

# Sechelt Garden Club Newsletter

www.secheltgardenclub.blogspot.com

**JUNE 2011**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>President:</b>       | <b>Charmaine Harris</b>   |
| <b>Past President</b>   | <b>June Meyer</b>   |
| <b>Vice President:</b>  | <b>Larry Musser</b>   |
| <b>Secretary:</b>       | <b>Christi Blackman</b>   |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>       | <b>Lorraine Blakeman</b>  |
| <b>Newsletter:</b>      | <b>Sandra Friedman</b>  |
| <b>Membership:</b>      | <b>Mary Rowles</b>  |
| <b>Other Directors:</b> | <b>Lorraine Gallant, Moira Leishman, Sandra Markley, Lilli McGinn</b> |

**Next Meeting: September 26th, at 7:30pm in the Seaside Centre**  
Details later.

## JUNE Gardening 'TO DO' List

- ▲ Plant tomatoes past the two “seed” leaves, up to the next set of leaves. The more stem you can cover, the better. Roots will sprout all along the stem for a healthier, sturdier plant that is well secured.
- ▲ Groom indeterminate tomatoes by pinching “suckers” regularly so that the plant will put its energy into making fruit instead of leaves. Keep tomatoes well watered (avoid wetting the leaves!) and fed. If they’re in the ground feed with compost tea, fish emulsion or kelp every two weeks while they’re in active growth. Tomatoes in containers require weekly feeding in order to have good results.
- ▲ If mesclun and lettuce beds get stressed in afternoon heat, try shade cloth or even a big umbrella during the hottest part of the day.
- ▲ If lettuce tastes bitter, water more frequently. Lettuce needs to grow quickly to taste sweet, and does so by never being allowed to dry out and occasional feeding.
- ▲ Direct sow pumpkins and cukes. Make a curved indentation in the soil so water flows toward the seed and plant, especially if conditions are hot and dry.
- ▲ Plant corn in the first week of June. Space-challenged gardeners can try the ancient Aztec “three sisters” method, seeding corn, squash and beans together. Corn needs to be about 10 inches tall before you plant beans for best results. Otherwise the beans will knock down the corn.
- ▲ Fertilize strawberries bi-weekly with fish emulsion and/or dissolvable kelp. Grow wild strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*) in shady spots in containers. They’re available in white and red types in garden centres this month. Renee’s Seeds sells ‘Mignonette’ strawberry seed—it takes about three weeks to germinate but grows into nice large plants in one season.
- ▲ At the end of June sow “starts” for some overwintering veggies like purple sprouting broccoli and big winter cabbage. Sow a few seeds per 4-inch (10-cm) pot in good loose starter mix. Protect from marauding slugs, grow on in dappled light, plugging into spots vacated by squash, tomatoes, beans etc. in early fall.
- ▲ Basil may be seeded outdoors now. Don’t allow plants to flower and go to seed—keep the tops pinched off.
- ▲ Continue planting annuals and water well. Plant seeds between patio stones to out-compete weeds. Try California poppy, Roman chamomile, creeping thyme and, in shadier spots, lobelia.
- ▲ Delphinium can be difficult to coax back a second year. Sow fresh seeds (newly collected from a friend’s garden or yours). Use loose seed-starter mix and be patient as germination is variable. Transfer to 4-inch (10-cm) pots and overwinter in a cool greenhouse or porch. Plant in spring. Ensure protection from early slugs (try ringing plants with used coffee grounds). Give them good drainage and space.
- ▲ Continue watering bulbs until yellowed leaves can be gently pulled off. The leaves will convert the sun’s energy into carbohydrate that will be stored in the bulb. This will increase bulb size and ensure good energy reserves for flowering next season.

- ⤴ Give roses a light feeding, as well as a handful of Epsom salts dissolved in water.
- ⤴ Continue to feed indoor houseplants while they're growing. Regular spraying of non-fuzzy leaved plants will keep spider mites at bay. Houseplants that are enjoying camping out in your yard or porch for the summer should also be fed regularly.
- ⤴ Make compost tea using pantyhose. Stuff compost into legs, then soak the legs in a bucket of water for a few days. Use this to water vegetables, raspberries, blueberries and other small fruit—just about everything will enjoy a drink of compost tea.
- ⤴ Keep hanging baskets moist. If the basket gets too dry, water sometimes runs out the sides and doesn't get to the plants. If plants wilt and basket seems lightweight, dunk it in a huge plastic "muck bucket" filled with water and let it sit for an hour or two. Give it a drink of compost tea, too.

