

GARDENER'S GATE

Gardening for a Better World

How To...

Build your own Patio

Companion Planting

Deal with Lily Beetles

Victory Gardens

Growing your own
veggies

Gardener Profile

Louise Kracher

Ask your Local Expert

Attracting Local Birds

Garden Escapades

Royal Roads

Summer 2020

Edmonton Horticultural Society

Editor's Letter

Is there anything better than long, hot summer days? I love this time of year—my vegetable garden is thriving, my flower beds are vigorous, and the neighbourhood is chock-a-block full of birds, bees, and butterflies.

You can say I'm an early bird. One of my favourite summertime rituals is rising early, around 5AM, making a hot mug of Earl Grey tea (with extra sugar and milk) and slip quietly outside to the enjoy the balmy morning on my east-facing front porch. While the air is brisk, the morning sunlight is full of warmth.

Sitting still, I listen to the birdsong as I drink my tea and admire my neighbor's flowerbeds, as well as my own. The grass glitters with dew; my feet - soon wet - leave tracks as I walk to my garden. I hunker down to admire newly open flower buds on the hosta and sprays of delicate white foam-like flowers on the heuchera (the bumble bees seem to appreciate them too!).

Carrying my mug of tea to the back yard, I inspect my newly built raised vegetable garden to see what's sprung up over night: beets, carrots, parsnips, tender bean tendrils and more will offer a bounty later in the summer. Reluctantly, I finish my mug of tea and retreat into the house to prepare for the workday ahead.

No matter: summer evenings are just as glorious as the early mornings.

Lindsay Jarvis

EHS Communications Director

communications@edmontonhort.com



Calling for Volunteers

Established in 1909, the **Edmonton Horticultural Society** has played a major part of Edmonton's community for over 110 years.

EHS has three pillars of focus for all our gardening programs: **Urban Beautification, Food gardening & Sustainability.**

The EHS has more members than ever before, an active Facebook group, grant-funded staff and a strong board. Recruitment activities have been successful with exciting new program ideas from the recruits and current board members.

If you wish to volunteer and get involved, please contact us at president@edmontonhort.com

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AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Alberta Horticultural Association
www.icangarden.com/clubs/AHA

Alberta Invasive Species Council
www.invasiveplants.ab.ca

Alberta Native Plant Council
www.anpc.ab.ca

Alberta Regional Lily Society
www.arls-lilies.org

Cactus & Succulent Society of Alberta
www.albertacactusandsucculent.org

Calgary Horticultural Society
www.calhort.org

Colouring the Canadian Landscape Foundation
www.cclf.info

Edmonton and Area Land Trust
www.ealt.ca

Edmonton Native Plant Group
www.edmontonnativeplantgroup.org

Edmonton Permaculture Guild
www.edmontonpermacultureguild.ca

Evergreen Garden Club
Josanne Thiessen at prairielily1@gmail.com

Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden
<https://friendsofuabg.org/>

Glenora Gardening Club
Sheila Taschuk at shetaz77@gmail.com

Master Gardeners Association of Alberta
www.mgaab.org

Operation Fruit Rescue Edmonton
www.operationfruitrescue.org

Orchid Society of Alberta
www.orchidsalberta.com

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation
www.orchidspecies.ca

Sangudo & District Horticultural Club
Marlene Petersen at hpt1960@telus.net

St. Albert & District Garden Club
www.stalbertgardenclub.info

St. Albert Botanic Park
www.stalbertbotanicpark.com

Stony Plain Horticultural Society
www.sphsociety.ca

Strathcona Garden Club
Brenda Brooke at Brook_eb@yahoo.ca

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
www.history.alberta.ca/ukrainianvillage

Wetaskiwin Horticultural Society
Barb Lucas at bmlucas@telus.net

Interested in becoming a discount or Speaker Series vendor?

Email us officeadmin@edmontonhort.com

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Arch Greenhouses
archgreenhouses.com

Cheyenne Tree Farms
cheyennetree.ca

City of Edmonton Building & Parks
edmonton.ca

Classic Landscapes
classiclandscapes.com

Ellerslie Gift and Garden
ellersliegift.com

Greenland Garden Centre
greenlandgarden.com

Kuhlmann's Market Garden
kuhlmanns.com

Lee Valley Tools
leevalley.com

Manderley Turf Products
manderley.com

Millcreek Nursery
millcreeknursery.ca

Pegasus Publications
(Alberta Gardener)
localgardener.net

Salisbury Greenhouse
salisburygreenhouse.com

Sunstar Nurseries
sunstarnurseries.com

Timbertrim Treeworks Ltd.
timbertrim.ca

University of Alberta Botanic Garden
botanicgarden.ualberta.ca

The Wildbird General Store
wildbirdgeneralstore.com

MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

*EHS Members receive special pricing on non-sale purchases at these fine vendors.**

All Seasons Garden Centre	780-448-2385
Apache Seeds Ltd	780-489-4245
Arch Greenhouses	780-438-4349
Arrowhead Nurseries	780-472-6260
Aspen Grove Nurseries	780-962-3148
Aspen Ridge Greenhouse	780-464-5527
Best Curb	780-945-6787
BMR Greenhouses & Water Gardens	780-986-0787
Canar Rock Products	780-466-6650
Cannor Nurseries	780-987-9133
Cheyenne Tree Farms	780-929-8102
Ellerslie Gift & Garden	780-988-6622
Flowers on 50th	780-463-7673
Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden	780-221-6467
Jils Landscape Supply	780-456-4848
Kuhlmann's Market	780-475-7500
LaRue Tree Certified Arborists	780-603-5317
Lawnmower Hospital	780-437-1851
Millcreek Nursery Ltd.	780-469-8733
Organic Green	780-444-5931
Prairie Gardens & Greenhouses	780-981-2272
Salisbury Greenhouse	780-467-5743
South Cooking Lake Greenhouses	780-922-6765
Sunstar Nurseries	780-472-6103
The Wildbird General Store	780-439-7333
Timbertrim Treeworks	780-449-8733
University of Alberta Botanic Garden	780-987-3054
Wild Birds Unlimited	587-521-2473

*A valid membership card and photo ID required. Offers subject to change without notice.

