



Mailing Address:
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<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

March 2013

Executive Notes for March

Rosemarie Adams

I really enjoyed Gary Lewis's presentation on Hellebores at our February meeting. It is a very interesting plant. I have put together a few notes, taken from both Phoenix Perennial's website and the book I mentioned at our meeting. See inside this Leaf.

We already have about 47 people signed up for our Bus Trip June 8th. Bus will only hold 57 people so if you want to go, sign up soon !

Our Members' Garden Tour will be Saturday July 6th. If you would like to put your garden on this tour, please contact one of our Members at Large.

Please remember to bring flowers, shrubs, anything interesting gardening related to our "Bright Spots" session at meetings. Don't worry if you don't know what it is, somebody will usually be able to identify it.

Reminder that Cors de Lint will be selling his Unique soil amendment in the church parking lot prior to our March meeting. He will be there at 6.30 pm –cost is \$10 per bag. This product has proved to be very popular with our members, a great addition to our gardens as the growing season begins.

Daylight saving time is with us now, more time to spend in the garden!

Rosemarie

Meetings Schedule

LVGC meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at St. Clement's Church. 3400 Institute Road

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

**March 21, 2013
Surprise
Speaker & Topic
&
Unique Soil
Amendment Sale**

**April 18, 2013
Paul Edwards
Japanese Maples**

**May 16, 2013
Emily Budinski
Herbs**

**June 20, 2013
Patricia Fleming
Gardening for Wildlife**

Unique Soil Amendment Sale

Thursday March 21st in the church parking lot starting at 6.30 pm. Cors deLint will be selling his "Unique" soil amendment - \$10 per bag. First come first served, but please limit your initial purchase to two bags to enable all our members an opportunity to get some. By 7 pm, if there is still a supply, purchase as much as you wish.



2013 Executive

President

Rosemarie Adams

Vice President

Pat Holmes

Secretary

Bernie Robb

Norma Buckland

Treasurer

Harvey Lawson

Membership

Doreen Marbry

Diane Sekora

Members at Large

Rita Marshall

Chris Pharo

Jan Valair

Tara Findlay

Newsletter Editor

Lynn Batt

theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Christel Glazer

Marie Pringle

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Bright Spots

vacant

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Carol Ferryman

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

Website

Brian Didier

Next Executive Meeting:

April 4, 2013

The Leaf Deadline:

April 7, 2013



Treasurers Report

Harvey Lawson

Bank balance at \$.



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

Please bring your own mug and remember the coffee we serve is decaffeinated.



Sunshine

Carol Ferryman

Please let us know of any members who are ill or have lost a loved one.

Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.



Membership

Doreen Marbry, Diane Sekora

At the membership table we will be collecting [\$15.00] for the June 8/13 bus trip. We have 46 members signed up, so there are 10 seats left.

Please pick up your LVGC Membership Cards if you haven't done so already, they will be on the membership table.

Would you also please check to see if your phone number and name is correct on our phone list which was sent with your February newsletter.



Members at Large

Rita Marshall, Jan Valair, Tara Findlay & Chris Pharo

May 11, 2013

Our Annual Plant Sale

There's still time to divide and pot up perennials for donation to our annual plant sale. Please also consider dividing houseplants or sowing some vegetable or annual seeds, if you have room to do so...almost everything gets snapped up at the sale, so your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sign-up sheets for job slots for the sale and set-up, and for lawn signs advertising the sale, will be circulated at the March general meeting. If you can, please take a slot on both set-up and sale days. The more people helping, the easier it all is, and both days are fun and social. This is our Main Event, and it relies on your support.

The lawn signs will be distributed at the April general meeting, or they can be picked up the weekend following (April 20-21) from 531 East Kings Road (off Dempsey). The signs should only be put up about 10 days to one week before the sale, and taken down immediately after. They should be returned at the May general meeting. Posters advertising the sale, to be placed in car windows or wherever you might think it effective, will be available at the April general meeting.

A quick review of club member purchasing rules and privileges for the sale: no reserves on Friday; those on first shift on Saturday may reserve one plant in holding before the sale; family members of first-shifters may line up and shop for them during the first shift; second-shifters can line up and shop during the first shift. These rules help things run smoothly on sale day.

