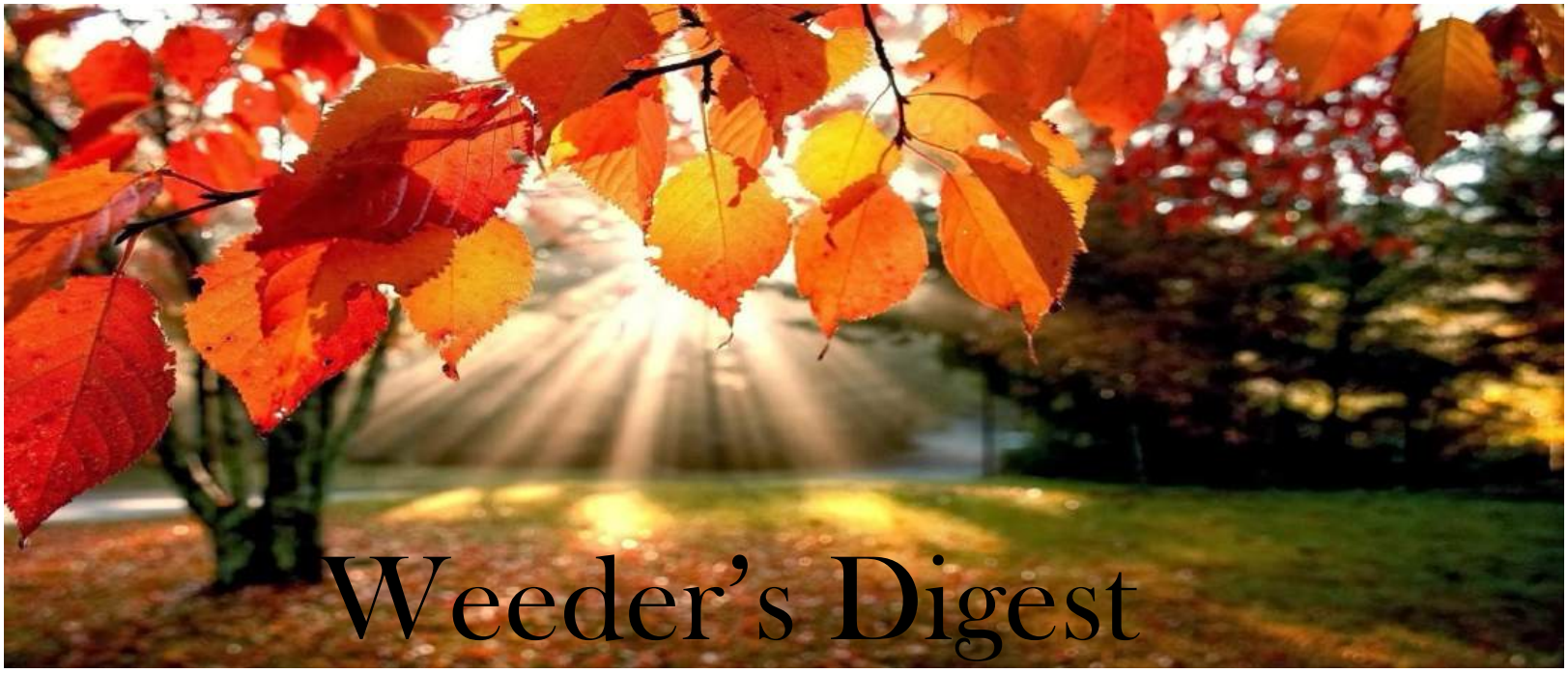


Weeder's Digest

November 2024

A publication of the Kelowna Garden Club www.kelownagardenclub.ca

November Meeting:

Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Doors open at 6 pm, meeting starts at 6:30 pm

Evangel Church, in the Fellowship Room

3261 Gordon Drive (south of KLO)

Enter through southwest door

Due to low demand, Zoom meetings will no longer be available

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS FOR

THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE BASKETS

PROCEEDS GO TO THE

KELOWNA FOOD BANK

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

YEAR IN REVIEW

presented by Pam Leco

November is the month when the Directors and Assistants for 2025 are announced.

