WEEDER'S DIGEST

MAY 2025

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

May Meeting:

Tuesday, 6 May 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

Have you renewed your annual membership?
After the May meeting, those who haven't renewed will be removed from the newsletter distribution list.
Don't let "Oh, no! No more newsletters!" be your cry.
Renew Now

Highlights:

Page 2	Plant Sale News
Page 3	Speakers, Events, Workshops, etc. **and Picnic news**
Page 6	May's Grow and Show
Page 9	Flower Show news
Page 10	Kelowna's Best Garden Selection

Please remember to bring your own coffee cups to the monthly meetings.

May Speaker

Rachael Fleming

"Ornamental Grasses"

Rachael Fleming has been a member of the Okanagan Master Gardeners since taking the course in 2010.

She is an active member of the local horticultural community with memberships in the Kelowna Garden Club, Okanagan Xeriscape Association and is currently the Past President of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia.

Her garden interests include pollinator, drought tolerant, and native plants. She has a love of ornamental grasses and is very happy to share plants and experiences growing a variety of grasses.

THE PLANT SALE COMMETH

The Plant Sale committee has decided to follow the Regional District of Central Okanagan guidelines regarding plants that we will accept and sell.

https://www.rdco.com/en/your-government/invasive-weed-control-bylaw.aspx#Weeds-of-concern

Plants that are on the invasive species list will be placed in an area marked as "Fast Spreading" plants. They have a place in the garden and the gardeners that plant them have a responsibility to make sure they do not spread to other areas. This often means cutting them back or pulling out sections that escape the garden, and deadheading them so they do not self-seed.

Fast spreading ornamental plants often grow where other plants will not. They are known to cover hot, dry areas, or deep shade, blocking out other weeds. Their roots will hold banks. Like all plants, they have a place in the garden, just not every garden.

This is Pam Leco is calling all KGC Gardeners!
There will an area at the Plant Sale where we (well, me and whatever volunteers I can wrangle) will be selling "**Garden Treasures"**.

There will be a separate cash area for this with all proceeds going directly to the Okanagan Food Bank.
These are garden décor items, tchotchkes by another name, pots, tools, books or magazines and assorted stuff that you want, or are being encouraged to dispose of **that may be of interest or purpose** to someone else.
(Please read the end of that sentence again!)

Things that you think someone will put out money for can be dropped off
Friday, May 2, 4:00-6:00 PM
or Saturday May 3, 7:30-10:00 AM.

I hope you have your plants for donation potted up and ready to go. See you at the sale, giving or getting!
Pam Leco

Communities in Bloom has declared 2025 the

YEAR of the EDIBLE Garden

This does not mean that all the flowers and shrubs should be ripped out of the garden and replaced with edibles. It is to encourage people to tuck a few edibles among their landscape.
Edibles can enhance the landscape.
Carrots have a lacy foliage while Swiss Chard is delicious and comes in a multiple of colors.
Plant a cucumber alongside another vine. They like it hot and sunny.
Tumbler tomatoes make tasty edible hanging plants in pots; their flowers are not spectacular but the fruit is.
Peppers, eggplant and tomatoes all have attractive fruit.
Planting edibles throughout the garden helps avoid the clump of one variety of plants that draws insects.
Edibles are never short of supply in the Okanagan in the summer time but the ones from your yard will taste better.

2025 Events, Speakers, Workshops and Excursions

Events

May 3	**KGC Plant sale**
June 3	Picnic (details below)
June 14	Flower Power Garden Tour
June 28	KGC Flower Show
No meetings July and August	
November 4	AGM and Year in Review
December 2	Christmas Party

Speakers 2025

May 6	Rachael Fleming - Ornamental Grasses 5 minute topic: How to Sharpen Pruners—Lisa Boulanger
June 3	Picnic—details below
July and August—no meetings	
September 2	Radna Jevdevic —Gardens for the 21st Century
October 7	Elaine Sedgman—BC Native Bees

