

THE BULLETIN

BRITISH COLUMBIA COUNCIL
OF GARDEN CLUBS

DECEMBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYNDA PASACRETA

PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL OF YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

I was curious about the history of the poinsetta becoming an unlikely symbol of Christmas and the holiday season.

According the Almanac (www.almanac.com), poinsettias, as a symbol of Christmas, began with an old Mexican legend.

In their native region of southern Mexico, poinsettias flower during the winter season. They can grow as tall as 10 to 15 feet in the wild. In the past poinsettias were considered weeds.

The coloured flowers are actually leaves called bracts, while the flowers are inconspicuous beads found in the centre of the bracts.

The Aztecs called the plant *cuetlaxochitl*. They used the colourful bracts to make a reddish-purple dye for fabrics. They also used the sap in medicines to control fevers, skin conditions, and other ailments.

Cuetlaxochitl was planted in the gardens of the Aztec rulers and used as offerings in religious ceremonies.

According to Mexican lore, a wee child did not have a gift for baby Jesus at Christmas so all she could do was pick a bouquet of weeds to offer. The angels felt sorry for the little girl so after she placed the weeds at the Nativity on Christmas Eve, the angels transformed the weeds into beautiful red flowers.

Hubby and I travel every year to the northwest area of Costa Rica and enjoy the massive shrubs of poinsettias in the jungles up in the northern section close to the Nicaraguan border. It is shocking to see these massive plants growing so tall in amongst all of the tropical green plants!

Many of the locals in tiny villages up north have poinsetta shrubs growing in their home gardens.

Mexico and Costa Rica are major importers of tropical plants, flowers, and cut flowers to North America.

All the best of the holidays to you!

All poinsetta photos by Wikimedia Commons



SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEWS

ANITA IRANI, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAIR

It has been an exciting year for the Scholarship Fund Committee.

As reported earlier, the Scholarship Fund Committee dispersed \$13,200 to institutions across British Columbia. Many BCCGC scholarships for 2024 have already been awarded, including by UBC, Okanagan College, and Thompson Rivers University to mention a few. We were thrilled that Debbie Mellenger was personally able to present the BC Council of Garden Clubs UBC Horticulture Training Program Award to recipient Whitney Carlson at a luncheon held earlier this year.

The Q3 2024 summer report for the Scholarship Fund has just been published by the Vancity Community Foundation: \$8,600 in donations were deposited in the fund from July 1 to September 30, and the closing value of the fund on September 30, 2024, was \$362,543.92. We will report on total donations for 2024 in January 2025.

At the fall meeting, committee member Betty Girard informed members about a program that the Scholarship Fund hopes to support in 2025 — the Richmond Farm School at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The committee toured the farm school in Richmond earlier this year. If you were not in attendance at the fall meeting, we hope you have had a chance to read Betty's article about the farm school in the BCCGC Fall Supplement. Additional information is available on the KPU website: <https://www.kpu.ca/science/rfs>. The process of offering this new BCCGC scholarship is in progress — please let us know if you have any questions or comments about this initiative.

A special highlight at the fall meeting was the attendance of one of the founding members of the

Scholarship Fund, Marie Bensley. Marie wrote us a note that stated: *"Jim Bensley wrote the motion to start the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Trust Fund in our kitchen and Bill Tindale of the BC Fuchsia and Begonia Society presented the motion. The South Burnaby Garden Club and the New Westminster Horticultural Society held a Christmas Show to start the Fund."* I called Mrs. Bensley to ask permission to publish the contents of her note and she also added that the Christmas Show was held at the Royal Towers in New Westminster in 1970. Marie talked about how she enjoyed hearing from the student speakers at our meetings and she wanted me to express how very delighted she was to hear that the Scholarship Fund was doing so well. It was truly a privilege to speak with Marie and I am grateful to her for taking the time to share her thoughts with me.

We will soon be wrapping up our cycle for this year and are completing our administrative tasks such as the end of year reports, which will be sent to the institutions in the near future.

As always we are grateful to all our members and donors for their ongoing support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We may be contacted at scholarship@bcgardenclubs.com.





HOW TO DONATE TO THE BCCGC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you wish to make a donation by cheque please send it to:

BC Council of Garden Clubs
Scholarship Fund, c/o: BC Council of
Garden Clubs

10952 McAdam Road

North Delta, BC, V4C 3E8

Please ensure that the cheques are made out to the "Vancity Community Foundation" and the memo field shows "BC Council of Garden Clubs." If the person or organization that the donation is from does not clearly show on the cheque, please include a brief note with the cheque indicating who the donation is from and a return address (so that an income tax receipt can be issued).