Our bus trip this year will be on Saturday, June 8th, from 8:30 to 5pm (approximately) and will cost \$15.

Our itinerary will be:

- Joan Bentley's private garden in White Rock
- Free Spirit Nursery
- Dart's Hill
- Petal's and Butterflies, Gwen Odermatt's garden in Langley

There will be a sign up sheet at the March meeting, reserve your spot as the maximum number is 57 and last year the bus was full! There are only 10 seats still available.

The \$15 fee must be received by the May meeting.

Mason Bees

Reminder that all our bees are in decline, and we need them to pollinate our flowers and vegetables.

If you have nesting boxes, placement is important. They should be placed where they are sheltered from the worst of the weather, with entrance holes facing towards east or southeast, so they get the morning sun. With stem bundles, be sure that the stems are horizontal. The nests can be any height from the ground, but between three and six feet is convenient. Put them on a building, fence or stake, or place them in a tree. They should be close to soil. Fix them firmly so they don't shake in the wind.

Most native bees – about 70 per cent of species – nest in the ground, and need access to the soil surface to dig their nest.

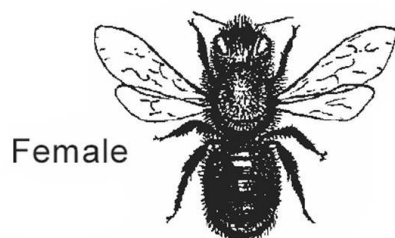
If you have any dead tree trunks or wooden posts in your garden, you can drill holes to attract nesting bees.

Holes should be 1/8", 3/16", 1/4" or 5/16" in size, approximately 6 – 8 inches deep and 2 to 3 inches apart. Place 6 inches to 36 inches above ground facing south east and drill them slightly upwards (so they drain if any water gets in them).

Submitted by Rosemarie Adams

More info on mason bees: http://www.westcoastseeds.com/topicdetail/topic/a-year-in-mason-bee-keeping/?utm_source=West+Coast+Seeds+List&utm_campaign=13483930a0-West+Coast+Newsletter2+12+2013&utm_medium=email

Illustrations from: <http://www.seattleu.edu/facilities/inner.aspx?id=35688>



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Hellebores

Some interesting facts and tips taken from “The Gardener’s Guide to Growing Hellebores” by Graham Rice and Elizabeth Strangman and from “All About Hellebores” from Phoenix Perennials website.

Strains versus Cultivars:

Traditionally every hellebore offered has been derived from seed strains, since hellebores bulk up slowly and resent being divided. Seed strains are carefully bred lines that are maintained over time to assure as much uniformity as possible in selected characteristics. Different strains have been bred with different qualities of genetic material, consequently, not all strains are created equal. They are complicated plants. Consequently, and magically, no two hellebores derived from a seed strain are the same. They are all different and all have their own particular charms. However, do remember that if you purchase a plant that is not in flower it is impossible to know exactly what you will get.



More recently, labs have discovered how to micropropagate or tissue culture hellebores. The resulting plants are all identical. The very best plants from the best breeders are now being selected for larger scale production. This means that special plants that would not previously have been available are now coming onto the market. Even if they are not in flower, you will know exactly what the blooms will look like when your plant reaches maturity.

Care:

Having said they are complicated plants, they are also easy to grow in most garden situations. They prefer evenly moist but well-drained soils, but are tolerant of drier conditions once established. An annual top dressing of two to three inches of compost in winter or early spring is all they need for fertilizer. They can be grown in full shade, but will grow the fastest and have the most flowers in part shade to part sun. A situation with morning sun is ideal. If not given enough light, they can become floppy and will require staking.

Pests:

Usually problem free. Older flowers and new growth can sometimes attract green aphids. These should be washed off with a jet of water or sprayed with environmentally friendly insecticide. Slugs will sometimes visit. Use an environmentally friendly bait.

Propagation:

Most Hellebores are slow to recover after division. Do not detach those small plants from the outside of the clump. By doing this you are constantly removing the healthiest and most vigorous pieces and leaving the old, weak and woody growth behind; this tired old root will eventually fade away or be overrun by self-sown seedlings.