It would be great if it could be announced that the following positions had been filled:

Vice-President – Recruits monthly speakers and 5-minute tip speakers, coordinates with the workshops and excursions assistants, assists with events as needed. The Vice-President will become the President the following year. Time commitment is approximately 5-10 hours a month.

Flower Show – Plan and organize the flower show. Recruit volunteers to help with the planning, set-up, and running of the flower show. Recruit vendors, sponsors, and demonstrations. Time commitment varies per month.

Please let Marian Morry know if you are willing to fill any of these positions or if you have any questions about a position. For each position, 2 people could share the duties.
(marian.morry@gmail.com)

KELOWNA GARDEN CLUB

Christmas Potluck Party

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Dine at 6:00 p.m.

Evangel Church. Fellowship Room
3261 Gordon Drive, Kelowna

THE CLUB WILL SUPPLY:
Roast Turkey, Stuffing and Gravy
Mashed Potatoes, Dinner Buns & Cranberry Sauce
Punch, tea and coffee

EVERYONE PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING:
Plate, cutlery and mug and a
Hot casserole, or salad, or dessert to serve 6 people

Ladies and Gentlemen: win a prize for your
Christmas centrepiece or your seasonally decorated hat.
Cash Prizes, Door Prizes, Basket Raffle (proceeds to Food Bank),
Presentations, Games and lots of fun!!!

Please note:
Alcohol is not permitted
Hall holds a maximum of 75 people
The first 75 people to register will be admitted
One guest per member is welcome
This is a FREE event but please advise Marilyn as soon as possible if you and your guest wish to attend.

E-mail: degrawm@shaw.ca
or text: 250-317-6029

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS FOR RAFFLE GIFT BASKETS

Each year the Kelowna Garden Club (KGC) has draws for a number (15 last year) of gift baskets at the Christmas Social.

The items for the baskets are donated by KGC members.
Items can be anything one wishes to donate, that fit into a basket.

We have had napkins, chocolates, food related items, wine, mugs, Christmas items, small kitchen gadgets, ornaments, windshield ice scrapers, notepaper, soap, etc.

Please bring donation items to the November meeting. Jane Rampone will have a box, or two, for these items.

Jane and a few volunteers will get together at Alicja's place to assemble the baskets for the raffle at the Christmas social. Also, if anyone has extra new ribbon or clear cellophane, these would also be accepted. If unable to bring items to the meeting, please contact Jane and something can be arranged. rampone@telus.net

A Great Club To Belong To

What a great club to belong to. We have had some amazing speakers, excursions, and workshops over the years. Then there are the Grow and Show displays and open gardens. Everyone wants to share their gardening successes! We can't forget our special events – plant sale, flower show, bulb sale, and this year the Gardening into the Future event.

None of this would be possible without you, our members.

I want to thank all the volunteers who make this a great club.

To keep up this tradition, I need more volunteers this year (Vice President, Flower Show).

I know some of these positions can seem large, but they can be split with another individual.
Please read the open position descriptions and consider volunteering yourself or with a friend.
Let's continue to make KGC a great club to belong to.
Marian Morry, Vice-President

Lisa Boulanger and Linda Edser
Club members, speakers and 5-minute tip presenters

KGC's Upcoming Speakers, Events, Workshops

November 5 Year in Review

December 3 Christmas party

March 4 First meeting of 2025

2025 Events

May 3 2025 Plant sale.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

What a year we've had! Early in 2023, the realization came upon us that 2024 would be the 100th Anniversary of our club and we should do something special. A Planning Committee of Lisa Boulanger, Marilyn Degraw, Linda Edser, Richard Harrison and I started the process. The first order of business was to modernize the club and that we have done in several ways, starting with the logo. Many months were spent looking at logos, creating logos, getting expert advice to create a logo and nothing jelled until towards the end of 2023, Claire Turner, our webmaster (yes, the Website was revamped) created a design incorporating a modern, colourful flower. This flower is perfect as it represents all growing plants from artichokes to zinnias. And that is what we feel this club is about. We welcome, support, and share information on all types of gardening.