If you wish to donate online with a credit card:

Go to
www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca.

Click the "Funds" button on the top right side of the home page.

Locate the BC Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund, either by scrolling through the list or searching "garden clubs" in the search bar.

Once on the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page, click "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

OR

Go to www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Go to the "Scholarship Fund" on the top bar and click on the "Donate" page below.

Scroll down to the link to Vancity Community Foundation and click on it. This will take you to the BCCGC Scholarship Fund page.

Click on "Give to this Fund" and complete the form.

Thank You!



What a wonderful gift to give to a student this year! Donate today!

RIVERVIEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TREE TOURS

ALLISON LUKE

October marks the end of another year of tree tours on səmiq̓wəʔelə/Riverview lands, just as the first leaves are changing colour and falling. As the first tour in April coincides with the trees starting to leaf out, it's a beautiful thing to witness this seasonal procession. The Riverview Horticultural Centre Society (RHCS) has been hosting guided tree walks here in Coquitlam for over 32 years, but every tour is different even though you may be staring at the exact same trees. Firstly, the trees — or the deciduous ones anyways — change over the course of the year, and secondly, every leader has a unique angle of looking at the tree, whether it be from a historical, ecological, or arboricultural perspective.

With over 1,800 inventoried trees representing 160 species, some visitors to the site have been around long enough to witness some of these specimens become champion trees in their own right. Of course, the site is very much older than the origin of RHCS in 1992. The grounds directly surrounding Essondale Hospital became the site of the province's first botanical garden and arboretum, established in 1912 by John Davidson. The area is later referred to as Riverview and finally given the traditional name səmiq̓wəʔelə, "Place of the Great Blue Heron."

This year, around 20 volunteers dedicated their time on these grounds. Those who have completed training in BC Housing's archeology class work in Serenity Gardens were weeding, pruning, planting, and watering almost daily in the summer. Many new plants were donated in 2023 and are always a welcome addition. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all the volunteers who spend their time tending the land here, as well as those who help in tree tour setup, greeting attendees and having them to sign waivers, taking donations, and managing merchandise. A

special thanks also goes out to this year's tour leaders from April to October: Douglas Justice, Wyatt Sjodin, Derek Churchill, Tiger Devine, Krista Braathen, Allison Luke, and Paul Buikema.

The RHCS's vision for the lands is to carry forward the original intention behind the creation of the hospital and arboretum. This includes a specific focus on supporting mental health wellness, promotion of environmental education, and enjoyment of the lands as an urban park. Currently, both kʷikʷəłəm and BC Housing are in a reconciliation-based partnership, which is in the ideas and exploratory phase in the planning process. We have deep respect for kʷikʷəłəm's stewardship of these lands and their leadership in the redevelopment process. We look to the future with anticipation and a sincere hope to preserve and protect the diverse collection of unique trees for the benefit of all.

Visit www.rhcs.org for more information including upcoming 2025 tree tour dates, tree inventory, membership, ways to donate, volunteer, and more. Tree tours take place on Sunday from 1—3 pm once a month from April to October. They are free for the public to attend.



Newsletter editor Ivanka Cotic and RHCS president Marilyne Anderson

RIVERVIEW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TREE TOURS, CONT'D

The majestic pair of *Tilia tomentosa*, silver linden trees, on səmiq̄wəʔelə/ Riverview lands.



All photos by Allison Luke, Riverview Horticultural Society

Arborist Tiger Devine leading the July tree tour.



BOOK REVIEW FOR THE *GARDENER'S GUIDE TO SAVING THE PLANET*

Authors: Eliza Olson & Seppideh Saatchi

Publisher: Peatlands Protection Society

"I've never seen anything like it!" exclaimed Barb.

"I'm glad you have a sense of humour. Too often we are too serious," commented Simone.

The *Gardener's Guide to Saving the Planet* is not a scientific book. It's not a cookbook. It's not a gardening book. It's all three and more!

It's the layman's (lay person's) guide to peatlands: what they are made of, why they are important, and what you, the gardener, can do to save them.

The book describes what peat is, the ecosystem services they give to the planet, and brief descriptions of the wildlife that depend on them. Peatlands are important for filtering water, reducing flooding, and protecting rare and endangered wildlife.

The *Peatlands Protection Society* logo is a stylized version of a butterfly and cotton grass. Cotton grass grows in northern peatlands across the northern hemisphere. The logo was designed for the society by Rebel.com, a Canadian company that specializes in working with non-profits.

