

Newsletter



GARDENERS - OUR SEASON IS HERE!

NWHS Roadside Plant Sale:

This year we are doing a plant sale! No...not that kind of plant sale. This plant sale will harken back to days when members showed up the morning of with freshly dug up plants, there was a scramble to tag and price the plants. Much less organizing and a lot more fun! It will take place on the boulevard in front of 720 5th Street (between 7th Avenue and 8th Avenue--New Westminster, of course) on Sunday, May 26th. The sale will run from 10am to 3pm.

What plants do we want? Those plants from your garden that you consider desirable. Think: if I saw this, reasonably priced, at a plant sale, would I purchase it? No common plants and definitely no invasives! Size? Remember people have to carry it home. Grew loads of tomatoes? Great!

Plant preparation: Please dig up and pot your own plants. Label the plant with as much information as possible. Images would be appreciated. No need to price.

Plant drop-off: Ideally, plants should be dropped off at 720 5th St, between 8am and 9:30am on sale day. If that is not possible, please deliver them to 720 5th St between 5pm and 8pm on Saturday evening, May 25th.

Day of Sale volunteering and duties: Please sign-up for when you can help.

8am-9:30: Set-up, receiving plants, pricing, organizing tables

10am-1pm: Sales

1pm-4pm: Sales and tear down

How else can I help? Mention the sale to friends. Drop off cardboard boxes Thank you for participating! Remember all the money we raise goes to support our club and its activities.

Thank you for your plants and your time.

"From Our Gardens" Sale:

Don't forget you can bring your plants for sale at our monthly meetings as well. Gently used tools and accessories also welcome.

July In-Club Show:

The schedule for the July in-club show is hot off the presses. There is something for everyone. With the show being one month later than in the past—and our fantastic warm spring, we have enlarged the schedule. Many of the classes are inclusive such as "any annual not listed above" or "pod vegetables". If there are three or more exhibits of the same type entered in one of these general classes a spin-off class will be created, for example several "pea" exhibits entered in "pod vegetables" would result in a separate "pea" category. We look forward to creating a "radish" category to accommodate all who take up the Radish Challenge. Pick up a copy of the schedule today—or ask Audrey to email it to you.

What is a weed?
A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Contacts

Julia Goulden-President 604-526-1140 or julia@newwesthortsociety.org

Ellen Berg-Treasurer - 604-525-7827 or ellen@newwesthortsociety.org

Karen Low - Seed Exchange seeds@newwesthortsociety.org

Audrey Barnes - July In-Club Show/ The Great Radish Challenge

604-526-8284 (Before 8pm) or audrey@newwesthortsociety.org

Lea McDonald - July In-Club Show 604-942-2232

Marjorie Pauch - From Our Gardens marjorie@newwesthortsociety.org

Tonight's Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 7:30pm

Speaker: Dr. Rob McGregor, Head of Urban Ecology at Douglas College will speak on Pest Free, Chemical Free Gardening.

Mark Your Calendar

NWHS Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 11 at 7:30pm

Guest Speaker: Sharon Hanna, speaking on Kale and Winter Gardening. She may have seedlings.

NWHS Roadside Plant Sale

Saturday May 26, 10am to 3pm

On the boulevard in front of 720 5th Street, New West.

Drop off plants on sale day 8am to 9:30am or the evening before 5pm to 8pm.

New Westminster Preservation Society's 34th Annual Heritage Homes Tour and Tea

May 26, 10am to 5pm Tickets: \$35.00 on sale at local businesses.

www.newwestheritage.org

Langley Artisans Show

Bonsai, Pottery and Paintings, Sunday, June 2, 10am - 4pm, Free Admission George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42nd Ave., Langley

Desert Plant Society Show and Sale

June 15, 10am - 5pm and

June 16, 10am - 4:30pm.

Admission Free

Floral Hall, VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St., Vancouver

Denman Island 20th Anniversary Home and Garden Tour

June 15 -16, 2013

www.denmanconservancy.org

Perennial Plant Symposium Seminar

Sunday, July 21, 2013

Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel, 1088

Burrard St., Vancouver

Registration fee: \$89 by June 1 and \$99 after June 1

Website: www.perennialplant.org

New Westminster Horticultural Society May 2013

The Annual NWHS Garden Tour & Picnic:

Mark your calendar for Saturday July 13. This is one of the club's big social events of the year. We tour 5 to 6 member gardens and then enjoy a pot-luck picnic. The events run consecutively. Members are invited to partake in either or both.