Workshops

May 10	**Make a hanging basket for mother $5 (under 16s)**
Support our advertiser	See Buckerfield's ad on page 8
Tuesday, May 13, 3-5 pm	**DIY Herb Container (**maximum 15 people)
Wednesday, June 11, 1-4 pm	**Painted Pots, $10 plus bring your own pot** (maximum 14 people)

Excursions

June 26, 10 am	Summerland Gardens Tour, $5 per person proposed picnic lunch and carpooling
July 10, 10:30 am	Linden Gardens Tour, Kaleden, $5 per person, proposed lunch at Frog City Café (your own expense) & carpooling

June 3rd Picnic
6:00 – 8:30 pm
Guisachan Heritage Park

Note: we are NOT doing a potluck this year.

Instead, it will be a traditional picnic so please bring the following:
Lawn chair
Your own food and drink
Your garden hat for the competition
Your Grow & Show entry
If possible, a table for yourself

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN

WILD FLOWERS & NATIVE PLANTS?

If you are interested in exploring the native flowers of the Okanagan region, come along and try out a botany outing with the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club.

During the spring and summer we have weekly exploration driving trips (usually on a Friday) to find our beautiful native plants at their showiest.

For information, email

botany@okanagannature.org

Experimenting in the Garden

By Marian Morry

One of the joys of gardening is you get to play with new plants, move plants around, and change your design over time. Not all experiments will work, but it is fun to try. I am always experimenting in my gardens with varying degrees of success.

While I sometimes plan on putting in a new plant, more often than not I see a plant at a greenhouse and think it would be interesting to try. Technically my yard is a zone 6 so I typically ensure that I don't buy anything outside that zone. My images of where a plant will go is not always where it will thrive. For example, I saw an Autum Joy Sedum and thought it would be great in my front yard; deer don't eat sedum. Well, the deer loved the sedum, so much so they were eating other plants to get at it. Failed experiment. So, I moved it to my backyard and it is doing great. Similarly, the deer ate my Crocosmia and Malva when they were out front but now that they are in my backyard they are doing just fine. I am pushing my zone a bit with my Gladiolus this year. I have noticed in the past that the bulbs I missed pulling in the fall came back in the spring so this year I have left them all in. Technically they are zone 7 or 8 but since I have had them regrow 3 years running I'm hoping most will come back this spring.

I also experiment with growing different vegetables each year. Last year I tried Okra. First some bug ate the plants, then there were slugs on the leaves, … in the end I had six perfect Okra. Not really a success but not a failure either. I will be trying again this year.

In the picture, you can see that Okra has beautiful flowers.

This year I am trying Saffron and Holy Basil. Saffron is in the Crocus family and so the bulbs are in already. Hoping this weird winter isn't killing my new bulbs. It will be a while before I know whether either of these are a success. Not everything does well though. Last year neither my ground cherries nor my peanuts grew. I might try again in a different spot.

Another way to experiment is to try different varieties of the same plant. I have experimented with many of my vegetables and found that I love Pink Bumblebee Cherry Tomatoes the best; I also grow Black Cherry Tomatoes and Sun Drops. My Santo Cilantro bolts very quickly, but the Calypso Cilantro produces pretty much all summer. I tried 3 types of Edamame, and the Fruition variety produced the most. Even here you should expect failures. Grow radishes they say, easy to grow, great for kids. It took me 3 years to grow a radish, and I had to try about 4 different varieties. I finally learned to plant them really early, don't amend the soil, and found a variety I liked - French Breakfast Radish. I have also experimented with many types of lettuce, kale, cucumbers, beans, and carrots to find ones I like and that will grow well in my garden.

What are you experimenting with this year? Don't be afraid to fail and try again. Sometimes failures are because of the spot, deer, insects, the weather, or some other random event. It's easy to get stuck in a rut of always growing the same thing, so this year experiment with a new plant or seed.

