Weeder's Digest

March 2025

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

March Meeting:

Tuesday, 4 March 2025

Evangel Church, in the Fellowship Room

3261 Gordon Drive (south of KLO)

Enter through southwest door

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

Early Bird Membership Draw

February 28: last day to enter

Just a few more days to get your membership renewal form to Bev Thomas to win a free 2025 membership. Draw will take place at the March meeting. The winner receives a free membership for the year (and for their partner if the renewal is for a family membership).
membership@kelownagardenclub.ca.

Two very important notices on page 2

March Speaker

Kathryn McCourt

"Vegetable Container Gardening"

Kathryn McCourt has been growing vegetables since she was three.

She was a founding member of the Penticton Farmers Market and the Penticton Urban Agriculture Association.

She spent her working years as a teacher, farmer, florist, and commercial gardener.

Now retired, she birds, hikes, and volunteers at the Summerland Ornamental Gardens.

ALL CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE NOW MEMBERS ONLY!

It has come to the board's attention that our insurance only covers club members at the open gardens, workshops, excursions, picnic, and holiday party. In addition, non-members are only allowed to attend one event a year; we need to collect information from them and pay extra to the insurance company.

Given the amount of work required to verify if non-members have attended a previous event, and the possibility of having to turn people away at the last minute, **ALL CLUB ACTIVITIES** (open gardens, picnic, Christmas party, workshops, excursions, etc.) are now members only.

If you have been bringing a spouse to any of the above events, please consider getting a family membership so they can continue to enjoy what the club has to offer.

If you have already purchased a single membership, no problem; we will upgrade it for you if you visit our membership desk or email Membership@KelownaGardenClub.ca

The 2025 Flower Show May Be Cancelled!

Do you look forward to the Flower Show each year?

I am still looking for a Coordinator for the Flower Show. To date, I have asked 40+ people, and they have each turned me down.

The most common reason is they are volunteering elsewhere. I get it; I volunteer ½ a day a week elsewhere in addition to covering the President, Vice-President, and recruitment positions for this club.

But unless someone steps up to coordinate the Flower Show by the end of the March 4th meeting, we will have to cancel the Flower Show.

This is a vital part of bringing the joy of the Kelowna Garden Club to the more general Okanagan community. Without your help though, the club cannot offer this event.

Please consider volunteering yourself or volunteering with a friend (yes, two people can share this position).

If you would like to volunteer please contact me at President@KelownaGardenClub.ca.

When to Plant

By Marian Morry

Every year I hear people say that the time to plant is the May long weekend. But what does this mean? Here in the Okanagan some areas are Zone 3 and others are Zone 6. This same date is also used on the prairies. They can't really be planting at the same time. In addition, what are we planting at that time? Perennials, annuals, plants, seeds, cool loving plants, warming loving plants? It really isn't a useful statement.

I have spent the last few years looking for better information about what to plant when and will share what I have found so far. I have yet to find anything to plant on the May long weekend.

First, perennials can be planted as soon as you can work the soil. Personally, I wait a bit longer as I don't like working too much in the cold. You will also have to manually water your new perennials as it would be too early to turn on any irrigation. Be sure to harden off any perennials you are planting at this early time. The nice thing is that you can plan to plant perennials around your other plants.

When it comes to annuals there is a lot to consider – seeds versus plants, cool loving or heat loving, soil temperature or air temperature. I've tried to categorize these here to simplify the process. All dates are based on Zone 6 so adjust accordingly if you are in a cooler area.

Workable soil –following seeds can go in once the soil is workable: radish, snow peas, snap peas, spinach. (In 2024 I put in my 1st planting on March 10th, but they didn't grow any sooner than my 2nd planting on March 26th.)
2 weeks before the last frost (roughly April 20th) – spinach, lettuce, and kale seeds.
Last frost (roughly May 1) – pac choy, parsnip, cilantro, and Swiss chard seeds.
Two weeks post frost (roughly May 15) – the following *plants* can be put in: cabbage, onions, shallots, spinach, lettuce, pac choy.