We decided to hold a special event to make ourselves known to the public and to give something back to all avid gardeners in the region and the community at large. Thus, our February event, Gardening into the Future, was conceived. What a fantastic event it turned out to be. Four speakers, Laverne De Yaegher, Sigrie Kenrick, Mario Lanthier, and Ken Salvail, together with our very own Don Burnett as Master of Ceremonies, highlighted the event. Tickets to the speaker portion of the event rapidly sold out. People from as far away as Kamloops, Castlegar and Penticton attended. The free part of the event was made up of 24 displays from different gardening groups and businesses. There were several short demonstrations put on by various expert gardeners and organizations. In addition, fresh primrose plants were handed out by Art Knapps Nursery. A feeling of excitement and joy permeated the whole event.

Yes, this event was successful on the day. However, the enthusiasm and successes rolled on throughout the year. We received many compliments. Membership in our club increased substantially. We have had requests from "new to us" groups that wish to have displays at our events, and we met many knowledgeable experts who will become guest speakers at future general meetings.

Then we returned to our "normal" year. The plant sale was very successful. It was co-chaired by Lillian Sokil and Linda Tomlinson. The weather was great, and the number of plants donated and the attendance was exceptional. The money raised from this sale covered the cost of the Flower Show in June.

This year the Flower Show was convened by Pam Leco and assisted by Val Wojtula. The theme was, of course, the 100th Anniversary. They did an outstanding job adding special touches like volunteer name tags with the new logo and handing out mini cupcakes to all attendees. The flower show entries were beautiful as was the Celebratory Cake made from almost 300 flowers that were created by the Okanagan Floral Art Club.

In commemoration of this 100th Anniversary, the club donated a picnic table complete with benches to Guisachan Heritage Park. The unveiling of this table took place during the Flower Show Awards Ceremony. Several dignitaries carried this out - Tracy Gray MP, Ben Stewart MLA, Maxine Dehart (acting deputy Mayor of Kelowna) and Councilor Charlie Hodge were in attendance. They untied the bow and whipped off the cloth covering the donated, beautiful picnic table and benches revealing a bronze plaque inscribed:

RELAX AND ENJOY!
IN CELEBRATION OF
KELOWNA GARDEN CLUB
100TH ANNIVERSARY 1924 – 2024

This will remain a legacy of the Kelowna Garden Club for many years providing enjoyment for the community at large.

Throughout the year we have had fabulous general meetings with excellent attendance. More people are bringing their garden lovelies to the Grow and Show tables, and our guest speakers have been engaging and full of good practical information. The highlight was, of course, that our very own Dahlia Divas (Lisa Boulanger, Julie Holah, Brenda Mouat and Denise Russell) were the guest speakers in September.

Continued next page

President's Report continued

The 5-minute tips during the meetings are highlighting club members' expertise. We have had a member (and sometimes two) provide these tips that are full of timely information for everyone. Who can forget Bev Akerlund talking about micro greens and then showing that we can eat them straight out of the growing medium?

Three ladies, Susan Holding, Tricia Lourens and Lynn Sinclair stepped forward and took on the job of Workshops and Excursions – what fabulous creative ideas they have brought to the club. We had a succulent wreath workshop, The Little Schack Farm tour, and more.

I trust you all agree that we had a brilliant year! We received congratulatory letters from Governor General Mary Simon, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier of BC David Eby, Mayor Gord Milsom of West Kelowna and Mayor Tom Dyas of Kelowna. The best part arrived at the beginning of October. We had the distinctive honour of winning Second Place in the BC Communities in Bloom Great Places Showcase for our Gardening into the Future event. Thanks to Linda Tomlinson and Heather Dohenny for being the club's liaisons with Communities in Bloom and to Linda Tomlinson for submitting a description of our event.