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GROW AND SHOW for 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"

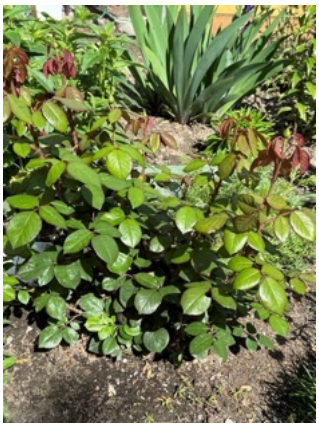
April's Grow and Show

Top row: Show and Tell, Blooming Branches, Japanese Fetterbush
Middle row: Lenten Rose, Daphne and Viburnum
Bottom row: Wild Edibles, Spring Tea

ROSES (Alicja Paradzik**)**

Roses are beautiful. They are fragrant, look lovely in a bouquet and are definitely a feast for the senses in the garden. If we grow roses, we want them to be as beautiful as possible. Here are some steps to carry out throughout the growing season to have healthy plants and lots of gorgeous big blooms.

Early in spring, as soon as the first buds start to form, prune out surplus canes.
Ideally, the bush should only have four canes, maybe five at the most. Any canes in the centre should be pruned out to allow air circulation and reduce the susceptibility to powdery mildew. Trim out any very thin canes, and the tiny little suckers from the bottom; this reduces the number of canes so that the rose can put all its energy into the flowers on the good, strong canes. That way you'll get better blooms. Also, trim away leaves, etc. at the bottom so that when the bush is watered, water doesn't splash up on the leaves leaving the plant susceptible to various fungus growths.



At the same time, shorten each cane, cutting at an angle just above an outward facing bud. This is another step to help "open up" the plant to encourage air circulation.
(Before and after photos.)

Roses are heavy feeders.
They need a lot of nutrients to promote healthy growth, to help with disease resistance and, of course, to promote beautiful blooms. Fertilize in late April or early May when the green shoots have started to appear. Use a fertilizer specific for roses. An all-purpose 10-10-10 fertilizer will also work just fine. A second fertilizer application should be made after the first flush of blooms (mid-July). After that, it is not a good idea to fertilize any more. Another fertilizer application could encourage too much new growth which would leave the plant not strong enough to withstand winter temperatures. It is better to let the plant gradually ease into dormancy.

Check every morning for aphids, other bugs and diseases.
If aphids appear (usually on the flower bud), just scoop them off with your fingers or give them a strong blast of water from your hose.

As the flower buds form, prune out unnecessary buds.
If it's a floribunda or grandiflora, for flower show purposes, it is good to have as many open flowers at the same degree of openness on the spray as possible. The goal is to have a uniform looking spray. But the roses have a different idea. They like to send one flower to open in advance and then the rest.

So, we must fool the shrub by pinching out the advance (middle) bud as early as possible. As the sprays are forming, select a few that might be flower show material and pinch out the middle dominant bud. The earlier you do this, the other flowers in the spray will fill in the gap where the dominant flower would have been.

(Before and after photos.)

Roses article continued on next page...

ROSES continued from previous page

For flower show purposes, a Hybrid T rose should sit proudly on a strong stem and the flower should be 2/3 to 3/4 open. There should be only one flower on the stem. However, the rose bush likes to set additional buds which detract from the main flower.

These additional ones can be pinched out at the time of the show, but they tend to leave some scarring.

Ideally, it's a good idea to pinch out these extra buds early in the growth of the main flower. Doing this also results in a larger flower.

(Before and after photos.)

The rest of the regime is to keep the rose bushes beautifully hydrated by mulching, regular watering and fertilizing on time.

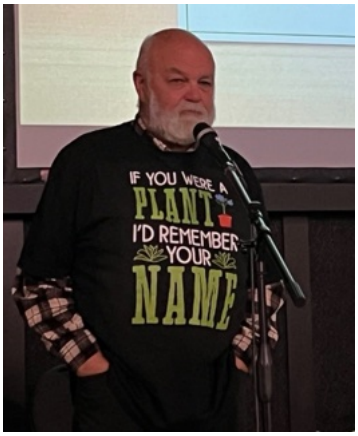
Good luck and may you win many blue ribbons! Alicja Paradzik

Love the t–shirt, Don

Don Burnett, whose presentation at the April meeting was on Small Greenhouses, sported a t-shirt with a message many of us can relate to:

If you were a plant, I'd remember your name.

