

Mark your calendar:

March 15 POTTING DAY Join with other Club members to pot up garden specimens for sale at the Annual Spring Show and Sale. If you are not able to attend please drop off plant donations at Lisa Blair's farm. Ensure all plants are labelled with name, colour, growing requirements, height and width. Snacks will be provided but please bring your own drink. Also, bring a trowel, secateurs, and gardening gloves. **Location:** 23441-48 Avenue, Langley **Time:** 10 a.m. to noon.

Langley Garden Club Spring Show and Sale

April 26 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Southridge Fellowship Church. 22756 48 Avenue, Langley

Get ready early for our biggest event of the year that helps raise funds for speakers, equipment, and space rental. Pot up perennials, trees or shrubs in clean pots (minimum one gallon preferred). Select some of your outstanding or unusual specimens to spark gardening interest! Please label the plant and indicate colour, growth habit, or special planting considerations. Drop off plant donations on the 26th from 7 -9 a.m. (okay to bring after 9 if you cannot make it earlier). Check out the back page of the **Garden Club Monthly Show Guide for a list of award winning perennials that you may wish to donate.**

Donations of baking, canning, jams, or jellies are welcome.

Floral Arts displays may be dropped off the evening prior (April 25 between 6 and 8 pm)*. Volunteers will receive a free lunch (sandwich, drink, and sweet treat). This year several new vendors will be participating. This event showcases our club to the community . . . so participate in whatever way you can to introduce the next generation to the joy of gardening!
*All floral arts entries are welcome! However, there will be no categories nor limits on the number of entries per person. Only arrangements (one entry per person) will be judged. Remember to show up at 2 pm to retrieve your entry.

Langley Garden Gazette March 2025 Issue Two

Editorial

Winter or spring? Judging by the frost this morning it appears to still be winter. According to the meteorological calendar spring officially began on the first of this month. Considering that in a mere 1.5 hours the temperature went from 0c to a balmy 6c ... I concur that spring is definitely here. The Diodar out front is ringed with tiny crocuses planted beyond the time that my memory holds. Various Hellebores survived the 30cm+ snow that buried them for almost two weeks. Their snowy white, soft pink, and deep purples announce that plants, like ourselves, can be resilient.

So, this is the time to begin to sow some of the longer to develop seeds like leeks and onions. If you would like an early start on herbs getting several pots going on a heat element will give you a head start and sturdy seedlings that can be donated to the spring sale. A fellow gardener recently blessed me with a stack of (empty) egg flats. He swore that his friend grew the best seedlings ever by starting them in egg cartons and the placing the self-contained seedling in the soil when it was ready. This, of course, minimizes any disturbance of the root system that can set seedlings back. I'll let you know how it turns out. With the threat of ever higher food prices, I am thinking ahead to what I can grow and can or freeze to limit having to purchase things like salsa or passata. My potatoes have begun sprouting however the soil is still far too wet to plant anything. These will stay in the garage in boxes filled with shredded paper until the soil warms up and the potatoes won't rot. Moreover, it is recommended that you not walk on or till soil until it has dried out substantially. Otherwise, the soil becomes extremely compacted resulting in decreased ability to retain water when most needed.

Last weekend, huge containers were moved from the garage to the green house to coax the leaves to unfurl. Little crocuses planted around the pots were in full bloom by weeks end! The warm weather drew me outdoors, too. I have graduated into creative gardening

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strategies. Perching my lawn chair beside a wheel barrow or city compost bin makes deadheading a synch. Weeds are piled up or placed in one gallon pots to be donated to the city compost. I have found that Sedum flower heads tossed on pre-selected spaces in the garden can produce some lovely starts with minimal effort. I am looking forward to seeing how these germinate (or not) as they are tossed under a massive Grand Fir in my 'secret garden.' Perhaps you, too, have a secret garden. This space was created by some major windfalls opening up a space in my back yard. I was delighted to discover rhododendrons that must have been "planted" by several feathered visitors. Ferns are great fillers including Autumn Brilliance, Deer Fern, and Crested Lady Fern. One patch is totally made up of native ferns growing throughout my yard then transplanted in a very moist area where other plants did not thrive. The neighbour's fence was hidden by a small semicircle of Annabelle Hydrangeas until several overhead branches and wood chips buried them. Time to come up with a new green screen. A lovely red leafed Japanese Maple provides a colourful specimen feature. And why is this garden so secret? A lace cap hydrangea now about 8' across has spread its branches across the pathway. Thus, only those who know the secret entrance will find it and be able to rest in its peaceful shade.

Be sure to look around your garden to identify specimens that can be moved around to create mass plantings of simply fill in spaces. Select 'extras' and pot them up for the Spring Show and Sale or drop off labelled clusters to be potted up next weekend by garden club volunteers. Enjoy the extended daylight hours and keep smiling as you enjoy the blessing of greenery and colour bursts!

- *Patrice Weibelzahl, Editor*
- *Phone : 604 530 3966*

Tonight's guest speaker: Pam Erikson will thrill us with spectacular pictures of new and exciting bulbs to add to your summer garden. Each year Pam, at Erikson Day Lilies and Perennials, orders thousands of bulbs to beautify local gardens. Be sure to be up-to-date in this field of exotic colour and fragrance!

April Guest Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Elle, Ph.D., Entomologist at Simon Fraser University, will focus on garden pollinators, and garden strategies that build pollinator

friendly environments. In the summer she will be directing a field trip to Lisa Blair's farm. Watch for the announcement in the next couple of months.

Dig this now:

- ❖ Prune roses when the forsythia is in bloom. Remove and discard all damaged, black or brown branches. Pinch off and discard any leaves remaining from the previous season. Do not compost.
- ❖ Dead head any perennials such as astilbe, sedum, phlox before the new growth takes off.
- ❖ Remove and discard leaves from Orientalis hellebores to prevent the spread of black spot which overwinters on leaves. They will develop this year's leaves after blooming.
- ❖ Hydrangeas should be pruned just above the plump double buds (which produce flowers).
- ❖ Clematis: fertilize with well-rotted manure or compost placed on the soil no deeper than 8 cm (3 inches). Do not place compost/mulch against the stem or leaves. If using liquid fertilizer cease doing so once flowering begins (this will prolong your flowering period). New clematis should be pruned back to three sets of leaves the first winter after planting. Clematises are divided into three groups. Group C –late season bloomers may be pruned now as it blooms on wood grown and hardened in this season. Group A –early bloomers and Group B -mid season bloomers bloom on last season's wood. Prune these after flowering is complete. If you are uncertain which type of clematis you have ask a nurseryman. Otherwise watch its blooming pattern and make a note for next year.
- ❖ Give ornamental grasses a trim. Pull a fistful of blades together in a pony-tail like fashion and snip off close to the base. Remember grasses do not need to be fertilized (it makes them spindly.). When they start to show some growth, fork out an ornamental grass clump and divide into quarters. Replant in fertile, well-drained soil.
- ❖ Bring dahlia tubers into a heated space such as the basement to encourage eye development. Plant dahlia tubers indoors to get a head start on growth – and earlier blooms!
- ❖ Take cuttings from lavender, thyme and rosemary. Pot up in fast draining soil mix, cover with a sealed plastic bag, and begin cuttings indoors. Bottom heat is an asset.
- ❖ Begin broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, lettuce, leeks, onions, peppers, tomatoes, and herbs such as parsley and basil indoors.
- ❖ Begin sweet peas, marigolds, nasturtiums, alyssum indoors.

