion') is a relatively well known, but perhaps under-appreciated deciduous shrub. Handsome olive-green leaves often take on purple overtones in full sun, which is especially attractive when clusters of tiny mauve blossoms enhance those purple shades in midsummer. In bloom as we toured in July, the crop of purple berries looks like it will be exceptional this year, a source of beauty come fall and early winter.

There is a small palette of trees and shrubs with colourful bark from which to choose. Dogwood shrubs are among the best known. Two cultivars that really stood out in our tours this summer were *Cornus alba* 'Prairie Fire' and *Cornus s.* 'Arctic Fire'. 'Arctic Fire' displays deep red branches all winter and boasts a mature height of no more than 4 feet (1.2 m), making it small-garden friendly. 'Prairie Fire' has glowing golden leaves from spring to fall, and displays flaming orange-red stems all winter. Two more great choices for November pruning – stems can be used very effectively in holiday planters!

By Scott Pearce

Customer Appreciation Days

15% DISCOUNT* on everything in the store!
Held on the third Thursday of each month. *Sale excludes Landscape Design Services, Cafe food & beverages.
Upcoming dates include

OCTOBER 20 & NOVEMBER 17

Cornus s.
'Arctic Fire'



Autumn Gardening

we make it easy™



Join us for
FREE SEMINARS

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

Refresh for Fall! Inject fresh energy into your fall displays using seasonal favourites and fabulous foliage perennials. **Sept. 25**

It's Just "Dig - Drop - Done" with easy to grow spring-blooming bulbs. Learn tricks to create stunning spring garden displays using tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other bulbs in eye-catching combinations! **Oct. 2**

Lasagna Planters 101 We'll show you how to create layered planters filled with a variety of spring-blooming bulbs to supply a succession of colour from early to late spring. **Oct. 9**

Winter Protection for Tender Plants Learn how to avoid losing your favourite plants to harsh winter weather. **Oct. 16**