The tour is a way in which you can share your garden with fellow NWHS members. Would you like to open your garden? How about it? We love to see new projects—just finished or even half finished. It's been a couple of years since we have visited the eastern sections of the city. At the moment, we have leads on two gardens. Can we add yours to the itinerary? Contact Audrey or Julia.

For those unfamiliar with our garden tour, the gardens are visited according to a set itinerary. It usually starts at about 1:00pm depending on the driving time needed and the number of gardens. The gardens are not open all afternoon but are opened in sequence. This enables those members on tour to visit the other gardens. The map and itinerary will be available at the July meeting. The tour is open to members and guests—adults only please. There will be no sign-up sheet for the tour. It is a rain or shine event.

This year we have a change in picnic location. It will be at Audrey & Steve Barnes. Talk about a garden project in progress! It starts at about 4:30pm i.e. at the tour end. The sign-up sheet for the pot-luck picnic will be available at both the June & July meetings. On this sign-up sheet not only do you say what you plan on donating food-wise but also how many are in your party. The picnic is geared towards adults but kids are welcome. Again, the event is rain or shine.

TREASURER'S REPORT - April

Total Revenues: \$494.10

Total Expenses: \$647.37

For a full report see Ellen's presentation and the bulletin board.

The Great Radish Challenge:

You are all invited to participate in the 2013 Radish Challenge. Try your hand at growing radishes and enter the best you produce in the July club show.

This month, we give you guidelines for growing radish; next month we will supply hints on showing them at their best. Have fun!

Radishes are generally known as a fast growing cool-weather crop. Their speed to mature is why we have chosen them for this competition. Many varieties are harvestable in 3 to 4 weeks. Cool weather? We don't know until it happens (or not). In spring, their normal growing season, they are planted in full sun. (Full sun equates to 6 hours of sunlight daily.) If the weather resumes its warm trend, plant them in dappled shade. They can be grown in the garden or in containers.

1. Selection of seed: For this challenge, we suggest that you pick fast maturing types. Read the description on the seed package! French Breakfast can take warm temperatures better than some other types. Short ball types can be grown in a container 6" deep; long types need containers 12" deep. Short ball types are also faster maturing. Seeds should last 4 years in the package.

2. Prepare your soil: Remove all rocks. Loosen the soil and blend in compost or well-rotted manure. Be cautious that your soil is not too high in nitrogen. This would produce all tops and skinny roots. For containers, use a commercial potting mix designed to be free draining and not easily compacted.

3. Sow seeds: ¼ to ½ inch deep, spaced about 1" apart. Water gently. Stagger your sowing time i.e. sow more seed every week. This will ensure you have a continuous harvest. Germination will take 3 to 7 days.

4. Water: Water regularly for quick growth and best flavor. Keep the soil evenly moist. Irregular watering and heavy rains can produce cracked radishes. If growing in a container, water whenever the top of the soil feels dry to the touch—this may be everyday in warm weather.

5. Fertilize: In the garden, no fertilizer should be needed if compost has been added. In containers, use a slow time-release balanced fertilizer (10-10-10 or 14-14-14) (½ tsp per gallon of potting mix).

6. Thin: When plants are 1-2" high, thin to 2" between each plant to allow the root to expand. Make sure the tops of the roots are covered with soil to prevent splitting and drying. The edible young shoots are tasty in salads.

7. Harvest: Harvest when ½-1" diameter. Don't wait. Radishes quickly develop a bitter flavor and woody texture if over mature. If your radish bolts (i.e. goes to seed), the seedheads are also edible. Radish leaves are edible but mature hairy ones are best cooked.

8. Pests: Flea beetles make numerous small holes in radish leaves. Cabbage root maggots and cutworms sometimes rasp holes or channels into radish skins. If you are serious, all these pests are easily prevented by covering the plants with lightweight floating row covers.



Hardy Plant Group Sale:

Lyle Courtice of HarkAway Botanicals has alerted us to another great chance to purchase great plants. This year the Hardy Plant Group Study Weekend is being held at UBC, June 14-16. They are opening their plant sale to Garden Club Members for one hour only: 1:30-2:30 on Saturday, June 15th. No early birds! Have your NWHS Membership card with you. This is a rare opportunity with many good growers in one location with a great assortment of choice and rare plants. Cash only. At Woodard Instructional Resources Center (IRC), 2194 Health Science Mall, UBC. (Note: If you missed the recent visit to HarkAway Botanicals, you missed a viewing of a beautiful immaculate garden and nursery. Thank you, Lyle for inviting us).
www.vancouverhardyplant.org