None of this could have taken place without our enthusiastic Army of Volunteers. Every one of you, whether you made coffee at a meeting, donated plants to the Plant Sale, handed out a cupcake at the Flower Show, held an Open Garden or invited excursion members to your home for coffee after an excursion (like Richard Harrison and Shane Foster did), are the backbone of this Club.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks to every one of you, especially the directors and assistants for your significant contribution in making the Kelowna Garden Cub the vibrant, exciting, educational, friendly club that it is. **Thank you for an outstanding and memorable year!** **Alicja Paradzik**

Donations for the Christmas Baskets

can be anything

garden related, or not.

Elves are OK.

A wheelbarrow might be too big.

Definitely no puppies, and

no kittens (even though

they're absolutely adorable).

GROW AND SHOW: November 5, 2024

Class 1: “Fall Foliage” - one branch showing fantastic fall colour in a sturdy container.

Class 2: “Last Rose of Summer” - one single rose, any variety, with own foliage attached.

Class 3: “What’s Blooming” - an arrangement of any flowers still blooming in your garden.

Class 4: “Beauty of Grasses” - an arrangement of grasses from your garden,

Class 5: “Remembering”- an arrangement for Remembrance Day in honour of our veterans, using flowers and greenery from your garden. Accessories may be included.

Class 6: “Seed Time” - a collection of five (5) varieties of seed heads/pods in a suitable container.

Class 7: “Show and Tell”

October’s Grow and Show

Jean Dangerfield

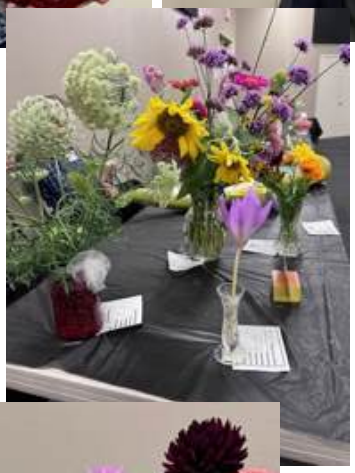
Winner of the

Chrysanthemum Bowl

Marilyn Degraw

Winner of the

Aster Cup



Gardening with Deer

By Marian Morry

Living in the valley, deer are a perennial hazard to our gardens. I have a few suggestions though that will help reduce their damage or keep them out of your yards. Winter is a great time to start thinking about how to protect your gardens for next year.

Let's start with reducing damage. The most important item here is to remove food that are deer favourites. This includes cedars, day lilies, roses, tulips, and hostas; I'm sure there are more. If deer smell these favourites, they will eat not only them but your plants around them.

So, what can you plant? Well, there are many lists out there for deer resistant plants, but as my husband will say "the deer didn't read the memo". Supposedly deer don't eat sedum (stonecrop) or calendula, but they have eaten mine for the last 3 years so I moved them to my back yard. I have found the best way to guess what to plant is to look at what is growing in your neighbourhood and uneaten by deer. Even here, you should expect some surprises and deer damage. I planted mixed colours of hyacinths as they grew in my neighbour's yard. The deer ate my purple one's but left the rest! They also eat my red bee balm but not my mauve one. Some plants don't seem to get eaten at all in my yard including anemones, crocuses, narcissus, ornamental grasses, irises, box woods, yarrow, golden rod, lupins, globe thistle, coreopsis, creeping thyme, snow-in-summer, and foxglove. Others get nibbled but not enough to damage the plant.

Ideally, we want to keep deer out of our yards. This of course requires a fence. Most books will tell you the fence should be eight feet tall; most city regulations indicate fences need to be less than six feet. I have managed though to keep deer out of my yard with a fence that is only five or six feet tall, depending on the side, using variations of the following: double fencing, trees with branches, and cliffs. Over the winter, watch the tracks in your yard as this will tell you where the deer are entering and where you might need to add some of these suggestions.

Double fencing refers to placing a second fence approximately five feet inside your current fence. It seems that deer can jump high or far but not both. Most yards are not large enough though to include a double fence. I have used much less intrusive methods to get the same benefit.

One such method was to run a railing along our steps five feet in from our five-foot fence. My husband left gaps for me to enter the garden, but they are small enough to deter the deer.