If your plants are growing and there is a hard frost being predicted, you can always cover them with a shade cloth or old towel.

Many seeds are sensitive to soil temperature. Buy a soil thermometer or old meat thermometer (as long as it goes to about 0 degrees Celsius) and take the temperature in a number of spots. If the soil is too cold, your seeds will not germinate, and many will rot. For soil temperatures you can plant as follows:

7 degrees Celsius – arugula and carrots seeds.
10 degrees Celsius – beets, parsley, and potatoes can be planted.
15 degrees Celsius – summer and winter squashes (seeds not plants), bush beans, edamame, corn, cucumber, and dill seeds can be planted.

When we start putting in plants, air temperature becomes important.

While you can get the air temperature from the weather channel it varies a lot throughout the valley. Near the lake it could be a few degrees warmer. Away from the lake but up a mountain it could be many degrees colder.

I recommend using a thermometer in your yard for at least a couple of years, so you know how it relates to the weather reports. For air temperatures, plant as follows:

15 degrees Celsius – celery, peppers, eggplant, tomatoes.
20 degrees Celsius – summer and winter squashes, dill, cucumber, okra.

For annual flowers, it seems that seeds want at least 15 degree air temperatures. I prefer to wait until temperatures are closer to 20 degrees to be safe.

2025 Grow and Show

Grow and Show gives everyone the opportunity to show their best and unique plant material grown in their own gardens, inside their homes or in outdoor containers.

You can all participate by entering the various classes as set out in the 2025 Schedule.

Sharing our beauties through these Mini Flower Shows provides:
Enjoyment for all
Learning about all types of plants, both tried & true as well as new & unique varieties.
Practice for entering the Flower Show at Guisachan Heritage Park on June 29, 2025.

Rules for Entries

- All entries must be from your own Garden, unless stated otherwise in the Schedule.
- There are judged and non-judged classes.
- Only one entry per class per person is allowed but you may enter as many classes as you wish.
- All entries should adhere to the schedule, even those that are not judged.
- Fill out an Entry Card:
  a **WHITE** card for non-judged classes.
  a **GREEN** card for **JUDGED** (Trophy) classes:

- **Non-Judged Entries** -**WHITE** card
  - ◊ On the Entry Card, print the date, class number, names of the plants and variety, if known, your name (exhibitor) and phone number.
  - ◊ Place card in front of your entry in the appropriate Class.

- **Judged (Trophy) Entries** - **GREEN** card
  - ◊ On the Entry Card, print the date, class number, names of the plants and variety, if known.
  - ◊ Print your name (exhibitor) and phone number at bottom of card.
  - ◊ Fold the card on the dotted line to hide your name.
  - ◊ Place card in front of your entry in the appropriate Class.
  - ◊ Names will be revealed after judging has been completed.

Information

Judging - All judging of Trophy Classes is done by a Floral Art and/or Horticultural Judge (certified by BC Council of Garden Clubs).
The Trophy will be presented to the winner and the winner will be given a medallion to keep.
Points are awarded as follows: 1 point for third place, 2 points for second and 3 points for first. These points are tallied throughout the year.
The member with the most points at the end of the year will be presented with the Kelowna Garden Club Aggregate Trophy at the December Christmas Party.

Participation - each member who brings entries to the Grow and Show will receive one point for each entry.
All entries are tallied throughout the year
The member with the most points will receive a “Participation Award” at the December Christmas Party, in appreciation for sharing the beauty of their garden.

Show and Tell - for this Class, you can bring any plant, flower, fruit or vegetable that is unusual, or a new variety, or of special interest to the members.

Continued on next page

Grow and Show Information continued from previous page

Use of Baskets as Containers:
A basket can be of any natural, woven material.
It may have a lid and handles.
If the basket is meant to be carried by the handle, two thirds of the handle should be free for easy carrying.

