



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

North Shore warned over toxic weed - giant hogweed

They're tall and beautiful, but don't be deceived: If you get too close, they'll burn. It's giant hogweed season on the North Shore, residents are warned to take care around the poisonous menace to avoid a potentially painful encounter. The invasive plant, which can grow to as much as five metres in height, sweats a watery sap that can cause rashes and blistering by making skin extremely sensitive to sunlight.

The plant is native to Asia and was introduced to North America, like many invasive species, as an ornamental plant from Europe.

To those who find the weed in their gardens, officials have some very straightforward advice: **Don't touch it.** It's an invasive species like the other 20 invasive species we have on our list," said Trisha McCarthy, supervisor of horticulture for the District of North Vancouver parks department. If left unchecked, invasive species can overrun native plants and wreak havoc on local ecosystems.



While residents are generally encouraged to dispose of invasive species in the yard trimmings bins collected year-round on the North Shore, McCarthy warns that this is not a good option for getting rid of hogweed. Rather, the best way to deal with the poisonous pest is to get a pair of long pruning shears and rubber gardening gloves and, without touching the plant itself, cut the stem that leads to the plant's flower. Flower heads should be bagged and thrown in the garbage rather than the compost, McCarthy said, to avoid inadvertently spreading the weed's millions of seeds through the composted soil. The remainder of the plant will eventually die and decompose.

Parts taken from an article by Munisha Tumato, North Shore News

Hope you all enjoyed a great summer

You can complain because roses have thorns,
or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.

September 2009

Meetings Scheduled

LVGC meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at St. Clement's Church.

Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 pm.

September 17th, 2009

Ewan MacKenzie.

Grasses

October 15th, 2009

Charlie Sale

Flora of the Drackensberg.

Interesting websites

<http://www.endlesssummerblooms.com/en/viewmag>

<http://www.lavenderenchantment.com/Growing/propagating.htm>

www.weedsbc.ca

This website can help you identify your weeds. Learn how to manage them and find out what happens if you don't. The site profiles 80 weeds that are currently present in our province.

www.associatedcontent.com

www.gardensmart.ca

www.organicgardening.com



2000 Executive

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Jacqueline Lamont

Pat Holmes

Newsletter Editor

Irene Dudra

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Audrey Dewan

Bernie Robb

Christel Glaser

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Historian

Carol Ferryman

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Illa Jackson

Bright Spots

Laurie Parkinson

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig, Rother

Next Executive Meeting

Thursday, October 1st, 2009,

7:30pm, at the home Irene Dudra

October Leaf Deadline

: **October. 5th, 2009**

Leah Younger

987-4658



Treasurers Report

Sandra Smith

Bank balance: August 31st, 2009 - \$ 7,105.32



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield Pat Phillips

Please bring your own mugs, and remember that the coffee we serve is decaffeinated.



Sunshine Report

Illa Jackson

Please let Illa know of any of our members who have been ill or have lost a loved one. Please phone her at 604-987-8365.

Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.



As I work among my flowers, I find myself talking to them, reasoning and remonstrating with them, and adoring them as if they were human beings.

Much laughter I provoke among my friends by so doing, but that is of no consequence. We are on such good terms, my flowers and I.

- Celia Thaxter, 1835-1894

Ruth Howard

Ruth Howard, one of the founding members of our club, passed away on August 17th, 2009.

Ruth had a great passion for gardening, even in her declining years she was know for her patio garden at the Kiwanis Care Centre in Deep Cove.

She will be remembered by her friends for her creativity, her generosity to others and her green thumb. A very lovely lady.