CONTRIBUTORS

Megan Andre is a Horticulturalist, Environmental Scientist, and 5th Generation Alberta Farmer. I have a background as a regulatory expert with experience managing projects from large to small. Don't hold all that against me, I've never outgrown my rural roots and still shovel (composted) manure into my city garden. I go no till, mulch with barley straw, and my passion shines when you ask me about local food innovations. I'm a visionary leader, hoping to enabling others with passion and purpose on my ever changing path. I've joined EHS as an opportunity to connect to local horticulture, and I'm so grateful to be a part of this community.



Susan Parker was born in Bury, England. She immigrated to Canada with her husband in 1976 and became a Canadian citizen in 1983. She has two children and five grandchildren whom she enjoys spending time with. Susan has been a member of the Edmonton Horticultural Society since 1995. Susan has worked in a greenhouse for almost 20 years. She has been involved in many gardening community projects such as the Twin Brooks community garden, Front Yards in Bloom and developing the Edmonton Valley Zoo vegetable and pollinator gardens. She has won the EHS Passionate Gardener of the Year.

Susan Schofield is a Master Gardener, grandmother of 6 boys, and avid curler. She became a volunteer with Front Yards In Bloom (FYIB) in 2017 and started by delivering signs; she enjoyed it so much she became the Team Lead of FYIB for the Edmonton Horticultural Society. Susan is looking forward to working with all our FYIB volunteers and partners, viewing and judging all the beautiful yards in our great city.



Share your interesting stories & ideas—become a Contributor!

Edmonton Horticultural Society needs to hear from you! *Gardener's Gate* is looking for new stories to share about the world of gardening.

Contact us at communications@edmontonhort.com to share your story.



Christine Werk is an avid vegetable gardener, scientist and Master Composter Recycler. She has organized the Speaker Series for the Edmonton Horticultural Society for the past five years and enjoys finding speakers to share the latest gardening trends with Edmonton gardeners.

Tamie Perryment is an avid lifelong gardener, lives in Parkdale area and has an Organic Master Gardener's Certificate from Gaia College. As a long time member of EHS, Tamie serves as Vice-President of the Edmonton Horticultural Society.



Erin Dykstra and her husband, Jordan, are the owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Edmonton. She birdwatches and gardens with her two young children, and can often be found with a pair of binoculars and a bird book in hand. When not working in the store or presenting bird talks, Erin is busy planning garden expansions and digging holes to welcome new trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Elizabeth Atherton-Reid loves a garden bursting with beauty. Vegetables are okay, but what she really goes for are big brassy flowers that fill her eyes with pleasure. Elizabeth wants to be charmed by trees and shrubs and interesting little nooks that make her smile every time she walks by them (even if it was just five minute ago!).



NOTICE

Dear Members,

EHS cares about our membership. It is clear that in the best interest of our community and members we need to postpone or cancel all upcoming in person events until further notice.

Although the Public Health Agency of Canada considers the public health risk posed by the COVID-19 to be low, at this time, things are changing quickly. This precautionary step to protect our most venerable members, is a decision that we feel is necessary.

Currently our EHS board is using new ways to engage and support our gardening community, including hosting Speaker Series online—watch for updates via eNews & Facebook.

EHS encourage you to call or reach out friends or family who may need support during this difficult time. While following recommendations for physical distancing is important maintaining social connections is more important than ever.

Find joy in your garden this summer.

Sincerely,



Edmonton
Horticultural
Society

SUMMER CALENDAR

Front Yards in Bloom

Is there a yard in your neighbourhood that you've always admired? If so, nominate them by June 30!

To learn more, see pg. 12.

JUN.
30

JUNE

Speaker's Series: Succulents

6:45 pm – 9:00 pm | Online

[Join us](#) in a discussion with guest speaker, Paul Zammit, about all things related to succulents.

JUN.
29

JULY

2020 Garden Competition

The EHS Garden Competition is back!

Submit your nominations by **July 8**.

Judging & photography will take place between **July 13-14**, followed by an awards ceremony.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Mid
July

AUGUST

Speaker's Series: Poisonous Plants

6:45 pm – 9:00 pm | Online

[Join Morgan Webb](#) to learn all about poisonous plants of Alberta, how to identify and avoid them.

AUG.
31



Front Yards in Bloom

Beautify our city with Front Yards in Bloom!

By Susan Schofield

The City of Edmonton, along with our partners, have launched a new year of Front Yards in Bloom—a beloved tradition for gardeners, yard enthusiasts and community members. Since 1999, the Edmonton Horticultural Society, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and the City of Edmonton have celebrated citizens who work hard to make their space beautiful. Even though we must stay physically distant from each other at this time, Front Yards in Bloom allows communities to come together and stay connected. We encourage you to safely explore your neighbourhood and acknowledge spaces that brighten your day.



Even without a green thumb or space to design, everyone can participate! Nominate a yard, public space, or balcony that you admire or brightens your day. Nominees will receive a yard sign and a chance to be recognized in one of six categories as a household that promotes neighbourly connection and beautification. Categories include General, Natural, Edible, Tiny Yards, Public Spaces, and Balconies in Bloom.

To nominate a front yard, public space or balcony and for more information on the program, visit [frontyardsinbloom.ca](https://www.frontyardsinbloom.ca). Nominations are accepted from May 20 to June 30.

To volunteer please visit <https://www.volunteermark.com/frontyardsinbloom>

Society Update

A message from our EHS President, Megan Andre.

Nowadays, nearly the entire world is under order to shelter in place, while weathering the current COVID-19 storm. So, it may seem reasonable that EHS and Edmonton's gardeners would be doing just that. However, with all of this uncertainty comes a need to fall back into the comfort of a familiar chore.