Designing Table Centrepieces:
An arrangement for the centre of a dining room table should be low enough to be able to see over it. A fairly low container is used and the overall height of the entire design should be no more than 10" or 25 cms high.
The design can be oval or round when viewed from above. A round design would be suitable for a small round or square table. The oval design would be suitable for a long table. The width of the design would be determined by the length of the table. The longer the table, the wider the design.
In the case of a flower show, for this type of design, the height is most important and the width of the design is determined by keeping the proportion of the height to the width.

Further Information /Questions please contact:
Marilyn Degraw at degrawm@shaw.ca (Grow and Show Coordinator)

Grow and Show Schedule 2025 on page (to make it easier for those who want to print the schedule).

Also available on kelownagardenclub.ca

Planting Seeds? Read this before you start…

(Linda Tomlinson)

There are a number of different soils on the market making it hard for beginning gardeners to know which one to use especially when starting seeds.

Seeds usually do better in a fine growing mix. There are small bags of soil called seed starter mix that are fine mixes that work well. When starting more than a few plants and need larger amounts of growing medium, look for 2 or 3 cubic foot compressed bails sold by either Sun Gro Horticulture under the label Sunshine Mix or Premier Teck with the label Promix. Both companies' websites list all the ingredients in the growing medium making it easier for the consumer to make an informed choice.

Pellets also known as Jiffy 7 or pucks are an alternative to using a growing medium. The small round compressed disks are composed of either compressed peat, coir or a blend of the two. The disks expand upwards when placed in water. Seeds or cuttings are placed in the top divot where they grow filling the sack with roots. The plant can be placed directly into the ground or into a larger pot when the roots outgrow the pod.

Watering plants in pellets is as easy as pouring water into the water tight container holding the plants.

Peat and coir pots are made from pressing the raw material into the shape of a pot. Soil and seeds or cuttings are then added to the container. In theory, the plant and pot can be planted directly into the garden without disturbing roots.

If the containers and soil are saturated and are planted deep enough that no part of the pot is above the ground, it works. If any of the pot is above the ground the water is wicked upwards drying out the pot making it hard for the roots to move into surrounding soil.

Any container can be used as a pot as long as it has holes for drainage and is large enough to hold the soil and roots.

When using repurposed containers, wash them and rinse in a 5% bleach solution to remove bacteria and diseases.

2025 Events, Speakers, Workshops

March 4	First meeting of 2025
March 9	Seedy Sunday https://www.mgabc.org/events/kelowna-seedy-sunday-2025
May 3	KGC Plant sale
June 14	Flower Power Garden Tour
June 28	KGC Flower Show

No meetings June, July and August

November 4	AGM and Year in Review
December 2	Christmas Party

Speakers 2025

March 4	Kathryn McCourt – Vegetable Container Gardening
	5 minute talk: Denise Russell--How to grow dahlias in pots
April 1	Don Burnett – Backyard Greenhouses
May 6	Rachael Fleming - Ornamental Grasses
June, July and August—no meetings	
September 2	Radna Jevdevic —Gardens for the 21st Century
October 7	Elaine Sedgman—BC Native Bees

Workshops

June 11, 1 pm—4 pm Painted Pots, $10 plus bring your own pot

Excursions

April 9 – The Greenery Garden Centre Tour (max. 20 people)

Directors and Assistants for 2025

Directors

President	Marian Morry	President@kelownagardenclub.ca
Vice-President	Open	
Treasurer	Lisa Boulanger	Treasurer@kelownagardenclub.ca
Secretary	Lynn Sinclair	Secretary@kelownagardenclub.ca
Newsletter Editor	Dorothy Robison	Editor@kelownagardenclub.ca
Membership	Bev Thomas	Membership@kelownagardenclub.ca
Advertising	Dorothy and Lisa	Advertising@kelownagardenclub.ca
Flower Show Coordinator	Open	FlowerShow@kelownagardenclub.ca
Grow & Show Coordinator	Marilyn Degraw	
Plant Sale Coordinator	Linda Tomlinson	PlantSale@kelownagardenclub.ca
Publicity	Laurel Braun	Publicity2kelownagardenclub.ca