Plant Sale 2010

Next year's plant sale will be held on **Saturday, May 8, 2010.**

This year's Members at Large have several requests to make on behalf of the 2010 MAL's:

1. The 4 of you still with lawn signs – please return them!! They are expensive to replace and we need all of them back.
2. September and October are the best times to dig up your overgrown perennials and split or divide and pot up for our sale. If you have any 'how to' questions, do not hesitate to call on any of the MAL's.
3. Last fall we were fortunate to be approached by West Van Florists and were given a considerable number of plants, trees and shrubs for our sale, which materially added to our profits last May. However, we were given very little notice and Pat Holmes and her husband shouldered the burden of pick up and storage over winter. West Van Florists said they would contact us again this year -- we should be prepared this time. Maurice has offered to store the plants in his yard. At the September meeting we will be passing around a sheet for you to sign up, if you might be able to help pick up. Anyone not at the meeting can call Jackie Morris (604-985-6534) to be added to the list.

Have an enjoyable Fall from your **Members at Large!**

Membership Renewal

Last year we had a fantastic response to our request for early membership renewals. Almost everyone managed to renew before the end of the year! This greatly reduced the amount of work and phoning required. Enclose with your September newsletter is this year's renewal form. Please read it and submit the form with your membership fee as soon as possible. Please note that in order to keep our accounting records as simple as possible, none of the cheques will be cashed until the new fiscal year, January 1, 2010. If this will cause problems in your personal accounting records, perhaps you might like to consider using cash. If you have any question about this please don't hesitate to ask. Thank you everyone for your cooperation.

Diane Allison : 929-8020, Carole Rapp: 987-0274

Mollie Nye House

The Seniors' Association of the Mollie Nye House have asked if some of our Garden Club members would consider volunteering to help clean up their garden. It has become very overgrown. Possibly one morning if 5 or 6 people turned out, might be enough to do the job. If interested please call Maurice Jones

Safety Tips for Your Cat and Dog

What are the Symptoms if a Dog, Cat or Other Pet Eats a Poisonous Plant?

Some of the most common signs of toxicity include vomiting, diarrhea, panting and drooling, lethargy, weakness, disorientation, seizure, a loss of coordination, a rash, swelling (commonly in the face and paws), loss of appetite, blindness, paralysis, kidney (renal) failure and difficulty breathing. The first signs of poisoning can occur within 30 minutes to two hours of ingestion. Also remember that a pet can be intolerant of any plant, meaning that even if a plant is not considered toxic, it can still have a bad reaction if your pet has an allergy to a particular plant,

Tiger lilies are among the worst poisonous plants for cats and jasmine for dogs. Any type of lily, the popular Easter Lily, Stargazer Lily, Day Lily (not all species) is extremely poisonous to cats if eaten, or if the pollen is ingested. Only a tiny amount - less than one leaf - ingested can cause poisoning. Other plants that are poisonous to cats include spider plants, ivy, azalea and philodendron,

For more information as what plants can cause problems for your pets go to

<http://www.tlntl.co.uk/2/Health/poisonplants.htm>

Ziploc Bags and Pennies:

Do you like to sit outdoors to eat, leave windows open but the flies are such a nuisance, try this

Take a ziploc bag, fill half full with water, add 4 pennies, zip shut. Fill two or three. tack them up somewhere around your eating area or by an open window. These baggies will keep the flies away! Take sometime to watch, some flies come in the open window, stand around on the windowsill, and then fly out again. There will be no flies in the eating area!

The science behind the ziploc bag of water and pennies, has found that each of the millions of molecules of water presents its own prism effect and given that flies have a lot of eyes, to them it's like a zillion disco balls reflecting light, colours and movement in a dizzying manner. When you figure that flies are basically prey for many other bugs, animals, birds, etc., they simply won't take the risk of being around that much perceived action.

On starting tomato seeds: Maurice Jones

Maurice noted that a cherry tomato can have 150 seeds so there is no shortage of seeds. There are several methods to save seeds:

One way would be to squeeze the tomato pulp onto paper towels and let it get bone dry on top of the fridge. When dry, fold up the towels, put in a Ziploc bag and store in a dark place. In spring, cut the paper towel up and plant the little pieces containing seeds in pots of soil and water. When germinated, weed out the little ones, leaving the best plants.