All around our beautiful city, soil, seed packets and bedding plants have been flying off the shelves. Old and new gardeners are coming together to share information and build momentum for this 2020 garden season. It has been heartwarming to see, through social media, our EHS community with your wealth of gardening knowledge, quickly replying to support each other and new gardeners. EHS, like our members, has recognised the need to cultivate this renewed interest in gardening, and is working with intention to bring information to all Edmonton area gardeners this season.

Unfortunately, EHS has had to make some tough changes to our in person programs. With the inability to gather in person this spring, some programs, like the Garden Tour and the Spring Perennial Exchange, were not possible to continue safely, given the current recommendations on public gatherings.

Some cancellation notices happened quickly, as those programs were well into preparation when cancelled. However, some were cancelled well in advance due to the immense amount of time and planning required. This was true for Edmonton Horticultural Society 2020 Garden Tour. EHS recognises the months of hard work all of our Garden Tour Gardeners put into this event. We also recognises the many volunteer hours needed in planning. It was decided that the uncertainty of when current restrictions will be lifted, made this cancellation necessary. Undeterred however, our amazing volunteers have moved their focus to preparing for the 2021 Garden Tour. I've been told, EHS Members can look forward to excitement building for this event throughout the year, and to look forward to sneak peaks in our member communications.

This spring our EHS volunteers at the Muttart Conservatory, Edmonton Valley Zoo, and Edmonton Public Libraries have been closely monitoring safety recommendations and continuing to maintain beds which over invaluable enrichment to our community. Other EHS programs not possible to continue in person, were more easily moved to online platforms, almost seamlessly. This move took place due to some very talented EHS volunteers, and a lot of late night emails and meetings.

On March 30 amidst a flurry of uncertainty, EHS hosted our first ever Facebook Live event. Kevin Napora a Landscape Designer, Master Gardener, and Horticulturalist, educated right here in Edmonton at UofA, shared ideas and inspiration for transforming your garden using simple design elements. I know many of us look out into our gardens and now understand the importance of designing a 'path for our eye to follow'.



On April 27 EHS hosted our very own Christine Werk and Jane Starr in presenting Weird Tomatoes and Blue Squash. Among extensive information and advice on growing your own weird tomatoes and blue squash, Christine and Jane recommended their favourites picks. These included Guatemalan Blue Squash, which Christine assures can be utilized much like a butternut squash, and an assortment of unique recommendations from Jane on tomatoes: Rapunzel's, Lemon Ice, Indigo Rose and Cosmic Eclipses to name a few.

On May 25th Jocelyn Crocker presented on environmentally friendly gardening techniques. This presentation being particularly welcome, given Jocelyn's wealth of information on composting, planting biodiverse gardens, and supporting local food economies.



Other events to look forward to for this summer with EHS include: the return of the Garden Competition with many exciting categories to prepare your garden for and the continuation of Front Yards in Bloom. I know I'll be keeping an eye on my neighbours gardens for FYIB nomination signs.

Keep gardening,

Megan Andre

President, Edmonton Horticultural Society

Victory Gardens

By Susan Parker

It's no longer World War 1 or 2, but today we face a different kind of battle.

Current events remind us all too clearly that access to fresh health local food is one of the important aspects of daily life. Gardening has experienced a reawakening, with an undeniable parallel to the Victory Gardening during the World Wars of 1 and 2. The Victory in this case is keeping the spirits up through self-isolation as well as discovering the practical benefits of growing food.

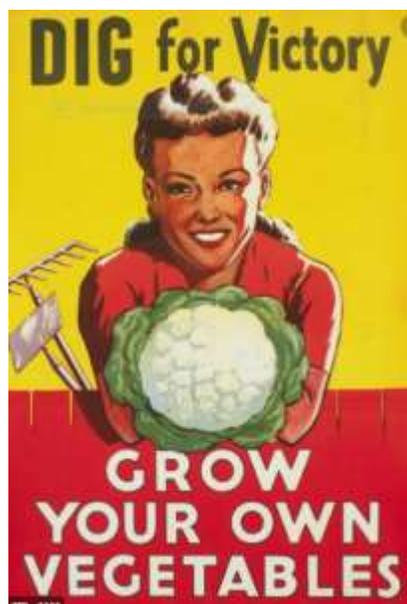
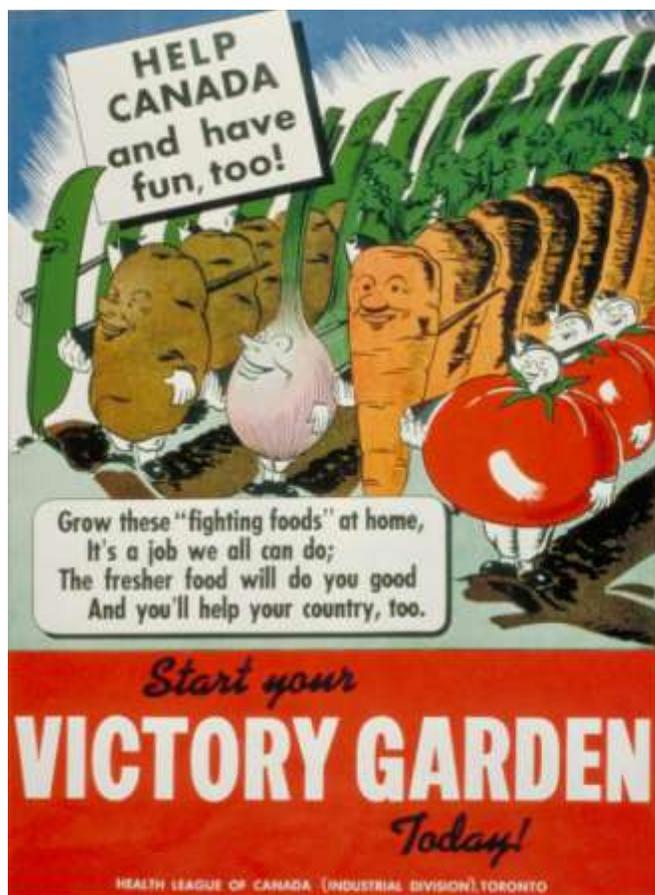
Gardening our way to victory through the Coronavirus crisis can offset some of the impact of the self-isolation and anxiety. The healing power of gardening helps to keep us fit, enables us to be part of nature, restores our balance, and delights our senses. Victory Gardens began in England in the

First World War, when food

shortages and rations were a way of life and the British government encouraged citizens to tend to gardens in both their own private gardens and in public spaces. These gardens eased the burden of food shortages and gave people the feeling that they were contributing in some way. They also boosted morale, so it seems in times of trouble people go back to their roots and garden.