Best time of year to divide Hellebores is September, for it is at this stage that the plants produce a surge of root growth helping the plants to settle in quickly. If you want to split a large clump into just two or three pieces, then the traditional back-to-back forks method works well. If you want to split a large plant into numerous pieces, lift your plant carefully, then wash off all the soil in a bath of water; this enables you to see what you are doing. Then use a large knife, making cuts in the old rhizome in the centre of the clump to break it into large pieces. Then make further cuts trying to produce pieces with a long length of pale, young rhizome and at least one mature leaf. These new smaller plants may not flower in the first year or two, or may flower half-heartedly in the first year.

When you lift a Hellebore plant, you will notice the roots growing strongly downwards, rather than spreading sideways. This means they should be planted deeply, with plenty of organic material added to the hole before the plant goes in. The final soil level should be approx 1 inch above the point at which roots break out from the crown. After planting give another good topping of organic matter.

Submitted by Rosemarie Adams

Illustration from <http://www.diggingdog.com/pages2/perennialshi.php>

Gardenworks has many interesting “Gardening Tips” on their website <http://www.gardenworks.ca/>

http://gardenworks.ca/sites/gardenworks/files/caresheets/Grow_Your_Own_Potatoes_web_handout.pdf

One potato, two potato, three potato more...

Low in fat, rich in vitamin C, a good source of iron, vitamins 1, B3 and B6, potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, and dietary antioxidants. Sounds like an ideal wonder food, but to get all of these essentials you need look no further than the humble spud!

Soil preparation

Potatoes require an open, frost free site with deep, fertile, moisture retentive soil for high quality and heavy yields. Improve soils by adding a little organic matter, such as well rotted manure, in the autumn. Before planting, supplement with a general fertilizer, such as blood meal or fish and bone meal applied to the soil surface or spread along the sides of the row during sowing. Soil should be acidic to prevent soil scab

Propagation and sprouting

Potatoes are generally grown from tubers known as ‘seed potatoes’. These are sprouted prior to planting, particularly when growing early season cultivars. Sprouting tubers extends the growing period and leads to earlier tuber formation and higher yields.

- Place tubers on a tray in a single layer
- Keep trays of tubers in a cool, frost free place with moderate light, such as an unheated room and avoid direct sunlight
- Sprouts form within a few weeks and, after about six weeks, shoots should be 5cm long and dark coloured.
- Choose about four strong shoots and remove the weaker shoots

Planting

Once sprouted seed tubers can be planted in a row or individual holes and earthed up as they grow. Plant early potatoes in early April, with later cultivars being planted mid April. In northerly districts and during adverse weather little loss of production results from delaying planting up to mid May.

- Dig a row 7.5 - 15cm deep with a hoe or spade.
- Place tubers with the sprouts upper most in the hole. Early cultivars should be spaced 30cm apart in the row. Leave about 60cm between rows.
- Push the soil gently back over the tubers ensuring that they are covered with at least 2.5cm of soil.
- Lightly rake over the soil surface.

Harvesting and storing

Lift early-potatoes carefully with a garden fork as soon as the tubers are about the size of a chickens egg or more. Flowering often occurs at this time. Provided the crop is healthy, it is okay to leave the plants until early to mid autumn to bulk up.

Storing

For storing, lift main crop potatoes when the tops die back and the skin resists gentle pressure. All potatoes should be gathered by mid October to avoid weather damage.

- Lift on a dry day and allow potatoes to dry on the surface of the soil for two or three hours
- Handle tubers gently, as they bruise easily
- Store in burlap or paper sacks or in boxes in a frost proof shed. Avoid plastic materials, including plastic lined paper sacks, as these promote condensation that favours rots
- Early potatoes have a short dormant period and will sprout earlier so keep for a shorter time than main crop cultivars

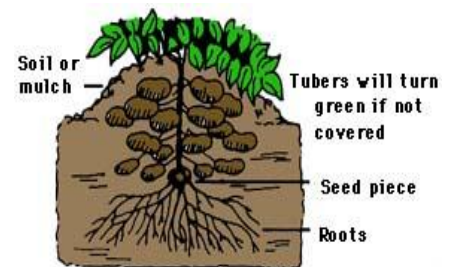


Figure 6

Illustration from <http://www.lisahistory.net/hist104/pw/lectures/18thc/1agriculture.htm>

Editor's note....Last year I grew Yukon Gold potatoes in a slightly bigger than half-barrel sized pot with Scarlet Runner beans at the edge of one side, so I could harvest the potatoes and keep the beans growing.

