

Sechelt Garden Club

Newsletter April 2019

Happy Easter



Rain, lovely rain! We will hope for more and more. Have a wonderful Easter celebration. Happy gardening in this month of renewal.



Mini Plant Sale at our April 29th Meeting

It is coming up soon! Pot up a plant or two from your garden or a favourite house plant, label it with the **name of the plant** and **your name** and it will be sold in our mini plant sale. Remember that if the plant does not sell, it has to go home with its owner, as we do not have storage space.

This is a great way to pick up some fabulous plants for your garden, deck, or house. Bring a friend, a neighbour, a relative—all guests will be able to attend the plant sale meeting free of charge so they can spend their cash on plants. They also get to hear an excellent speaker and they may want to join our club.

Take advantage of this great opportunity



Sale starts at 6:30 so DO bring your plants by that time.



Next Meeting

Monday, April 29, 2019

at the Seaside Centre,
5790 Teredo Street

@ 7:00 pm

Please wear your name tag, and bring your cup for coffee or tea.

Speaker: Alex Augustyniak from Westcoast Seeds Ltd.

Topic: Year Round Vegetable Gardening

Alex grew up on a farm in Ontario and moved to BC in the 90's. The Gajewski farm was established in 1938, led by his amazing Grand mother, Mary Gajewski. The farm had over 400 acres with various crops including 15 acres of tomatoes (under contract with Aylmer's), cash crops, cows, chickens, eggs (farm gate sales), ducks, and rabbits plus a 1 acre veggie garden. Over the last 35+ years, Alex has been growing veggies, herbs and prolific weeds throughout Canada, including raised beds in BC. In 2014, Alex took on the role of GM of West Coast Seeds Ltd, a BC family owned seed company and has led the efforts to continually help people grow their own food 12 months of the year. Alex is also the Treasurer, and a Ornamentals Judge of All American Selections, an independent seed trial group.

Good Bugs—Bad Bugs

Marilyn Holt

Marilyn’s presentation had us booing and cheering as we recognized some of the pictures of bugs she was showing us. Some of the “good bugs” are Lacewing, who can eat up to 12 million aphids in a single season and Ladybugs who eat up to 400 aphids a day. She recommended if you purchase Ladybugs for your garden, to release them an hour before dusk so that if they don’t find something to eat right away, they won’t fly off in search of food in the dark.

I think I paid more attention to the “bad bugs”. We heard about the Carrot Rust Fly last meeting and Marilyn told us that they overwinter in the soil. Marilyn also mentioned the Colorado potato beetle, Sawfly, European Chafer Beetle who destroys lawns, the Gypsy Moth who defoliates deciduous trees and the Red Lily Leaf Beetle. She mentioned a new bug to BC which is the Japanese Beetle which has been spotted in Vancouver. If you see a rusty brown beetle with distinctive white spots around their shell Marilyn suggests you contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to report it.

Check out this site for more information and the Agency contact information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health/insects-and-plant-diseases/nursery-and-ornamentals/japanese-beetle>

Marilyn also talked about pesticides on our fruits and vegetables and I have included below a few web sites to check out the possible dangers of pesticides to us as consumers.



Lacewing



Gypsy Moth– Male

Female has white coloured wings



Red Lily
Leaf Beetle

One of our members, Ron Knight, who attended Marilyn’s talk offered this web site link to a Government of Canada web page on “Pesticides and Food Safety” .

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/about-pesticides/pesticides-food-safety.html>

Marilyn also added these links:

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/20/health/gallery/2019-dirty-dozen-fruits-and-vegetables/index.html>

<https://www.ewg.org/foodnews/summary.php>

Lots of information to review and to consider. Thanks to Marilyn for her talk and to Ron for his additional information.



Rufus Hummingbirds

One of these beautiful little hummingbirds has been spotted in the Davis Bay area, back from the Gulf of Mexico. They travel over 6400 Km up to Canada, and some travel on to Alaska. You may have spotted them as well and have your hummingbird feeders filled.

They are so amazing and we only have them visiting until July when they head back South.; they are so lovely to see in our gardens. The Sunshine Coast is a glorious place to live!

Planting Tomatoes



Frances Ostergaard, one of our Life time members, did a presentation at our meeting about starting tomato seeds. Frances and her husband Niels provided hundreds of tomato seedlings for our huge plant sale the SGC has done in past years in the spring.

She suggests planting the seeds between the 20th to the 30th of March. Use 1/3 soil, 1/3 peat and 1/3 compost and a generous amount of lime. Pour boiling water on the soil in the seed pots, cool slightly. Spread the seeds into the pots when the soil is slightly warm, and cover. Transplant when the second set of leaves show and use root stimulant. Move the plants into larger pots when well rooted. Frances mentions that grow lights really work well. Keep in the greenhouse or under plastic. Cover to keep the rain off the leaves, water regularly and keep up with lime which helps against blossom end rot. Nip out growth between the stem and leaves. When you are planting into your garden you can sink the plant into soil right up to its first leaves.



Thank you Frances for sharing your knowledge with our members.

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April To Do List from The Garden Helper

Caring for Your Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs

April is the month for planting summer flowering bulbs like Dahlias, Gladiolas and Lilies. Mix bulb fertilizer, processed manure and peat moss into the planting soil. Tuberous Begonias and Canna should not be set outdoors until all danger of frost has passed, so wait until next month. Plant annual seeds of Asters, Cosmos, Marigolds and Zinnias in the garden.

Continue reading at:
<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/calendar/april.html>



Please check out our website for helpful gardening tips.

[Gardening Tips and Information](#)



**More information about the club can be found at:
www.secheltgardenclub.com**

For more information on volunteering call Carol Corbet @ 778 458-2287