(Thanks to Sharon Hanna, *GardenWise Online*, June 2011)



### **Arts Centre Weeding Project**

After 8 weeks of weeding, pruning, mulching, sore knees and tired backs we are finished with the Sechelt Arts Centre project. We will come back one more time to do touch up work and put our banner out for the July 1<sup>st</sup> festivities. Thanks again to the following: Kathy Archibald, Christi Blackman, Lorraine Blakeman, Stan Butcher, Chris Chandler, Nancy Fabbro, Dan Fivehouse, Sandy Friedman, Lester and Charmaine Harris, Trish James, Anne Lempfert, Moira Leishman, Edwin and Pianka Leung, Sandra Markley, Lilli McGinn, Bernadette McEwen, June Meyer, Larry Musser, Kay Ogawa, Mary Rowles, Pat Smit and Nattanya Wardel.

### **Totem Lodge Project**

Don't put those gardening tools away yet! We will be working on the Totem Lodge garden on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Please contact Sandra Markley for more information.

### **Dates to Remember:**

#### ***Strawberry Tea* reminder...**

**The Strawberry Tea is this coming Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at Julia Scott's house. Please bring a chair for your comfort and a sweet for the table. From 1:00 to 2:00 you can visit Pauline Smith's garden and Kay Ogawa's garden a.**

**June 26, Sunday:** the Squamish Garden Club Tour is scheduled for June 26 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tickets and a guide are available for \$15 from the Squamish Public Library, Garibaldi Nurseries, Anna's Attic and the Adventure Centre (also on the tour day). Further information: [squamishgardeners.com](http://squamishgardeners.com) or from Coral Arrand at [carrand@shaw.com](mailto:carrand@shaw.com) If you are interested in viewing this amazing selection of 10 gardens do connect with others and enjoy the experience.

**July 17, Sunday:** Gibsons Garden Club visits us. Stay tuned for an email with more information.

**August 28, Sunday:** Dahlias Galore tour with tea and dessert.



## Tips From the Garden Shed

### *The Sociable Garden...*

#### **...plants that thrive on the companionship of others**

[Adapted from Sheena Adams, *GardenWise Online*, June 2011]

When surrounded by the right friends, vegetable plants, fruit trees and berry bushes will produce higher yields and tastier fruit, and be more vigorous and healthy. The trick is to know where and what to plant to confuse pests, attract beneficial insects and realize the particular properties that certain plants can bring to the garden. The practice of companion gardening or of growing compatible plants together has been followed by gardeners for centuries, and it has long been a valuable tool in organic gardening.

Flowers not only add colour and fragrance, but they also attract pollinators and deter many unwanted pests.

**Marigolds**, **petunias** and **white geraniums** are said to help ward off harmful nematodes, cutworms, beetles and tomato hornworms. In the greenhouse, **marigolds** can help control the whitefly population.

**Nasturtiums** are beneficial in reducing aphid and flea beetle populations by trapping them with their stickiness. **Cosmos** scare away the pesky carrot rust fly.

**Garlic** repels aphids, spider mites, and fruit tree borers, which are a common problem for peach, plum and cherry trees so plant garlic at the base of your tree each season. **Basil** improves the performance and flavour of tomato plants. **Coriander** is an easy-to-grow herb that is useful for its spider mite-repelling fragrance. Any plant (such as peppers) that requires extra help from pollinating insects will benefit from the nearby planting of any aromatic herb. However, **dill** will attract the tomato hornworm, so always plant dill and tomatoes at opposite ends of the garden.

Keep **tomatoes** away from all members of the **cabbage family**, and all **peas and beans** separate from the **onion** family.

**Radishes** are beneficial when planted in the hills of your cucumber, zucchini and watermelon, as they help discourage the cucumber beetle, a pest that not only devours crops, but also spreads disease. Radishes will also help protect beans, corn and peas.

Alternate broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower plants with **Walla Walla onions** which will discourage the cabbage worm adults (butterflies) from landing on the plant to lay larvae. In turn, the onion plant will also benefit from the broken rows, as the onion maggot will not be able to move from onion to onion.

Aphids are a natural food source for hover flies and ladybugs. To attract **hover flies** plant plenty of **parsley** throughout the garden and orchard.

**Eggplants** are beneficial to all parts of the vegetable garden. Their large sticky leaves attract and trap pests such as the Colorado potato beetle, aphids, flea beetles and white fly.

**Peas** and **soybeans** help restore the nitrogen in the garden that corn is notorious for hogging.

Interplanting **carrots** with **leeks** will reduce the chances of infestation from the carrot rust fly, and the roots of the leeks will help to loosen up the soil.

**Peas** and **beans** provide shade for lettuce or spinach and will reduce summer bolting. When planting, consider where shadows will be cast on late summer afternoons and be sure to take advantage of this naturally created shade.

Plant **potatoes** with **horseradish** to protect plants from the Colorado potato beetle. Be sure to remove all the horseradish at harvest to prevent it from spreading. Plant **summer radish** beside your leaf lettuce to make the radish more tender.