

Sechelt Garden Club

‘Pruning with Cheryl Topping’

SGC meeting Jan 30, 2023

Cheryl gave an informative and amusing talk and demonstration on aspects of the art of pruning trees and shrubs. She began with a demonstration of the required tools; 2 varieties of pruners, anvil and bypass; a small folding branch saw; an extension pole for higher branches; and an orchard ladder, though she recommended staying on the ground.

She then demonstrated how to clean and sharpen pruners. Clean with soap and water, sometimes between plants, especially roses if they are diseased. A sanding sponge block is helpful for tougher dirt. Use a sharpening tool regularly. Finally she uses 3 in 1 machine oil or vegetable oil to keep the pruner smoothly cutting.

She then moved on to the timing of pruning. Prune in winter to spring for growth promotion and make bigger cuts to shape a tree or shrub. Have an idea of where you want to go with it in the long run, having a shape in mind. Spring is a good time for new growth such as with roses. Late summer or early fall is a good time to shape fruit trees.

She then demonstrated pruning a tree *Tilia cordata*, identifying the leader branch and pruning away any that were competing with it. She also suggested taking off lower branches if they are in the way.



She showed how to cut close to the trunk at an angle, especially at a site where the bark has included, weakening the tree at that point. Branches there are susceptible to splitting off the tree.

Japanese maples have multiple leaders so she showed how to prune away unwanted branches throughout the tree. She also cautioned about using hedge trimmers on shrubs and trees as growth continues in a ‘Y’ shape after. If a shrub is overgrown and too complicated to prune, she suggested cutting it to the ground and starting over.

Cheryl does private consultation though she is in high demand. She will have time this summer for new clients and can be contacted at cltarborist@gmail.com.

Lee Tidmarsh

Go Native! *by Suzan Essiembre*

Pacific Bleeding Heart ***Dicentra Formosa***

Pacific Bleeding Heart, a native perennial, has delicate heart shaped fragrant pink flowers that bloom in early spring and hang in small clusters above soft, fern-like bluish-green foliage.

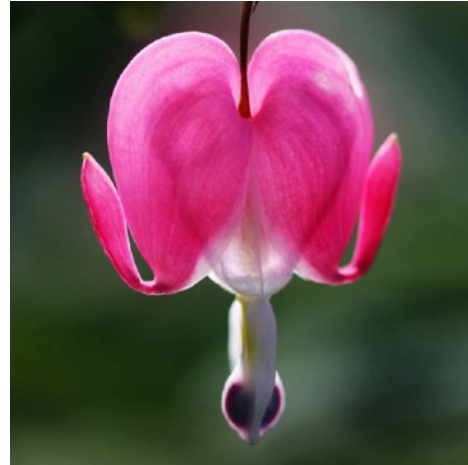
Bleeding heart dies back in mid summer right after its blooming season, the plant remains dormant through the rest of the year and grows again in early spring. You can cut back bleeding heart as soon as it yellows or whenever it gets unsightly. Cutting it back will not harm next years flowering or growth.

A woodland plant, it grows best in a light shade garden with well drained soil. Even though they are a non aggressive woodland plant they won't flower in deep shade.

It grows 20cm-1m (8in-3ft) tall and up to 1.2m (4ft) wide. Plants spread by rhizomes or self seed in moist conditions. All parts of the bleeding heart plant are toxic, use gloves when handling.

Butterflies and bees love this plant; it's deer resistant and toxic to dogs if eaten.

Plant with ferns, coral bells, hostas and astilbes.



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**Update on Sunshine Coast Nurseries
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Please add Kym's Plants at 7910 Fawn Rd in
Halfmoon Bay to your list of nurseries on your
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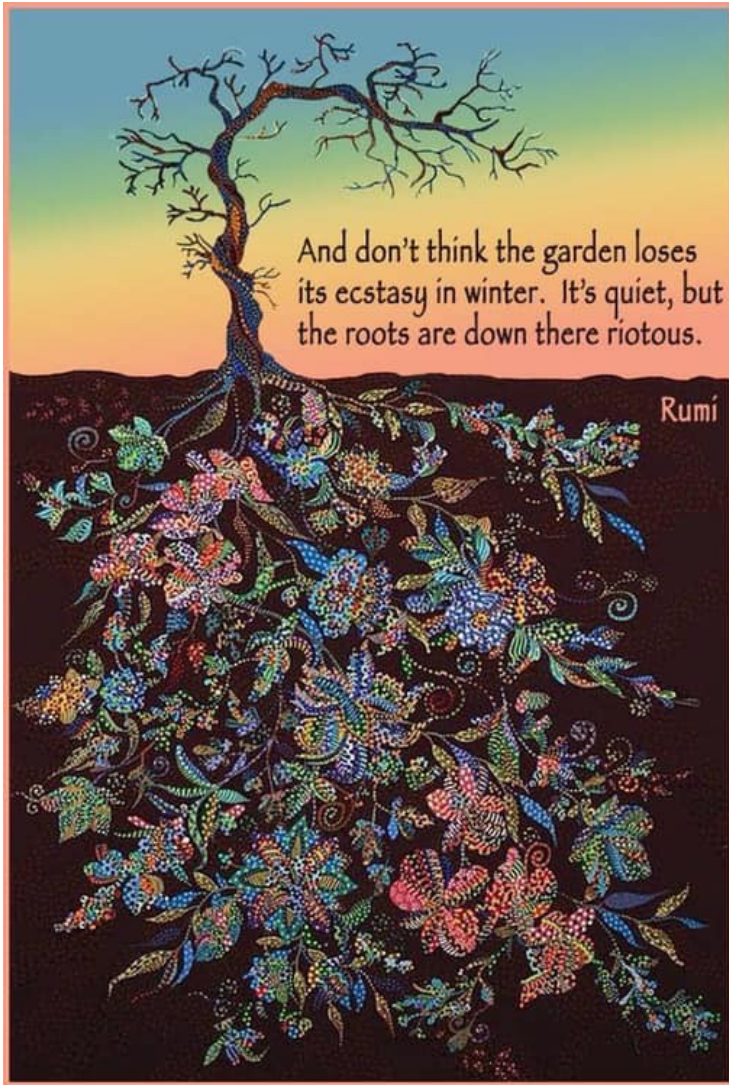
Past President

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Upcoming meeting

February 27 7 pm Seaside Centre

Speaker John Yue from Coastal Sun will present on 'Starting transplants and planning a vegetable garden'



submitted by Carol Corbet

Lack of surface drainage suggests problems below ground.

Cathy Hallam submitted this article from the Garden Professors website, written by Linda Chalker-Scott. Very useful in our rainy season. This is the link for it.

<https://gardenprofessors.com/another-drainage-solution-that-makes-problems-worse/>

Other events

Gibsons Garden Club Presents:
ROSES: GARDEN FACTS & FOLKLORE
 Speaker: Jason Crutch
 FRASER VALLEY ROSE FARM
 Website: www.fraservalleyrosefarm.com

 Wed. February 15, 2023
 At the Heritage Playhouse
 Doors open 6:30 pm
 Silent Auction – Cash only
 Tickets: \$15

Tickets available at:
 B&K Garden and Landscape
 Info at www.gibsonsgardenclub.ca or email: gibsonsgardenclub@outlook.com

SAVE THE DATE

BRADNER FLOWER SHOW

April 15, 2023

The executive is planning a field trip to Bradner Flower Show in Abbotsford on Saturday April 15. More details will be provided at our next meeting. We will have a sign up sheet to organize car pools.



photo from Garden Professors