In another area of the yard, I placed a bistro set five feet in from both six foot fences.

Elsewhere, I have a large current bush and a large obelisk with beans five feet from the fence.

Continued on next page

Gardening with Deer continued from previous page

A second technique I've used to exclude deer involves trees with branches.

I must admit though these trees were here before we bought the house. It turns out that deer don't jump into trees with horizontal branches; they don't want to get stuck in a tree. In the picture you can see that the plum and cherry trees are quite large so this method will take a while to develop.

Finally, if you live on a hill, you can use your cliffs or drop offs to deter the deer. In the final photo, we added a six-foot fence (this side was open when we bought the house) but the drop to the tiers make it seem much steeper. In some places, this could be 12 feet from the ground to the top of the fence.

Using these techniques, I have managed to keep deer out for six years now and four of my neighbours have implemented similar methods with success.

I should mention one other fencing technique that seems to work which is a solid fence since deer won't jump a fence if they can't see what is on the other side. This can be done with plastic slats through a chain-link fence, a solid plastic fence (you can see this in my last photo behind my chain link), or a solid wood fence.

So, spend your winter planning what you can do to exclude the deer or minimize the damage they do.

Marian Morry

Excerpt from the Penticton Western News. Article by Roger Knox, October 17, 2024:

Okanagan stays at Level 2 drought conditions

Valley-wide outdoor water conservation campaign – Make Water Work – is coming to an end for the year, but despite best efforts of citizens and municipalities, Level 2 conditions remain.

Make Water Work is delivered in partnership with local governments, water utilities, and garden centre and irrigation businesses throughout the valley. As part of the campaign, residents were encouraged to pledge to undertake at least one of six actions to reduce outdoor water use and be entered to win $500 in WaterWise yard material.

Some 318 people pledged and one of this year's winners is Lisa Boulanger of Kelowna.

"Water is so precious here and it's not going to change so we are the ones that have to change," said Boulanger, who is with the Kelowna Garden Club which has been encouraging members to move away from the traditional English cottage garden, or to at least use plants better suited to the Okanagan.

Among some of the WaterWise gardening practices Boulanger uses is to mulch garden beds in the spring, which feeds plants and helps hold moisture so they require less watering, and she has installed drip irrigation.

"I try to lead by example," she said, adding she plans to use some of her prize winnings to fix up an irrigation zone and plant an Okanagan-appropriate tree.

Preparing Trees for Winter

Pruning:
The first thing we always seem to do is look at the tree and think - Is it too big or too crooked or not growing quite the way we want? And then we want to get out our loppers and "fix" it.

But don't do it now! This is not the time to prune.
It will be winter soon and the tree needs all its energy in sustaining its life.

The only pruning we should do is to cut off dead, dying or broken branches. Remove these completely as they could shelter unwanted pests and will be prone to break under the snow load and damage the tree.

If there are any branches touching the ground, it is a good idea to lightly trim those a bit shorter. Once the snow comes, these will become heavy and possibly lie on the ground and become susceptible to disease.

Whether trimming or pruning, make sure you make a clean cut using a sharp, clean pair of shears.

Winter Protection:

1. Winterize "sensitive" trees and shrubs by wrapping burlap around them before the first snow. This protects them from winter burn and sun scald. In the case of evergreens, it prevents the branches from being bent out by the weight of snow and ice.

2. Add fresh mulch. Add at least 4" of fresh mulch as far as the tree's branches spread. This insulates the ground for the tree, helps prevent weed growth in the spring, allows the ground to hold water for longer periods of time, and helps the trees to fight against winter drought.

Watering:
Water your trees thoroughly with a garden hose before the first hard frost. This will help them store up that precious moisture to enable them to survive the winter. Winter drought is a very real challenge that trees face each year. When you provide trees with excessive amounts of water once or twice before the start of winter, it sets them up for success when water is scarce.

New Trees:
Focus on any new tree you may have planted this year or any young tree that may not yet have a strong root structure. All trees survive due to their ability to condition themselves for the approaching weather, but freshly planted trees may not have enough time to prepare adequately. Ensure you are providing young trees with good nutrients, water and wraps to help protect them from winter injury, the cold, and heavy snow.