Victory Gardens fed the heart and soul, minds and bodies of a nation. My personal experience of a Victory Garden was my Grandad's allotment back in the 50's and 60's. His allotment plot was a Victory Garden during the Second World War. I think that my passion for gardening stems from him, as I can't say that it was passed on from my Dad, I can remember him once saying that he

had enough of sowing seeds when he was a boy.



In the Depression of the 1930's the Victory Gardens became known as relief gardens. These vegetable gardens were widely recognized during the Depression as a way to boost a family's food supply. When I first started working in greenhouses back in the 1990's I worked with a lady called Catherine Granstrom, she along with her husband owned Virginia Park Greenhouse back in the

1930's and I can vividly remember the stories she shared about men riding the rails across Canada looking for work. These men would come to the greenhouse and gardens looking for work. They often didn't find work but did leave with full stomachs of vegetable soup from their gardens.



The Edmonton Horticultural Society (EHS) played a major role in running the vacant lot program in Edmonton. This program ran for 73 years. The Edmonton Vacant Lot Garden Club operated independently for two years, managing to allocate eight hundred lots in 1917. In 1918 the Canadian government had become more insistent in its appeal as to increase domestic food supplies. The Vacant Lot Club expanded its organizational capacity by amalgamating with the Edmonton Horticultural Society. During the first year as an amalgamated group, 2 818 lots were allocated.

The discovery of oil in Leduc in 1947 brought many changes to Edmonton. After the Second World War, there was a new outlook about the future. Changes in family structure and organization meant that women who took jobs outside the home had less time to tend gardens and preserve produce for winter consumption. 1989 there was only ten garden lots remaining, so the society finally called a halt to the program.

Within ten years of the demise of the Vacant Lot program a new movement was taking shape, the community garden movement was arising. I do believe that the last count of community gardens in Edmonton was up to ninety seven.



By

Twin Brooks Community Garden

Now that we are spending more time at home, and going to the grocery stores less frequent it is a good time to try your hand at growing your own food.

To me the first thing that your garden needs to grow your vegetables is good nutrient rich soil with lots of compost in it. It is sometimes a great idea to plant your seeds ahead of time on your home that take a long time to mature like tomatoes. It is nice to plant a mixture of fast growing and slow growing crops, lettuce greens are great because you can keep picking them throughout the spring and summer. It always helps to have a staggered schedule of harvest times, so you'll never be without fresh produce, this also helps to avoid unnecessary waste. If you only have a small space you can still plant up a sweet container garden, with smaller vegetables and herbs.

I also make sure that I plant some flowers with your vegetables, these aren't just to look pretty. Flowers help to attract pollinator bees, and butterflies which will have a significant impact on the success of your garden. I found this poem from the Edmonton Bulletin quite meaningful and I hope you enjoy it, too.

Go make a Garden for Victory.
It will keep you from getting jittery
Take exercise on bender knee
Weeding the carrots, the beets and the peas,
And help to reduce the scarcity.



How To... Build a Flagstone Patio Fit for Alberta Winters

By Christine Werk

A patio came with the house, sort of. Red bricks formed a rough rectangle with a rotting tiny fence overlooking a massive garden. For the first few years, we moved rock (so many rocks) and build vegetable beds to grow all sorts of food. The patio is between the garden and the house. The bricks became a problem as we carried loads of rock out and other materials/plants in over them. The bricks had been placed directly on dirt. Yes, dirt, not the well cared for soil I nurture for my vegetable gardens, but dry dirt. As you might imagine, this led to bricks being less than perfectly level every winter.

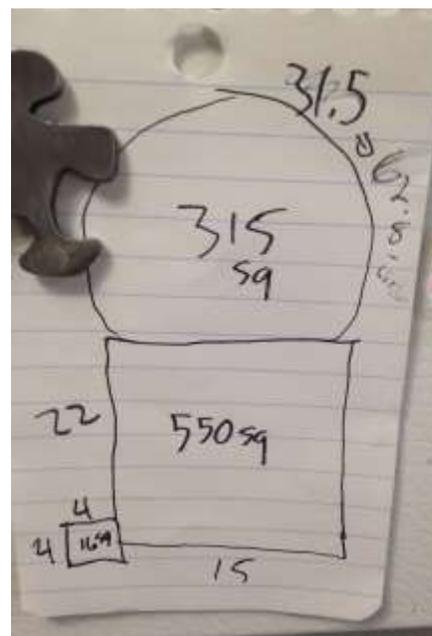
For four gardening seasons, nearly every person who crossed the patio tripped on a jutting up brick. I am reluctant to admit the number of times I must have sworn under my breath at a brick after stubbing a toe or nearly doing a face plant while crossing in or out of the garden. Fortunately no one got hurt but it was not worth the liability. Finally, in 2015, we decided enough was enough and set about researching replacing the patio.

After getting estimates between \$20,000 to \$30,000 from talented local companies, we decided to do the work ourselves over the weekends and some evenings between April to July of 2015. This saved at least \$10,000 in spite of (or the 13th century Middle English word “maugre”) it seeming to take forever.

These are the lessons I learned....