...."Hilling" for better yield...(earthing up)...

When growing potatoes in a pot....start the sprouted tubers with only 6 inches of soil on the bottom of the pot, just enough to cover them plus a bit more....then, as the potato leaves grow keep adding a few inches more soil ...until the pot is full.

Pacific Northwest Flower and Garden Show

My favourite display garden was the New Zealand native plants suitable for growing in the Pacific Northwest (and Hobbit home). Plants used include: *Cordyline australis* 'CherrySensation' & *Leptospermum scoparium* 'Nanum Ruru'

Texture seemed to be everywhere with different sizes and shapes of rock in walkways, garden beds and on the sides of plant pots. Also repeating checkerboards of quite different plants eg. sedums and daphnes.

Colour -white hellebores, yellow daffodils, and beautiful orange tulips. Evergreens with blue or yellow needles eg. *Pinus sylvestris* 'Gold coin' *Pinus mugo* 'Honeycomb', and many *Chamaecyparis* and *Cryptomeria*.



Pond in a potted garden

Anyone who has ever wanted a pond, but thought they couldn't, might enjoy this idea.

Grasses and bulbs: Though I have long loved the look of bulbs naturalized in lawns, this is the first time I have seen professional designers plant bulbs in lawns. Also *Ophiopogon planiscapus* (Black Mondo Grass) planted in black pots with white *Helleborus* 'Ivory Prince' Feather grass planted with daffodils. Carex planted at the front of borders with short bulbs will later hide the untidy look of fading bulbs

My plant wish list:

Chaenomelles speciosa 'Contorta'
(Contorted flowering quince)

Drimys lanceolata
(Mountain pepper tree)
(planted with *Carex* 'Ice Dance')

Loropetalum chinense 'Shang-hi'
(Chinese fringe flower)

Nandina 'Moyer's Red'
(Heavenly bamboo)

Silene dioica 'Clifford Manor'
(Variegated catchfly)

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Just Dandy'
(Hinoki false cypress)



Great Plant Picks 2013

http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/by_year/2013

Just 3 of the 30 great new additions to the list are featured here.



Acer circinatum 'Pacific Fire' **RED-BARK VINE MAPLE**

© J. Frank Schmidt & Son. Co.

Outstanding Qualities This is a stunning twist on our native vine maple. 'Pacific Fire' was selected for its glowing and brilliant red twigs that fade to a softer orange-red on the older branches. This characteristic is very pronounced in young trees with strong vigorous growth. Slower growing older trees will have bright red tips with orange-red tones reaching far down the branches giving a lovely, but more subtle glowing effect in the winter. Like the typical vine maple, which is very closely related to Japanese maples, 'Pacific Fire' has the same versatility in the small garden or woodland, but with a more relaxed feel. As they mature the trunks often have an interesting rustic architectural interest. Fresh, light green leaves turn golden-yellow with dappled shade and are blushed orange in full sun early in the autumn, holding their color well though the season. This small tree is a great choice for the urban garden. **Plant Height 12 ft. (3.7 meters)**
Plant Width/Spread: 8 ft. (2.4 meters)**Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9** **Flower Color: red** **Sun/Light Exposure: full sun or light to dappled shade**
Water Requirements: regular to occasional watering

Clematis chiisanensis 'Lemon Bells' **YELLOW BELL CLEMATIS**

© Joy Creek Nursery

Outstanding Qualities This introduction from the University of British Columbia features bright lemon yellow nodding blooms hanging from dark purple stems. Each dangling flower has a distinctive red blush at the base of the petals. A robust, but not rampant grower it will continue to produce sporadic flowers on the new growth through the summer. Its open growing habit makes it a suitable vine to grow through large shrubs and small trees without smothering the woody host. Once the flowering is finished attractive fluffy seed heads dangle along the vine through the end of summer.