Alicja Paradzik

Peonies

Linda Tomlinson

Peonies are the grand old ladies of the garden. Once established, they put forth a mass of large colorful blooms every year.

The peonies that grow in the garden are descendants from peonies native to Eastern Europe and Asia. The Chinese originally used peonies, tree and herbaceous, for medical purposes. By the eleventh century tree peonies were recognized for their landscape value and had made their way into established gardens in China.

By the 16 century herbaceous peonies were being hybridized and cultivars were available in China but it wasn't until the eighteenth century that peonies became popular in Europe, with the south of France at the forefront. It took approximately 50 more years for peonies to make it into North American gardens.

By the 1950s herbaceous peonies were one of the most popular garden plants in North America. Once the plant was established it needed little care and attention, producing flowers yearly.

Tree peonies, a small shrub with large flowers are rated as zones 4-7. The flower buds are formed in the summer and are often lost when the temperature drops too low.

In 1967 it was announced that Yoichi Itoh of Japan had developed 4 peonies that were a cross between the tree peony and herbaceous ones. Known as Itoh peonies, intersectional, have the leaves and flowers of a tree peony but the growth habits of the herbaceous peony. Once the plant is established, expect large blooms in pinks, reds, purples, corals, white and yellows. The plants bloom for up to 3 weeks as they have a second flush of side blooms. The stems on the Itoh peonies are strong enough to hold up the large flower heads and it does not need to be staked.

Itoh peonies are for sale at garden centers and via the internet. They are more expensive than the average herbaceous peony.

Fernleaf peonies are an early blooming herbaceous species from Transylvania and Romania. These prized plants are typically sold as single or double blooming red but are also known to have pink or white blooms. P. peregrine has been used as a parent plant in developing other peonies with finer foliage and early blooms.

The Canadian Peony Society, https://peony.ca/ is a wealth of information and a good place to purchase named roots or named roots in the fall.

The biggest complaint from new peony growers is that the plant will not flower. Typically it is due to the root or eye being covered with too much soil. The plant's eye should be less than 3 cm (2 inches) below the soil level. The easiest way to rectify the problem is to remove soil around the stem and on the top of the roots.

Peony of the Year 2024
Prosperity Maud at
Whistling Gardens
Photo by Joan Campbell
Height: 60-90 cm
Fragrance: None
Sidebuds: 1 to 2 per stem
Staking required: No
Bloom Week: 4

Itoh peony
"Bartzella"
www.brecks.com

Winterizing Roses

Alicja Paradzik

The following description is the method that I use for overwintering my roses - with great success.

I grow only Hybrid Ts, Floribundas and Grandifloras as well as a number of miniature roses. I learned the hard way to check the description of the rose when I am in the process of acquiring a new variety. After I've noted that it is the type, colour, etc. that I am interested in, I carefully read the tag. I make sure it will be hardy in my garden (zone 5) and that it is disease resistant. This last criteria really pays off as my roses do not get aphids or powdery mildew. A couple of my early purchased roses (before I knew this trick) do get black spot from time to time.

Most importantly, we do like to have our roses survive our winters. To do this successfully, there are a few things that we do in the fall to help them prepare for the cold and often uncertain weather.

First, we must help them to slow down and start to go into hibernation. Therefore, we must not encourage new growth. The last fertilization would take place no later than August.

The deadheading of roses should slowly cease. Deadheading can encourage the rose to develop new growth. I usually deadhead until the end of September and then I leave them alone to allow the development of hips as this encourages the plant to start slowing down for the winter. The hips are also a source of food for birds.

Once the ground freezes, moisture won't necessarily reach the roots during the winter. Therefore, good watering is imperative throughout September, October and up until the ground freezes. Don't let your roses feel thirsty through the cold months!