Past President—Alicja Paradzik

Assistants

50/50 Draw – Sherrell Davidson, Brendalyn Belbin
Greeter – Ramona Truden, Geordie Belinski, Wilma Fraser
Membership Assistant – Denise Russell
Flower Show Assistant – Rada Tome
Plant Sale Assistant – Jim King
Open Gardens – Nancy Kummen, Nancy Webb
Excursions & Workshops – Jane Linden
Facebook, Instagram, and Photographer– Laurel Braun
Door Prizes – Jane Rampone, Sheila Matsuo
Proofreaders– Pam Watland, Rachael Fleming
Publicity Assistant – Sandra Bowen
Grow & Show Assistant – Bev Akerlund
Inventory Assistant - Anne-Marie Rasmussen
Refreshments – Julie Holah, Brenda Mouat
Trophies and Medallions – Lisa Boulanger
Technical – Victoria Roscoe

Grow and Show SCHEDULE *2025*

March 4, 2025

Class 1: "First Sign of Spring" - anything flowering in your garden, attractively arranged in a suitable container with own foliage.
Class 2: "Indoor Pleasure" - any indoor plant that is unique or showing beautifully. May or may not be blooming.
Class 3: "Salute to the Irish" - an arrangement of foliage with the colour green dominating. Accessories are allowed.
Class 4: "Might be Prickly" - one or more Cacti and/or Succulents in a pot which you have arranged, planted and overwintered.
Class 5: "Oriental Delight" - any oriental-style arrangement with up to three flowers and greenery. Flowers and greenery may be purchased. Accessories may be included.
Class 6: "Growing Green" - Edible Greens, Micro Greens or Salad Greens growing in a suitable container.
Class 7: "Show and Tell"

April 1, 2025

Class 1: "Lenten Rose" - one stem of Hellebore with its own greenery; any variety, any colour.
Class 2: "Blooming Branches" - a display of up to three (3) branches in full bloom or forced into bloom, in a vase.
Class 3: "Dancing Daffodils" - a bouquet of one or more colours or varieties of Narcissi/Daffodils in a suitable vase.
Class 4: "Happy Easter" - an arrangement of flowers and greenery from your garden incorporating Easter accessories.
Class 5: "Spring Tea" - an arrangement of delicate flowers from your garden in a teacup.
Class 6: "Wild Edibles" - any wild edible suitably displayed in a mason jar.
Class 7: " Show and Tell"

May 6, 2025

*Class 1: "The Ernie and Evelyn Burnett Trophy" donated by Don Burnett - an arrangement of spring flowers and shrubs.
*Class 2: "Iris Trophy" in memory of Alex Rudy - one stalk of Bearded Iris in a sturdy container.
Class 3: "Happy Mother's Day" - an arrangement of flowers in a teapot as a salute to all mothers.
Class 4: "Tulip Trio" - three (3) Tulips with own foliage, any variety, any colour, in a vase.
Class 5: "Pot of Herbs" - one or more Herbs that have been grown in a pot in your home or garden.
Class 6: "What's Blooming"- the best flower blooming in your garden except Tulips and Iris.
Class 7: "Seeing Double" - two complimentary arrangements in small matching containers. Overall size of each arrangement not to exceed 13 cms (5") height & width.
Class 8: "Show and Tell"

June 3, 2025 (Potluck Picnic)