Thanks for a great presentation, Don, and the laughs.



Flower Show at Guisachan HeritageGarden

June 28, 2025

Theme: Okanagan Lake & Sky

Mark the date on your calendar! What a wonderful opportunity to 'Show-off' your amazing flowers.

Start now to plan entering the best of your flowers, your new flowers and your old favourites, potted plants and the patio planters.

The colour of the year is Teal, so we chose "Shades & Tones of Blue" as our show colour. Keep it mind as you choose your flowers.

There is a children's category for up to 12 years. Encourage your children and grandchildren to get involved.

The Okanagan Floral Art Club will be displaying a spectacular flower arrangement using the theme and colour.

The Flower Show is your show, supported by many enthusiastic volunteers of our Kelowna Garden Club. A big thank you to the members who signed up last month.

There are18 tables, 4 canopys & 40 chairs to put in place! We need more men for set up, 7 am to 9 am, and take down, 3 to 3:30pm --because what goes up, must come down. The city looks after the big tent.

Sign-up sheets with times will be set out at the May meeting.

Be sure to pick up some brochures and flyers to distribute in your community!

But, most importantly, put lots of entries in the show!

Marilyn Degraw
Flower Show Coordinator
Questions? E-mail me: degrawm@shaw.ca

Nominate Your Favourites for the

Kelowna's Second Annual Best Garden Selection

The nomination form (page 9) is also available on the Kelowna Garden Club website at kelownagardenclub.ca (under the events category).

Nominations for School gardens must be in by May 30th Judging to take place June 2nd.

Nominations for all other categories, June 19th with Judging taking place June 23rd or 24th.

Gardens that must be maintained by the gardeners

School Garden - Any garden that is planted and maintained by students. Help appropriate to the age group is allowed.

Water wise – The garden follows the water wise principles. For more information look at https://www.rdno.ca/sites/default/files/2021-04/WaterWise_Landscape_Irrigation_Handbook.pdf

Curb Appeal – The front garden is viewed from the sidewalk

Overall garden – Consideration is given to the total yard.

Edible garden –This is the Year of the Edible Garden. This category includes community gardens, containers, in ground gardens as well as edible plants placed throughout an ornamental garden

Floral Display –The category may include part or all of the yard hat contains a bright cheerful display of flowers. The selection of flowers include but are not limited to annuals, bulbs, perennials, containers, and in ground plantings.

Historical Property – The design and plantings in the garden should suit the era of the buildings.

Gardens that can be maintained by professionals

Best Street – one block or more nominator's choice. The properties street should be attractive and well maintained. It will be viewed from street

Strata – **condos** – The grounds around all buildings will be viewed.

Strata – **not condos** - This category includes strata's with single houses, duplexes, townhouses. All the grounds around the buildings will be viewed.

Urban Forest – A yard, park or business or neighborhood that maintains an attractive, healthy and diverse urban forest of three or more trees.

Favorite Park - Vote for your favorite park within the City of Kelowna. The park should be attractive and well maintained.

Best Garden Selection Kelowna 2025

Name of the gardener(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone number _____

Category

Must be maintained by the gardeners

- ☐ School Garden
- ☐ Water wise
- ☐ Curb Appeal
- ☐ Overall garden
- ☐ Edible garden
- ☐ Floral display
- ☐ Historical property

Can be maintained by professionals

- ☐ Best Street
- ☐ Strata – condos
- ☐ Strata – stand alone
- ☐ Urban Forest
- ☐ Favorite Park

Name of the person who nominated (can be the gardener)

_____

Email

_____

Phone number

_____

Email the form to VicePresident@KelownaGardenClub.ca

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