Section 3 covers how peatlands store carbon and how they play a role in climate change — what is happening worldwide to protect our peatlands and how you can play an active role in saving our peatlands right in your own backyard.

Section 4 talks about why gardeners use peat and why we need to stop. Some gardeners use it because it absorbs water and retains it. There are other products that can work as well without destroying the world's peatlands.

Section 5 gives gardeners ways to reduce the use of peat in their gardens. This includes products you can buy and ways to create your own peat alternatives.

Section 6 describes how to create your own moss garden and how to adapt your garden so that you don't need peat in your garden.

Recipes! Why recipes? It's said that if you want people to read your stuff, include a recipe. The authors included recipes from friends and family.

Section 5 includes recipes for campers. Marlene Graham, the Peatlands Protection Society's secretary, is an avid camper and a life-long member of Girl Guides BC.

One or two of the recipes are written with "tongue in cheek!" which includes "Baked Skunk" and "Moose Muffin." They come from a cookbook whose author obviously had a sense of humour.

The authors are Eliza Olson, president/executive director of the Peatlands Protection Society, longtime peatland activist, and retired Surrey teacher, and Seppideh Saatchi, a fourth year UBC student studying forestry and economics.

When she came to work for the society, Seppi knew very little about peatlands. Now she's planning future projects to tell the story of peat.

Funding for the *Gardener's Guide to Saving the Planet* came from corporate sponsors and the Canada Summer Employment program.

The *Gardener's Guide to Saving the Planet* is \$29.95 plus 5% GST and a service charge of \$5.00. Contact: peatlands@peatlandsprotectionsociety.ca. Cheques and e-transfers are available for payment. Proceeds go to the society's education programs.

P.S. For peat's sake, don't use peat. It's one small step to stop climate change.

Eliza retired from teaching in Surrey in 1998. She started at Earl Marriott Secondary as a home economics teacher in 1974. She retired from Cougar Creek Elementary as an English as a Second Language teacher in 1998.

She is taking a course on creating a website. Eliza is on lesson 6 but things keep getting in the way.

BOOK REVIEW FOR THE *GARDENERS GUIDE TO SAVING THE PLANET*, CONT'D

Please find attached a book review of the *Gardener's Guide to Saving the Planet*. If any clubs wish to use it for fundraising, wholesale pricing is available. The discount is \$14.95+GST & S&H for books when over 12 are purchased. If the books are picked up in Delta, individual S&H for books will be discounted and a reduced fee will apply.

Single books: \$29.95 +5%GST=\$31.45 + \$5.00 shipping & handling unless picked up at the society's office in Delta.

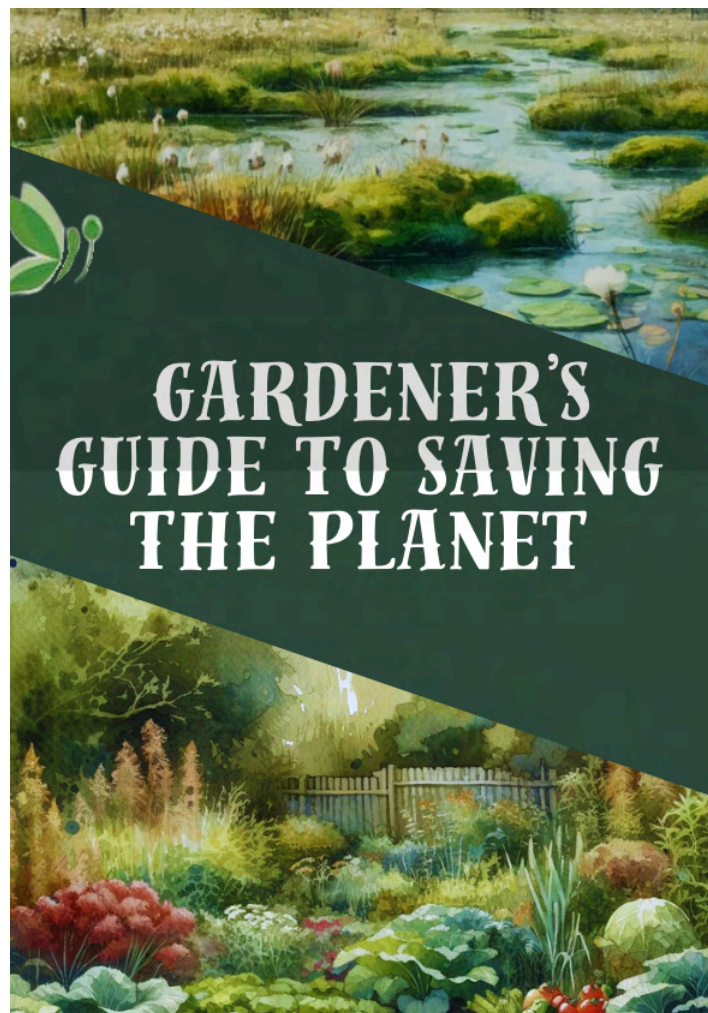
Why shouldn't gardeners use peat? Less than 3% of the earth's surface is covered with peat. Thirty-one percent of the earth is covered with forests. That 3% stores twice as much carbon as the 31% of forests.