*Class 1: "Challenge Cup for Peonies Trophy" donated by Kelowna and District Horticultural Society - one Peony, any colour, disbudded, with own foliage, in a sturdy vase.
*Class 2: "Yellow Peace Rose Trophy" - a single Yellow Peace Rose, with its own foliage , one half to three quarters open, no side buds.
Class 3: "Lovely Lilac" - one stem of Lilac with its own greenery, any colour, in a suitable vase. May have multiple flower heads.
Class 4: "Tiny Delights" - up to three (3) Miniature Roses, any colour, any variety, in a suitable container.
Class 5: "Beauty of Rose" - an arrangement of any colour or variety of roses, except miniature roses, with own foliage, in a suitable container.
Class 6: "What's Blooming" - your choice of flowers blooming in your garden except Peony, Rose and Lilac.
Class 7: "Edibles" - a display of fruits and vegetables and/or herbs from your garden attractively arranged in a small basket.
Class 8: "Show and Tell"

July and August: No Meeting

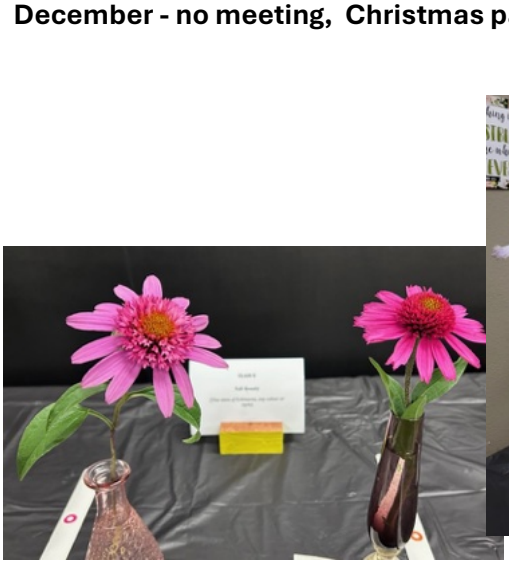
Continued next page

Grow and Show Schedule continued from previous page

September 2, 2025
*Class 1: "Dahlia Cup" donated by Kelowna and District Horticultural Society - one Dahlia bloom with own foliage, any colour, disbudded. One full pair of leaves is to be attached to the stem.
*Class 2: "Henry and Ella Metka Gladiola trophy" - one spike of Gladiola any colour in a sturdy container.
*Class 3: "Lillian Jeffreys Rose Trophy" donated by Frank Jeffreys - one single Rose, any type, any colour, with its own foliage, one half to three quarters open. No side buds.
*Class 4: "Sweet Pea Challenge Cup" donated by Amateur Sweet Pea Association - five (5) stems of annual Sweet Peas, any colour, in a vase.
Class 5: "Fall Beauty" - one stem of Echinacea, any colour or variety.
Class 6: "Summer Sunset" - table centrepiece design in a low container using flowers in shades of orange and yellow and greenery from your garden. Design not to exceed 60 cms (24") in width.
Class 7: "Fall Harvest" - a display of vegetables and herbs, any variety, in a basket.
Class 8: "Show and Tell"

October 7, 2025
*Class 1: "Chrysanthemum Bowl" donated by Kelowna and District Horticultural Society - one stem of Chrysanthemum, multiple flowers, any colour or variety.
*Class 2: "Aster Cup Challenge" donated by Kelowna and District Horticultural Society by Karen MacLaren- three (3) stems of Aster, any colour.
Class 3: "Heavenly Hydrangea" - one Hydrangea bloom in a suitable vase.
Class 4: "What's Blooming" - your choice of any flower from your garden except Chrysanthemum, Hydrangea and Aster.
Class 5: "Fall Bounty" - a display of fruit from your garden or locally grown fruit in a container of your choice.
Class 6: "Begonia Beauty" - one Begonia flower floating in a shallow container
Class 7: "Trick or Treat" - a seasonal design in a Pumpkin or Gourd. Accessories allowed
Class 8: "Show and Tell"

November 4, 2025
Class 1: "Fall Foliage" - one branch showing 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"
December - no meeting, Christmas party



PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE

The plant sale is **Saturday May 3** from 9 am until noon

Guisachan Heritage Park, 1060 Cameron Ave, Kelowna

Start planning your donations of topicals, cacti, succulents, perennials, shrubs, trees, annual/vegetable seedlings!