Height: 12 ft **Plant Width/Spread:** 8 ft. (2.4 meters)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9 **Flower Color:** yellow

Sun/Light Exposure: full sun to light shade

Water Requirements: regular watering **Resistant to:** deer

Culture Notes This clematis will grow best in full sun to light shade. Provide a location with rich well-drained soil where it can be regularly watered during dry weather. Plant vines that are well rooted and at least two years old. In our climate planting too deeply can smother the roots, especially in heavy soils. Set young plants at the same depth they were in their nursery pots. Clematis are heavy feeders and appreciate fertilizing in spring. This clematis blooms on old stems and on new growth, so it is best to only prune lightly in late spring to early summer once the first flush of flowers have finished. Remove congested or tangled growth and thin to the strongest stems. Well established, overgrown plants can be cut back to 12 inches tall in winter to remove large tangles, allowing robust new stems to fill out the plant, but it will not flower the next year.



Hosta 'Lemon Lime' **DWARF HOSTA** © Joy Creek Nursery



Outstanding Qualities This great small hosta glows in the garden. In spring the new growth emerges bright chartreuse, with the color being more intense with some sun. Later in summer the foliage color deepens to lime and slender flower stems rise above the plant and are topped with clusters of lavender-purple trumpet-shaped flowers. This is a very vigorous selection and performs well in the garden or grown as a container plant.

Plant Height: .75 ft. (0.0 meters)**Plant Width/Spread:** 1.5 ft. (0.3 meters) **Hardiness:** USDA Zones 3 to 9 **Flower Color:** lavender, purple**Sun/Light Exposure:** light to open shade

Water Requirements: regular to occasional watering

ABOUT TOWN

Wednesday, April 3 GardenSmart [Veggies 101: Planning Your First Vegetable Garden](#) 7:00 - 08:30PM

Mollie Nye House. There is a \$8.25 charge per workshop. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at **604.990.3755** to pre-register and pay by phone.

Saturday, April 6 GardenSmart [Seed Starting: Sowing for Your Summer Veggie Garden](#) 10:00 - 11:30

Loutet Farm (greenhouse). There is a \$8.25 charge per workshop. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at **604.990.3755** to pre-register and pay by phone.

Wednesday, April 10 GardenSmart [Grow Your Own: Intermediate Vegetable Gardening](#) 7:00 - 08:30PM

Mollie Nye House. There is a \$8.25 charge per workshop. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at **604.990.3755** to pre-register and pay by phone.

Saturday, April 13 [Growing Vegetables Organically](#) 1pm Gardenworks Capilano Free admission.

With Mike Nassichuk....everything you need to know about soil, fertilizer, varieties, timing and more....

Saturday, April 13 [Plants for Difficult Places](#) 9:30am-12:30pm Van Dusen Members \$35 /Non-members \$45

Instructor Nancy Moore Wet, dry, steep, shady, hot...whatever the conditions there is usually a plant that can handle it.

Saturday, April 13 [Easy Care Gardens](#) 1:30pm-4 pm Van Dusen Members \$30 /Non-members \$40

Instructor Nancy Moore Would you like an attractive fun practical garden?

Sunday, April 14 GardenSmart [Veggies 101: Planning Your First Vegetable Garden](#) 1:00 - 02:30PM

Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre There is a \$8.25 charge per workshop. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at **604.990.3755** to pre-register and pay by phone.

Wednesday, April 17 [Plant Combinations With Punch](#) 6:30pm-9 pm Van Dusen Members \$30 /Non-members \$40

Instructor Janis Matson Create more wow moments in your garden by combining vibrancy of colour and a diversity of textures and forms.

Saturday, April 27 [Landscape Design Rules and When to Break Them](#) 9:30am-3 pm Van Dusen Members \$60

/Non-members \$70 Instructor Estelle Bogoch withLearn the fundamentals of landscape design and how to unify your garden with your house. Everyone will leave with design ideas for their own house. Bring two colour photos of your house, pencil and eraser.

Saturday, May 4 GardenSmart [Aquaponics: Sustainable Fish From Your Own Backyard](#) 1:00 - 03:00PM

There is a \$8.25 charge per workshop. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at **604.990.3755** to pre-register and pay by phone.

Tuesday, May 14 GardenSmart [Patio Veggies: Growing Great food in Containers](#) 7:00 - 08:30PM

John Braithwaite Community Centre, Anchor Room. There is a \$8.25 charge per workshop. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at **604.990.3755** to pre-register and pay by phone.