In 2005, the UN stated that the cheapest and most efficient way to reduce climate change is to save our peatlands.

The Global Forums in Berlin recently called "peatlands the forgotten solution." Kew Gardens in London was 98% peat-free a few years ago.

To order the book or for more information contact: peatlands@peatlandsprotectionsociety.ca

Eliza Olson, LL.D.,(h.c.), B.Ed.



CANADIAN HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK: A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT FOR ELIMINATING OUR GRASS AND SAVING NATIVE BEES

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM JIM SCOTT

“In the past, we have asked for one thing of our gardens: that they are pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators, and manage water.” — Doug Tallamy, founder of Homegrown National Park.

A personal quest begins

Sometimes the problems of the world seem so enormous and intractable that it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenges, which leads to discouragement and inaction. For example, how can one person make a difference when so much biodiversity has been lost? Although I have intermittently pondered this question over the years, it is only recently that I realized that there is something I can do! The dawning of this realization took place during the heat dome of the summer of 2021. My wife Gail wrote a poem, *Some Fine Day*, reflecting on that time and our subsequent actions:

heat dome came and went but that was two summers ago (the summer my mother died)	to keep on going, (lawn seemed to say) mother earth's answer for an inhospitable world? go backwards, re-wild
last year four months of drought parched the grass dry, down to the roots	so here you are now, kicking at a sod cutter for six hours straight
first it went brown, then yellow and finally, thin stalks of white piled up like cut hay	stripping away all heavy-handed artifice of human caprice,
and despite four icy snow storms winter was dry this year, snow pack below normal	pouring out new soil, spreading out seed, watering painstakingly
when April came, only thing growing on the lawn was bald spots	to restart a home for microclover, yarrow, daisies, sweet alyssum, fescue, chamomile
even the patches of green were small and tentative exhausted by extremes	(and some fine day) butterflies and bees.
times are too tough	

So that was our first foray into “rewilding.” We replaced our lawn with Bee Turf from West Coast Seeds, opting for a ground cover that was both drought tolerant and pollinator friendly. But now that nature had grabbed our attention, we started wondering what else we could do to help restore biodiversity. That’s when the Homegrown National Park came across our radar and the quest continued.

CANADIAN HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK: A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT FOR ELIMINATING OUR GRASS AND SAVING NATIVE BEES, CONT'D

The Homegrown National Park

The Homegrown National Park is a grassroots movement that aims at motivating millions of people to regenerate biodiversity by planting natives, removing invasives, and reshaping our relationship with nature. Calling it a “grassroots” movement seems ironic because one of the major goals of the Homegrown National Park is to have us reduce the size of our lawns by replacing grass (a relatively lifeless green carpet) with pollinator-friendly native plants.

The Homegrown National Park movement is based on the conviction that our individual actions, even on a very small scale, can collectively make a monumental difference in preserving biodiversity and combatting environmental degradation. The premise is simple yet profound: by transforming our yards, balconies, and community spaces into wildlife-friendly habitats with native plants, we can create interconnected corridors that provide refuge and sustenance for the whole web of life. Our magnificent national parks and nature preserves are not enough on their own to stave off ecological collapse; but all of us can do our part to make one, enormous Homegrown National Park, where plants, insects, wildlife, and, yes, humans can thrive.

A major feature of Homegrown National Park is what Tallamy and his colleagues call the Biodiversity Map: <https://map.homegrownnationalpark.org>. You can join Homegrown National Park for free. You simply register your property on the map, where you're located, and the amount of area that you're going to be a good steward of. Maybe you're really going to reduce the area in lawn. Maybe you're going to plant an oak tree. Maybe you're going to put an aster in a flower pot. It doesn't matter how small an area you're going to be a good steward of. When you record your area on the map, your region will light up with a firefly. And someday, after this message goes viral, the entire country will light up with swarms of fireflies!