Herbs and vegetables are big sellers so if you are starting seeds please plant a few more for our sale.

If you are dividing or taking cuttings, pot up the plants a couple weeks in advance and

put as much information as possible on the containers or popsicle sticks.

Color of flower is always helpful, especially with irises and daylilies,

as people are more likely to make a purchase if it's a different colour to what is already in their yard.

PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE

A big thank you to everyone who donated items and/or purchased Raffle Basket tickets at the Christmas party.

This is where the proceeds went.

CENTRAL OKANAGAN FOOD BANK
NOURISH COMMUNITY. FEED HOPE.

January 2, 2025

KELOWNA GARDEN CLUB
1694 RUTLAND ROAD NORTH
KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, V1X 4Z6
CANADA

Dear Kelowna Garden Club,

On behalf of the Central Okanagan Food Bank and all those we serve; we extend our heartfelt appreciation of your continued support and your generous donation of $834 in December 2024. In the wake of record inflation and the rising cost of living, many families have been left choosing between paying their bills or putting food on the table. Food insecurity is an unfortunate reality for more and more people living in Kelowna and West Kelowna.

By choosing to support our organization, you have allowed us to meet the rising need in our community, as we are now serving over 11,000 people per month. Every day we are inspired by the resiliency of our clients, whether they are displaced refugees, a senior living on a fixed income, or a low-wage earner trying to make ends meet.

Each client that we serve deserves to have access to adequate and attainable nourishment. By working together with compassionate and generous people like you, we can ensure that we are feeding hope and fighting hunger. You've made a truly valuable difference in our community—and we thank you!

Sincerely,

Trevor Moss
Chief Executive Officer

HELP WANTED!

We are still recruiting for the following director and assistant positions.

Please let Marian Morry (**President@KelownaGardenClub.ca**) know if you are willing to fill any of these positions or if you have any questions about a position.

Director Positions

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. Two people could share these duties.

If we do not have a coordinator by the end of our March 3rd meeting the flower show will be cancelled

Vice-President – Unfortunately our Vice-President was unable to continue in this position. The VP recruits monthly speakers (speakers to the end of 2025 already lined up) 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.

Snacks (2 positions) – We need two individuals who will bring snacks to each of the monthly meetings. We will provide the assistants with a budget to cover the costs of the snacks.

Reviewer of the Books – We need one individual to review our 2024 books. No accounting background needed. Our Treasurer will show you what you need to do.

Spring Cleaning in the Garden

By Marian Morry

With spring on the horizon, many of us are looking forward to getting back into the garden. Cleaning up the yard is often our first thought. But wait … it's not yet time to remove the leaves and extra mulch as the hibernating pollinators still need them. A quick internet search tells you to wait until the temperature is at a consistent 10 degrees. This doesn't tell you what is meant by consistent – how many days makes it consistent? Is it day temperature or night temperature? I simplify this instruction by just watching to see what's going on in my garden. If I see bees or butterflies starting to appear then I can start to clean up the beds.

So, what can you do in your gardens in the spring while waiting for the pollinators to emerge?

The first is really in late winter, when you can prune your grape vines; apple trees, peach, pear, and service/saskatoon berry trees; and your red currant bushes (there are probably others as well). You want to prune these before the trees start to wake up. Always start with the dead, diseased, or crossed branches and then move on to shaping and/or opening up the plant.

Next, all those perennials you left over the winter as food and shelter can now be pruned. Most can be trimmed to 1-2 inches and then chopped and placed in your composter or green bin or spread on your soil if there are any bare spots. If you have grasses, now is a time to trim these as well. If you chop them into smaller pieces, they can be used like straw in the garden. I spread mine in my strawberry bed – free mulch and local to boot!