Another method is to first rinse with water and a little vinegar to kill bacteria on the surface., then put 2 - 3 ripe tomatoes into a Ziploc bag, Store in the fridge crisper until the end of February or beginning of March. Take out and squeeze the pulp into distilled water. Pick out the individual seeds that are starting to sprout and plant these. This method is more tedious but you know that the seeds you plant are viable.

Odds and ends / September Tasks

When you take **cuttings**, if you dip them into plant starter, make sure you tap off the excess because you get black rot if you don't

Plants like chrysanthemums, hardy fuchsias, penstemons; and other tender plants can be covered with only about one inch of straw during a cold winter. (In a mild winter, this is usually not necessary.)

Mark your perennials with permanent tags, or create a map showing their locations so you'll know where and what they are when they die back at the end of the season. This will help you to avoid digging up something you intended to keep when you plant bulbs and plants this fall and next spring.

The birds will soon begin their winter migrations. Give them a helping hand by providing them with some food for their long journey. No one likes to travel on an empty stomach, and you may even persuade a few of them to stick around for the winter, if they know they have a *reliable* food source!

Continue to watch for insect, slug and snail, or disease damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

Peonies may be planted this month, placing the crowns no deeper than 2 inches below the soil surface. Planting any deeper may prevent the plants from blooming.

Take root cuttings of annual bedding plants such as begonias, coleus, geraniums and impatiens now, to carry them

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through the winter as house plants. Kept in a bright window through the cold season, they'll provide early bedding plants next spring.

As nights get cooler, caladiums will begin to lose leaves. Dig them up, let them dry out, then store them in a warm dry place for use again next spring. Come Spring replace them in the shrubbery bed with mum transplants for fall color.

Many perennial flowers should be divided this month or next. Most require dividing every 3-4 years to keep them vigorous and blooming well. Perennial phlox, cannas, daylilies, violets and shasta daisies all benefit from dividing.

When dividing perennial beds, prepare the soil for replanting by spreading a liberal amount of organic matter and bulb fertilizer evenly over the bed, then mix it into the soil, at least 8 inches deep. Space divisions 1 foot apart in all directions to keep root crowding from becoming a problem for at least several years.

Many bulbs can be planted in the next two months, including hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, snowflake, early crocus, snowdrops and winter aconite. Plant bulbs by first loosening the soil, then making a hole with a trowel or bulb planter. Place the bulbs gently in the hole; never mash a bulb into the soil or you could damage the basal plate on the bottom and cause it to rot.

Pansies, wallflowers, forget-me-not and Brompton stocks are FINE FLOWERING COMPANIONS FOR BULBS, especially good to set over tulip and daffodil bulbs.

Restrain yourself from fertilizing or pruning trees and shrubs right now. Wait until deciduous plants begin to lose their leaves, which signals dormancy.

Continue deadheading flowers, and weeding. Unless the rains come early the garden will need long, slow waterings to supply plants with adequate moisture at their deepest roots.

Bring HOUSE PLANTS that have summered outdoors back into the house. Clean them well first, and make sure they are free of pests.

Pot spring flower bulbs for INDOOR BLOOM during the winter. Store the pots in a dark place, ideally at temperatures around 9 C. Pot prepared hyacinth bulbs before the middle of the month for bloom at Christmas.

September is an ideal LAWN SEEDING month. The ground remains warm for rapid germination of the grass seed, while cooling weather allows for easier maintenance of an evenly moist soil surface.

Weed around BRUSSELS SPROUTS plants. Then top their root area with a layer of compost and tread firmly around the plants to encourage the formation of tight, firm sprouts.

Earth up [leeks](#) and celery.

Plant pansies, wallflowers, primulas, flowering kale and cabbage, Brompton stocks and forget-me-not into garden beds and containers.

Lift ONION BULBS once the tops have withered. Dry the bulbs well in a warm, dry, sunny location for about 10 days, and store in a cool, dark, dry place.

As soon as the fruit is harvested, prune the PLUM TREES.