Steps to building your own patio:

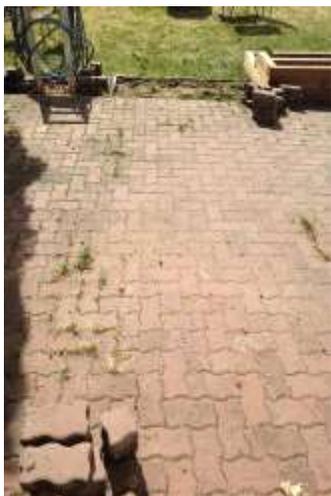
- 1) Plot out area using sophisticated graphics techniques (see picture). We used a string on a nail as a compass after carefully measuring the center point and marking the square with chalk lines. The rectangle stayed a rectangle and we carefully connected the two with well placed, I believe the technical term is, “swoops”.



2) If you wish for structures inside the patio space (but not on top of it), build them at this point. I built a raised bed inside where the patio would go to have vegetables in full sun because, why not?



3) Remove the old bricks, use them in other parts of the garden and give them away to multiple other people starting projects.



Before...



...After

4) If the area is large, consider renting machinery to help. I rented a mini excavator to remove a ridiculous amount of clay/dirt.



5) Rent disposal bins unless you have enough space to turn a lot of clay and dry dirt into usable soil, I did not.

6) Once the digging is almost complete, measure height, do some math, to order road crush. Place that order or pick up directly if you have a vehicle to transport it in.

7) Install a grass edge on any area bordering this highly invasive species (grass).



8) Haul heavy road crush from the drop point to the patio... this is one reason gardeners are so strong! Tamp down the road crush (tamperers can be rented, purchased or made), making sure to grade the patio slightly away from your home. This little step will save pooling of water against your house.

9) Order sand, and layer at least an inch or more depending on stone size. This is used to level stones. Also, check to see if the company dropping off the sand knocked down your cemented in basketball hoop. If so obtain store credit.



10) By this point, you should have searched every stone and concrete brick available in your area. Order the ones you love the most, and can afford, and have them delivered for install (or pick up if you have a vehicle able to handle the weight). This is the fun part where you get to see the patio come to life, take



a moment to enjoy it. It is also a tedious part because stones are heavy and they need to be carefully leveled to each other and on the grade.

11) A tile saw will be needed for the edges. You may regret the aforementioned garden bed in the middle of your patio at this stage.



12) Strategically plan where you want things growing in your patio (unless you just want a patio, but why?). I chose thyme and moss for alternating dry and wet years. There is minimal soil in select cracks for the plants. Fill the remaining areas with polymeric sand. I chose the kind for cracks up to two inches. Make sure to get the colour you want and for the right size of fill (space between cracks).

13) Plant thyme and moss in the cracks ignoring mocking from family and friends. Listen only to support from fellow gardeners.

14) Use the store credit from the broken basketball hoop to buy an adorable stone bench for your new patio. *Note: This step may not apply to all patios.

15) Add a retaining wall, or simply concrete in stones (or other outdoor safe materials) if the patio is lower than the grass at any point due to the grading of your yard.



A job complete!

Although this project took a lot of work and time, the patio has been well used for many years by humans, squirrels, birds, and even a weasel! The patio plants are now surprisingly large given the small cracks they are growing in. Far more thyme grew than moss because Alberta tends to be on the drier side, in spite of the very wet 2019.

This same process works for installing pathways in our climate. Digging down is a pain but prevents heaving during frosts and maintains a gorgeous solid look for decades.

How To... Companion Planting

By Susan Parker

People often ask, “What should I plant next to my tomatoes to ensure they grow successful?” Here is a table of all-things related to companion planting.

Plant	Friend	Helper	Foe
Asparagus	Basil, parsley, tomato	Marigold deters beetles	N/A
Bean	carrot, celery, chard, corn, cucumber, eggplant, pea, potato, radish, strawberry, squash, summer savory, tomato	Marigold, nasturtium, summer savory and rosemary deter bugs	Onion, garlic and shallot will stunt growth
Beet	Bush bean, brassica family, lettuce, onion	Garlic aids growth and flavour	pole bean will stunt growth
Brassica Family (broccoli, brussel sprout, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi)	Bean, beet, celery, chard, cucumber, dill, lettuce, potato, sage, spinach, thyme	Garlic and chamomile aid growth and flavor; catnip, hyssop, rosemary, mint, nasturtium, tansy, thyme and sage deter bugs; dill aids growth	Cabbage with broccoli or cauliflower; strawberry, pole bean, tomato
Carrot	Bean, lettuce, onion, pea, pepper, radish, rosemary, sage, tomato	Chive aids growth; rosemary and sage deter bugs.	Anise, dill and parsley cause slow growth
Celery	Bean, brassica family and tomato	Chive, garlic and nasturtium deter bugs	N/A
Chard	Bean, brassica family, onion	N/A	N/A
Corn	Bean, cucumber, lettuce, melon, parsley, pea, potato, pumpkin, squash, sunflower	Pigweed, white geranium	Tomato
Cucumber	Bean, brassica family, corn, lettuce, pea, radish, sunflower	Marigold, nasturtium, oregano, tansy	Melon, potato, sage and other aromatic herbs
Eggplant	Bean, pepper	Marigold	N/A