You can also clean up your hardscape areas, that is your patio, pathways, and sidewalks. The leaves here are not protecting plants or pollinators, so it is okay to clean them up. Put them in your composter, spread them on your soil, or add it to your green bin. If you see weeds in your beds this is a great time to remove them as well.

As the soil starts to warm up, and the pollinators emerge, you can finally clean up the beds themselves. I tend to leave my leaves and chopped plant matter as a natural mulch and compost (part of regenerative gardening) but if it seems too messy for you, place them into your composter or green bin. As you clean up each area, this is a good time to spread compost, manure, bone meal, etc. so that the additives can be incorporated into your soil before you plant.

Spring is just around the corner, so happy gardening!

Unleash Your Floral Artistry with the Okanagan Floral Art Club

by Linda Edser

Reflecting Tulips

Are you tired of seeing tulips in their usual form? Tulip petals can be opened or re-flexed to create a fuller bloom by carrying out the following procedure:

- Use slightly dehydrated or full-bud tulips.
- Remove the tulips from the water about half an hour in advance to let them slightly dehydrate.
- Gently hold the base of the tulip petal between your thumb and index finger, and at the same time gently push the top of the petal backwards, curling it outwards.
- The petal will pop backwards to open.

- Continue to do this on each petal of the flower, one at a time, until all the petals have been reflexed.
- When finished, place the tulip back in the water to fully rehydrate and then start creating your design.

What is Floral Art?

Floral Art is more than arranging flowers. It is the creative arrangement of flowers and plant material to create a visually appealing display. It is a craft that dates back thousands of years. Floral Art has always been a way to express beauty, harmony and creativity.

By joining the Okanagan Floral Art Club, you will

- **Connect with Others:** Make lasting friendships while sharing laughs and creativity in a welcoming supportive environment.
- **Be Inspired:** Uncover endless ways to showcase nature's beauty with harmoniously balanced arrangements.
- **Ignite your Creativity:** Whether you are a seasoned designer or new to Floral Art, there's always something to learn!
- **Discover New Techniques:** Learn to transform ordinary flowers into extraordinary masterpieces. For example, the tip at the top of this page shows a simple but elegant technique.
- **Join us** for an exciting, educational year ahead, where every meeting is an opportunity to learn, laugh, and create beauty. Let's celebrate the art of floral design together one bloom at a time!

When: March 19, 2025, at 1:00PM
Where: 2760 Cameron Road, West Kelowna
(First portable on the right beside Royal LePage Place Arena.)

Contact: Marilyn Degraw, 250 317-6029.

Succession Crops in Your Vegetable Garden

By Marian Morry

Succession cropping just means that you are constantly planting something in your vegetable gardens. For some crops this means planting every few weeks. This certainly covers your leafy greens, many root vegetables, beans or peas, and some herbs. One of the benefits of this type of succession cropping is you are not faced with 10 heads of lettuce that need to be picked at the same time.

In this picture, you can see a red romaine that is ready to be harvested and just to the right of it are some baby red romaine plants that will be ready in about 4 weeks (I have others planted elsewhere in my garden).

A couple of considerations here are how long each plant needs to maturity and whether it is a cool or hot weather plant.

For example, cilantro requires about 60 days to mature but loves cool weather so succession planting in July and August is probably a waste of time and space. On the other hand, carrots take about 70 days to mature and don't mind the heat.

Cool weather plants can be included in succession planting early in the year and then again in September. This would include radishes, bok choy, spinach, and cilantro.

A second type of succession cropping involves planting a different crop into a space once your first crop has been harvested. When replanting, it is often best to choose a crop from a different category. For example, after lettuce plant cucumbers or basil or after garlic plant beans or peas.

When deciding what to use as your second (or third) crop, you need to pay attention to the days to maturity. Will your crop have enough time to mature before the first frost? Can the plant tolerate some frost? You also need to consider how much space the second crop will need relative to your first crop.