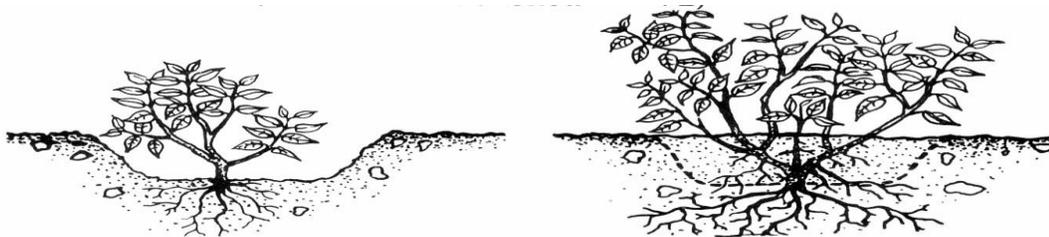
Lift and compost annual flower and vegetable plants that have finished producing.

September 2009

Hardy Fuchsia are wonderful, herbaceous garden perennials that will bloom all summer and fall.

Fuchsias in the ground are easy to grow when you follow some guidelines for success:

- Let them grow until well rooted in pots. Bigger plants get off to a good start in the ground.
- Plant them after the danger of frost (mid-May to June) so that a good root system can develop. If you must plant them later, make sure that they are well mulched that **FIRST** year. (Use bark, leaves, and natural insulators.)
- Fuchsias in the ground need moderate; most prefer half a day of sun at our northern latitude. Minimum is 1/2 day.
- Acclimatize your plants before you plant them permanently. They need to be outdoors for at least a week and be gradually worked into a sunny position. (They can sunburn, just like us!) The first spring/summer, if the leaves burn, shade them on real sunny days. The second year, they will acclimatize themselves as they grow.
- Plant them in a reasonably well-drained location, but plant deeply and let the soil fill in as they grow. . Add lots of peat moss, fir needles, leaf mould, compost, old manure, whatever you can get, and dig over again.



- Fertilize them with well-balanced products (20-20-20; 16-16-16...). Time-released granules that activate in our cool soil are easiest.
- Fuchsias love food, so in March or April when they pop up from the soil and/or leaf out, **feed them**.
- Water in the morning to avoid rust. They'll droop or get dry leaves just like other perennials when thirsty. A good watering once a week keeps a lot of plants happy in the summer. Fuchsias too.
- Prune fuchsias in spring. Branches left over winter help protect the roots from freeze damage. Place about 3 inches of mulch over the roots. When spring warms, move the mulch away to see new shoots emerging around the crown. The stems do protect them from cold. A hard winter, with significant freezes, may nip the branches. But a mild winter will leave long pendant stems ready to leaf out. Consequently, hardy fuchsia shrubs can vary in height from 4 feet or more after a mild winter to 2 feet when all the growth is new.

In the past it has been common practice to use the term **daffodil** when speaking of the most familiar ones -- the larger trumpet and large-cupped kinds. Narcissus was reserved for the less commonly known, smaller-flowered and bunch-flowered types. Now the trend is to recognize that Narcissus is the botanical name for all these flowers, but at the same time to realize that it's quite acceptable to use the common and popular term -- daffodil -- for all the variations on these springtime flowers



Lynn Valley Garden Club

Registration Form

- Annual membership Fee is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple.
- Renewals must be received by December 31, 2009. After this deadline, new members will be accepted from the waiting list.
- Payment by cheque is preferred, payable to 'Lynn Valley Garden Club'. Post dated cheques (December 31, 2009) will be accepted. Please note - cheques will not be cashed until after January 1, 2010.
- Please make sure to fill out this form and bring it, along with your payment, to the next meeting or mail them to Carole Rapp at 684 East 29th Street, North Vancouver, V7N 1E4.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

(ONLY if you wish to receive the newsletter via email)

Are you interested in helping with a committee or sitting in an executive position in the future? Yes _____ No _____

Do you want your phone number included on the membership phone list?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you need a receipt?

Yes _____ No _____