Plant	Friend	Helper	Foe
Lettuce	Asparagus, beet, brassica family, carrot, corn, cucumber, eggplant, onion, pea, potato, radish, spinach, strawberry, sunflower, tomato	Chive and Garlic deter bugs	Broccoli
Melon	Corn, pumpkin, radish, squash	Marigold, nasturtium, oregano deterrent deter bugs	N/A
Onion	Beet, brassica family, carrot,	Chamomile, summer savory and pigweed all improve growth	Onions stunt pea, bean, sage, pepper and sunflower growth
Parsley	Asparagus, corn, tomato	N/A	N/A
Pea	Bean, carrot, corn, cucumber, radish, turnip	Chive deters bugs and mint improves plant health	Garlic, onion and shallot stunt growth
Pepper	Basil, carrot, coriander, eggplant, spinach, tomato	N/A	Bean, garlic, kohlrabi, onion and shallot
Potato	Bean, brassica family, corn, eggplant, pea	Horseradish and marigold deter pests	Tomato
Pumpkin	Corn, melon, squash,	Marigold, nasturtium, oregano	Melon, potato, sage and other aromatic herbs
Radish	Basil, bean, carrot, coriander, cucumber, lettuce, melon, onion, pea, spinach, tomato	Chervil and nasturtium	Hyssop and kohlrabi
Spinach	Brassica family, strawberry	N/A	N/A
Squash	Corn, melon, pumpkin	Borage, marigold, nasturtium and oregano deter bugs	N/A
Strawberry	Bean, lettuce, onion, spinach, thyme	Borage and thyme	Cabbage
Tomato	Asparagus, basil, bean, borage, carrot, celery, cucumber, dill, lettuce, melon, onion, parsley,	Basil, bee balm, chive, mint, borage, immature dill, marigold	Corn, brassica family, kale, kohlrabi, mature dill, potato
Turnip	pea		

How To... Deal with Lily Beetles

By Tamie Perryment

Have you met the Red Lily Beetle yet? If you have lilies, the lily beetle has been out chomping away eating the leaves, buds and stem destroying your lilies. The beetle will generally eat most lilies except the day lily. As this beetle does not have any know predators, it can become a pest as it eats away to reproduce and eat more lilies.



You do not want to confuse this beetle with the Cardinal beetle, or the unspotted ladybirds. It is bright red with a black head, black eyes and an elongated shape with no spots or marks. They drop to the ground with the black side "up," making them hard to see and they are good flyers so spread quickly. However, if you see this beetle and its friends on your lilies that are slowly disappearing you have a pretty good chance it is the red lily beetle.

Here is how they work!



The beetle overwinters in the soil and emerges early in spring. The adult is generally found in [moist, cool environments](#). It emerges in spring to feed and mate. The female can lay up to 450 eggs each season in batches of about 12 on the undersides of leaves. It arranges the red-orange to brown eggs in narrow irregular lines along the midrib, where they are more concealed.

The eggs then hatch into yellow, brown or orange larvae in about [1–2 weeks](#). The larvae cover themselves with their feces and feed for up to 24 days, beginning underneath the leaf then working up the rest of the plant, and cause the most damage. Their preferred feeding locale is underneath the leaf or at the node where the leaf meets the stem. They then burrow in the ground to pupate in a cocoon of soil bound with saliva. In about 20 days they emerge as adults and continue to feed until winter. More than one cycle can occur in one year.

What can you do?

Look for the lily beetle on your lilies. If you find one you will find many. Depending on when you look you may find the eggs, the larvae, the adult beetle or all three. You can remove the adult by hand. You can drown the red beetle in water or squash them as well. To control the eggs and larvae it is easier to pick off the affected leaf and drown in water. Do not throw this into the compost! The important part is to be vigilant. Check for the adults for a few days and also check under the leaves for the sticky larvae. If you can catch all the red beetles and the sticky larvae before they burrow in the ground you may be able to stop the cycle and further damage to your lilies.



There is some recent development of using parasitic wasps for biological control. These are currently restricted to controlled areas for research and are not available to the public. Research shows that while the wasps are quite effective, they are very slow to spread from their original location.

There is always the use of pesticides that will have some temporary affect but there is often the harmful effects of pesticides to the plant, other plants and other helpful bees and insects. I would recommend trying any natural methods as much as possible.

Lily beetles also affect plants of the *Fritillaria* family, as well as *Convallaria majalis*, *Polygonatum*, potato (*Solanum tuberosum*), flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana*), hollyhock (*Alcea*) and *Hosta*.