In this (second) picture, I have garlic planted next to potatoes.

When I remove the garlic, I will plant half the area with brussels sprouts (90 days to maturity, somewhat frost tolerant) and the other half with bush beans (55 days to maturity).

The brussels sprouts should be ready right around Thanksgiving.

Continued on next page

Succession crops continued

In terms of space considerations, the third picture shows the last of my radishes next to zucchini plants.

Zucchini plants need a lot of space, so as they grow they will cover up the area where the last of my radishes are growing.

The two radishes in the back are in flower, and I will be collecting their seeds. As the zucchini grows it will push these flower/seed stems out of the way.

When planning to use succession cropping, it is best to map out your garden. When and where will your first crops go in? How frequently will you plant your seeds? Is it a cool weather plant? How long until maturity? Finally, what will you plant next in that space?

This table is an example of how I plan some of my garden. Items in black are the first planting, items in red the second planting, and the items in green are the third planting. While this can seem overwhelming, you can start planning in the Winter. Come Spring you will be ready to plant and harvest at leisure.

Wild Arugula	Cilantro, 60 Days Snow Peas, 56 days	Pac Choi, 45 days, Snow Peas, 56 days	Spinach, 50 days Butterhead lettuce, 67 days
Parsley	Butterhead Lettuce, 67 days Green Onion, 65 days	Pac Choi, 45 days, Green Lettuce, 45 days Radish, 30 days	Red Leaf Spinach, 50 days Butterhead lettuce, 67 days
Arugula, 43 Days Butterhead Lettuce, 67 days Radish, 30 days	Romaine Lettuce, 70 days Radish, 30 days	Snow Peas, 56 days, Kale, 25 Days	Carrots, 70 Days Romaine Lettuce, 70 days
Cilantro, 60 Days Romaine Lettuce, 70 days	Green Lettuce, 45 days Bush Beans, 55 days	Snow Peas, 56 days Green Onion, 65 days	Carrots, 70 Days Green Lettuce, 45 days

The Bronze Medallion is presented to a dedicated member who has made significant contributions to the KGC throughout the year.

The 2024 recipient is Lisa Boulanger, our Treasurer.

In addition to handling our club finances in an efficient, professional manner, she was instrumental in the modernization of our club.

Lisa's dedication is demonstrated by her participation in a directors' meeting while accompanying her husband who was driving a truck to California.

When she knew she would be in Mexico for our Gardening into the Future event she did everything ahead of time: design and creation of posters, big signs, table runners, tickets—EVERYTHING. She prepared it all, ready to go, before she left.

For that hard work, outstanding dedication, and commitment to the KGC, the executive awards Lisa Boulanger the Bronze Medallion 2024

ORCHID LOVERS

Arnold Downey, President, Kelowna Orchid Show has arranged a 24 passenger to get a group of orchid lovers to the

VANCOUVER ORCHID SHOW ON 21 MARCH ON 21 MARCH

Bus cost is $100 person (less than gas and parking costs). Bus leaves at 7:30 am, gets to the show about noon, leaves for home at about 4 pm.

Passengers can be spouses, partners, friends, family—in fact anyone interested in the show, interested in orchids, or who want to buy plants not available here in Kelowna.

The bus needs to be booked very soon. So, if you are interested, please contact Arnold without delay. arnoldsdowney@gmail.com phone 250-215-0334 .

Editor's Note: There was no time this month to send the March newsletter to my eagle-eyed proof-readers. If you see any errors, it's my fault—because I went to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show returning home just in time to add the two full page advertisements from our two major advertisers, and send the newsletter on its way. Please support all three of our advertisers and, if you missed the show this year, make a note to go to it next year. It's a wonderful experience. Sun Fun Tours are great and Don Burnett is the best tour leader ever!. Dorothy Robison, Editor

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