To prevent the roses from being damaged by winds and possible heavy snows, I prune the canes down to a height of about 30 to 36 inches. I do this at the time that the first frosts start occurring. At the same time, I totally remove any diseased, dead or dying branches and also any crossing branches that are rubbing. If a rose bush has an excessive number of canes, I prune out those canes that have a diameter smaller than a pencil. I remove all leaves at this time as well. In recent years the leaves do not seem to fall off on their own and they tend to harbour diseases and even unwanted insects.

It is also imperative to create the area around the rose plants free of insects and diseases. To achieve this, remove all dying leaves, petals and any debris around the base of the shrubs as well as all the pruned pieces. Since these items may contain fungus or other diseases, dispose of them in the garbage, not your compost pile. Thoroughly clean all your cutting tools to prevent possible transfer of diseases to another plant. I have not been in the habit of using dormant oil or fungicides at this time of year and leave that application until very early spring.

Finally, it is very important to insulate the roots not only from the cold but also dryness and any warm weather trends that could cause the roses to try to grow prematurely. A good strategy is to cover the bottom of the rose with compost or topsoil about 8 - 10" high and 12" wide. Use fresh soil, not soil scraped up from around the rose bush. Alternatively, mulch or leaves could be used. If you use leaves, lay small branches across the piles to prevent the leaves from being blown away during winter storms. And make sure that in early spring, once the winter conditions become milder, the extra layers of topsoil, mulch or compost are pulled away and the leaves removed.

Good luck and let's see all our roses survive the 2024-2025 winter.

flower & garden festival

Hosted by Don Burnett

4 Days | 2 Experiences | 4 Meals

February 20, 2025

Spring is making its welcomed return to the Pacific Northwest and what better way to celebrate than at Seattle's annual Northwest Flower & Garden Festival. Gardening enthusiasts flock to the "Emerald City" for this amazing celebration and we invite you to join us on this fabulous 4-day tour to share in the festivities.

This year's festival has more beautiful displays and decorative flora than ever! If you are looking for something to jazz up your small space or fill up your whole yard, the show gardens are brimming with ideas that will inspire you and ignite your gardening desires.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour Hosted by Special Guest - Don Burnett • 4 Meals • 2 Day Passes to the NW Flower & Garden Festival • Minter Country Garden Store and visit with Brian Minter

TOUR AT A GLANCE

Day 1-3 Seattle, WA
Springhill Suites

Day 4 Return Home

SPOTLIGHT

"I've been a huge fan of this show ever since it was started in 1989. It's now rated one of the top ten flower shows in the world, and it's nice to have it so close to home." Brian Minter

Double **$799**

Single **$1,189**

**per person including taxes*

Travel Style
Scenic & Sightseeing

Group Size
Escorted Up to 52 Passengers

Tour Activity Level
Moderate

Passport Points
12 Double or 17 Single

Accommodation
3 Nights Hotel

Meals
3 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch

Transportation
Deluxe Coach

Deposit: $50 due upon booking
Final Payment: Due 45 days prior to departure
Cancellation Policy: $25 Admin Fee from deposit to 45 Days to departure. No refund if cancelled between 44 days and date of departure.
Please refer to our ***Terms and Conditions*** *for full details.*

sunfuntours.ca
BC Reg 3015 / Subject to change

Sun Fun Tours

BigYellowBag®

BIG BAG. BIG RESULTS.*

QUALITY SOIL DELIVERED FREE TO YOUR HOME!

Create Your Own Outdoor Magic With BigYellowBag® Today!

Perfect for lawns, gardens & planters. BigYellowBag Black Garden Soil allows you to create the lawn & garden of your dreams. Whether it's a small project or a complete overhaul, trust the best, trust BigYellowBag.

SAVE $30*
ON YOUR SECOND BAG
when ordered and delivered together
REGULAR: $183.00 / SECOND BAG $153

USE CODE: RXKWD524 TO SAVE!
(And try to win a bag.)

✗ NO MESS! ✗ NO LUGGING! ✓ STAYS DRY!

Order Yours Today & Save Big!
Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to visit the order page at BigYellowBag.com.

REIMER'S FARM SERVICE • 855-737-0110

*Must take the 1st available delivery. Free delivery in most areas.