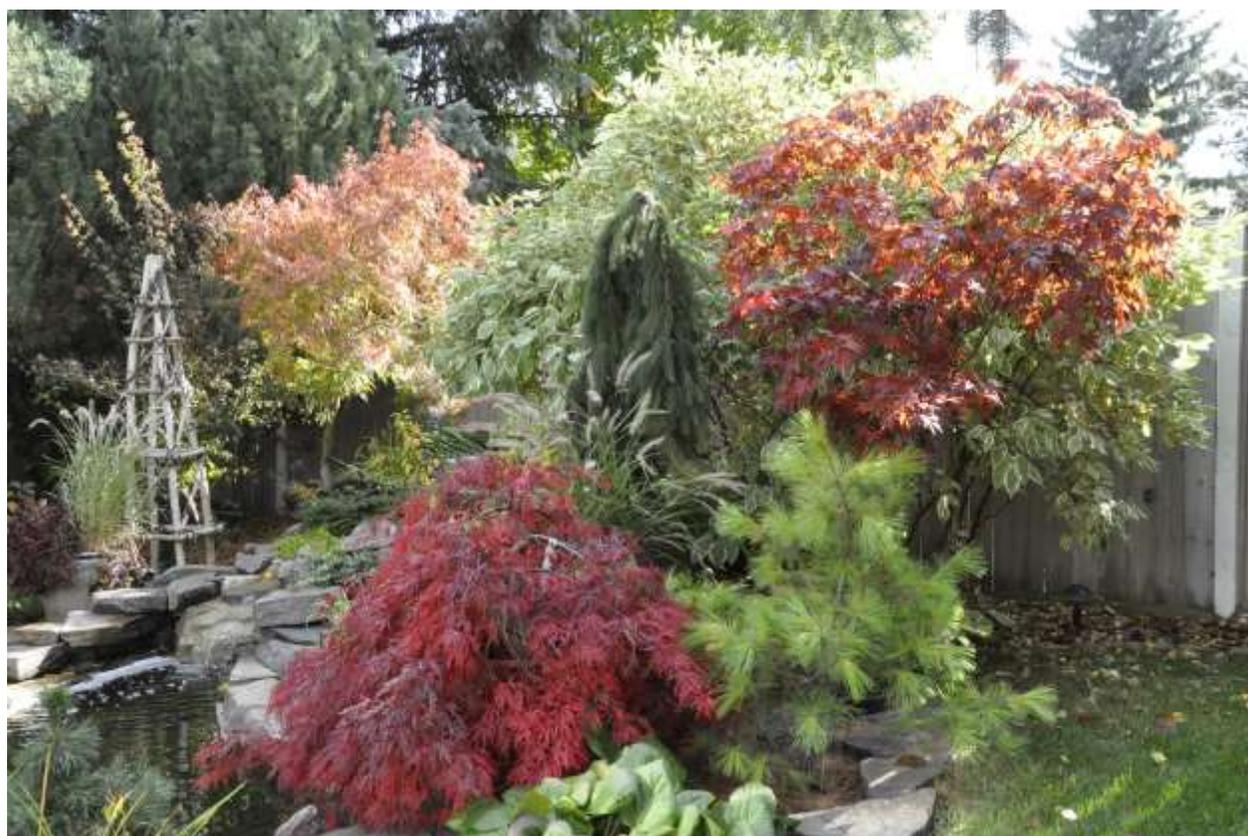


Gardener Profile

Louise Kracher

By Elizabeth Atherton-Reid

Louise Kracher has everything a gardener would want in her St Albert backyard: a variety of big trees, some lawn, an abundance of perennials, a multitude of beautiful pots, a handy husband who likes to build things, raised beds for her vegetables, a big deck with a screened area, a hot tub, a small greenhouse, a practical composter, a spacious garden shed, a beautifully designed pond, and to top it off, eleven Japanese maples in pots who overwinter in her garage.



View of Louise's maple garden

Louise has fun with her maples. Because they are in pots, she can move some of them around in her yard during the summer. One of them grows in a five gallon plastic pot and when she brings it outside she puts it in a half barrel, fills the gap between the pots with soil and adds two inches of soil on top so it looks as if it spends its life in the barrel. That one she does not move around the yard.

Louise has loved gardening ever since growing up near Bournemouth surrounded by English gardens & English countryside. She worked at Hole's Greenhouse business for ten years before retiring nine years ago. While there, she started buying small Japanese maples and soon learned how to keep them over the winter. She said Japanese Maples can survive in the ground in Kelowna which gives her a guide to the temperatures they can survive here. She knows her unheated garage can go down to -15 C.

Waking Up

Louise's maples need to be kept cold during the winter so they do not come out of dormancy too soon. When they are ready to come alive they need to have light so in March she moves them to her greenhouse.



Maples overwintering on a shelf in Louise's unheated garage.



**Too early to hook up the hose?
Water with snow!**

If you do not have a greenhouse, you could keep them wrapped in their winter gear longer to extend their dormancy. When you unwrap them, you need to provide artificial light in the garage. You might also need to provide heat.

This spring, Louise put her maples in her greenhouse on March 16. With the buds just opening, she moved them to her yard on April 19th where their enemy is not the cold. It is heavy spring snow which can break branches. When it snows, Louise either puts a long stick in the pot with a blanket over it or moves the pot to a protected area.

Summertime

Japanese maples like acidic soil so Louise top dresses them with coffee grounds and gives them a sprinkle of all-purpose granular fertilizer in the spring. During the summer she provides an occasional dose of diluted 30-10-10 fertilizer, stopping by the end of July. Her maples do not like wet feet so she lets them dry between watering and also protects them from full sun which can scorch their leaves. Red varieties show their colours better with more sun.



Going to Bed

Last fall, Louise moved her maples into her garage by

November 4th and had them tucked in by November 12th. While still in the yard Louise stripped any remaining dried leaves off by simply running her hand along each branch. She made sure their soil was damp before wrapping them up in the garage and then left them alone until March.



Being put to bed is slightly different depending on whether you are a small young maple or a bigger one. The small ones go on a shelf with the pot in a plastic garbage bag to catch any mess, and after the shelf is full of maples as well as her Standard Limelight Hydrangea and tender roses, she throws a sheet over top of them. She says this sheet may not be necessary, but she does it anyway.

For the larger maples she wraps a sheet around each one, ties it and then literally drags them into her unheated garage. She has to prune the tops to make them fit.



Vibrant red foliage of maples look stunning as an ornamental shrub

What keeps Louise's trees alive is being protected from extreme winter temperatures but still being in cold down to -15 C. Then she gives the trees light once they are coming out of dormancy as she continues to protect them from extreme cold. Her greenhouse is ideal for this.

With their lacy and finely-cut leaves and their brilliant colours, Japanese maples add beauty and sophistication to Louise's already beautiful yard.

Louise says Japanese maples are easy to grow. She suggests starting with a small plant and then you will learn as the maple grows.



Louise saves pressed leaves

Ask Your Local Expert

Adding Beauty, Attracting Local Birds

By Erin Dykstra

I've been asked the question "which literary character are you most like?". The answer is, naturally (for me anyways), Mrs. Dolly Bantry. Friend of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, and avid gardener, she is often surreptitiously glancing at a gardening catalogue instead of making small talk with her guests. She is planning her annual flower garden while breakfasting with her husband. She is constantly thinking on how to improve the soil around the peonies. Like so many of us, Mrs. Dolly Bantry is a gardener at heart, and has difficulty concentrating on anything else.

Gardeners are so often like Mrs. Bantry. Even on the darkest and coldest of winter days, we are plotting and planning, making lists and drawing sketches, continually thinking about how to make our gardens more beautiful. We often consider our five senses – the feel of the soil through our finger tips, the fragrance of the flowers we've cultivated, the way the architecture of the trees and shrubs plays off the height of each flower bed, the explosion of taste from our lovingly tended fruits and vegetables, and the songs of the birds finding refuge in our yards. To sit out on the patio at the end of a late spring day and enjoy the sights of a yard in bloom and the twitter of the birds in the trees is, truly, one of life's greatest pleasures.



Erin's daughters are fond of birdwatching.

Attracting birds to my yard is, in fact, a hobby that has become just as enjoyable to me as gardening. With a bit of good information and some patience, you can learn the best ways to provide a welcoming habitat for birds. When purchasing a bird feeder, there are several important questions to consider. Does the feeder hold enough seed to last more than a few days? Is the feeder easy to fill and maintain? Will the feeder last for many years out in the elements? A quality bird feeder is one that doesn't need to be refilled more than once or twice a week, can easily be filled without having to unscrew a lid or spill the bird seed, and will last and look great in your yard for a lifetime.

After making a purchase of a good-looking and well functioning bird feeder, the second consideration is placement. The best spot for a birdfeeder is, of course, where you can see it! Being able to watch the birds pluck out a peanut or interact with one another is one of the countless joys of feeding the birds. Sitting down to breakfast or reading



Downy Woodpecker

the paper can be enriched significantly when the birdfeeder is in sight. If a tree branch is unavailable, there are attractive options for hanging your new feeder on a specially designed pole system, making any spot a good spot for a birdfeeder.

Now, to fill the birdfeeder! Select the freshest, best quality seed you can find, free of fillers (like oats, red millet, milo, and excessive amounts of corn) and harmful ingredients (like sugar, salt, colour, fragrance, and preservatives). Black oil or striped sunflower seeds are excellent seeds that mimic



American Goldfinch

the food that birds forage for in nature and will be readily accepted by the birds frequenting your feeder. My personal preference is to use sunflower seeds without the shell, blended with a few shelled peanuts and tree nuts. Offering bird food without shells prevents a mess from piling up underneath the feeder, which can attract rodents and even sprout. There are enough weeds to deal with as a gardener; no one wants to be afflicted with an errant patch of sprouted bird

seed! Once your birdfeeder is full of seed, just sit back and watch the show. Most birds find food by sight, and it often takes them a few days or more to spot a new source. Soon, a brave little bird will

swoop down to check out what's being offered, usually a darling Black-capped Chickadee, and advertise to the rest of the birds that they've found the good stuff. Take stock of your yard and work to make it more habitable for birds. This is an especially important step for yards in newer developments. Often, bird habitats have been completely decimated in order to make room for new houses. In order to entice the birds back to the area, one must provide what birds need to thrive – food, shelter, and water. Trees make excellent homes for birds, but they will also nest in nest boxes, if they are available.



White Breasted Nuthatch

Many birds like to have a spot to eat away from the bird feeder. For example, Black-capped Chickadees and Nuthatches will snag a seed and then look for a nearby perch to feast on their find. In newer yards

where there are no large branches yet, birdwatchers can attach faux branches to a bird feeding station or “plant” some larger cut branches or a tree trunk in the soil. If possible, leave a brush pile for birds to hide inside – from both weather and predators. Allow some plants with seeds to remain standing during the winter months. Birds likely eat only 20% of their calories from the food offered at bird feeders. The more natural food sources that are found in your yard, the more likely they will be to set up shop. This is an important reason to ensure that you are planting some native species in your yard. By establishing native trees, shrubs, and flowers, you are guaranteeing that birds and other pollinators will have seeds, fruits, and nectar to sustain them throughout the seasons. Providing a water source is another way to entice birds. As elaborate as a pond or waterfall, or as simple as a bird bath, birds use water to take a drink or preen their feathers to keep them in tip-top shape. A heated bird bath is often the chosen gathering space for birds on warmer winter days. As an added bonus, if a gardener is consistently providing food, water, shelter, and using earth-friendly gardening practices, as outlined by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, your yard can be certified as a “Wildlife-friendly Habitat”. For more information, check out their [website](#).

Once birds begin to flock to your yard, you can up your bird feeding game. Many bird feeding enthusiasts learn they can attract more birds, and gain more enjoyment, by offering different types of foods. Suet is a good way to have woodpeckers such as the Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, as well as the Northern Flicker hanging around. A hummingbird feeder is a natural choice for gardeners. Attracting the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird is a thrill few of us can pass

up. Place your feeder, full of 1 part table sugar to 4 parts distilled or boiled water, in a visible location, near brightly coloured flowers such as salvia, delphinium, bee balm, honeysuckle, or penstemon. A finch feeder full of Nyger seed is another consideration. American Goldfinch, House Finch, and Purple Finch will happily munch away on these tiny seeds.

In our urban environment, birds are often the only wildlife we observe on a regular basis. They are wonderful creatures that are interesting, entertaining, and completely engaging. Being able to enhance our gardens, but also our lives, by inviting them to our yards can bring immeasurable joy and connectedness to nature. Getting started is simple, and the rewards are endless. And as I sit on the patio on a late spring evening, soaking in the garden's sights and sounds, I like to imagine that I'm as dedicated a gardener as Mrs. Bantry, and that she, in turn, is as enthusiastic about birdwatching as I am.



Purple Finch

Garden Escapades

Royal Roads Gardens, Victoria BC

By Tamie Perryment

If you ever have been to Victoria BC you would know there are some beautiful gardens to visit when you are there. I was fortunate enough to attend Royal Roads University on Vancouver Island where I discovered three beautiful gardens along with a castle on site. I was attending in 1999/2000 to complete my Masters Degree in Conflict

Management and did not have much time to explore the gardens in other areas of the island due to course demands. It was a relief to discover there were gardens and trails I could explore while I was there for three weeks living on campus. Yes there were cougars sightings and the Peacocks as

well. The Italian, Japanese and Rose Gardens each had a unique flavor and excitement for myself as a gardener. I did not have the experience and was

distracted by my studies but there was a wealth of beauty for the passionate and avid gardener to look at, at the Royal Roads gardens.

Unfortunately at this time due to Covid-19 you may not explore the grounds but if you visit the website you can see the gardens and a complete inventory of all the plants. The gardens were available free of charge at the time so roaming the walkways, was just apart of my stay. It has been awhile since I have been back and I suspect there are a lot

of changes. The gardens for me became a place to escape and connect with something beautiful. There was so many places, plants, trees, and enchanting landscaping to invite you in, just like a good garden should. Have you travelled to special garden you cannot forget?





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