This fall, my wife and I joined the movement. We purchased seven native plants from the Fraser Valley Conservancy, focusing on shrubs that would attract pollinators and birds: red-flowering currant, Pacific

ninebark, oceanspray, saskatoon, chokeberry, common snowberry, and evergreen huckleberry. Then we recorded our stewardship contribution on the biodiversity map. These are our first steps in helping to create a Canadian Homegrown National Park. In the spring, we plan to plant milkweed and sunflowers. There's no telling where the quest will lead us next.

For Further Reading

To learn more about the Homegrown National Park, start with the foundational book by Douglas W. Tallamy, *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* (Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2019). The main ideas in the book are also summarized in a snappy **video narrated by Tallamy**: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/whats-the-rush/>.

The David Suzuki Foundation has announced that it endorses and is partnering with the Homegrown National Park movement: <https://david Suzuki.org/press/people-in-canada-invited-to-join-homegrown-national-park-movement/>.

If you would like to begin adding native plants to your garden or balcony, here is a list of plants that are native to Southwest British Columbia produced by the National Wildlife Federation based on Tallamy's data: *Keystone Native Plants: Marine West Coast Forests—Ecoregion 7*: <https://nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-7-marine-west-coast-forest.pdf>.

Swallowtail on teasel.



CANADIAN HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK: A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT FOR ELIMINATING OUR GRASS AND SAVING NATIVE BEES, CONT'D

This includes a list of native plants that feed specialist bees who eat pollen only from specific plants. Keystone plants for native bees feed both specialist and generalist bees.

The idea of “rewilding” as a grassroots movement is experiencing something of a moment. Here are some suggestions for further reading:

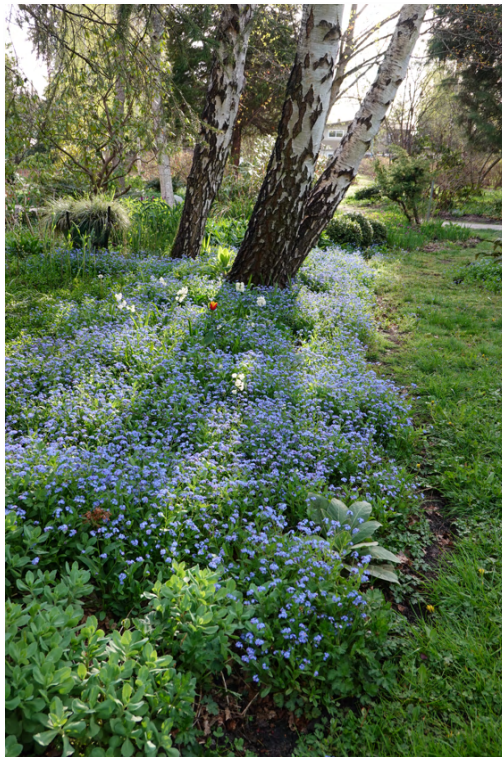
Herb Hammond, Sean Markey, and Cam Brewer, *Nature-First Cities: Restoring Relationships with Ecosystems and with Each Other*, with a foreword by David Suzuki (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2024). <https://www.naturefirstcities.com/book-1>. The idea of restoring interpersonal relationships through communal efforts to repair ecosystems seems particularly important in view of our highly polarized world.

Sophi Veltrop, *Rewilding: The Many-Faceted Movement That Demands a Resounding Yes*, *The Ecological Citizen* 6.1 (2023): 45–51. <https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/pdfs/Vol%206%20No%201.pdf#page=45>.

About the Author

Dr. James M. Scott is a former professor of religious studies at Trinity Western University, Langley, B.C. He is the author of several books focusing on how people can get together and make a positive change in the world. See https://www.goodreads.com/author/list/32028484.James_M_Scott. He lives in Abbotsford, B.C.

Both photos of Paulik Park
“rewilding” by Lynda
Pasacreata, Richmond Garden
Club



WHITE ROCK AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

DARLENE CHAMBERLAIN, PAST PRESIDENT

The White Rock and District Garden Club meets from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month from September to June. This works well for our mainly senior members. We enjoy three guest speakers or workshops and three or four floral shows each year. We have a members garden tour one day in June or July, including a picnic lunch.

Once or twice yearly, we hire a bus to take members on a trip to a destination such as to see the Butchart Gardens this last summer. We have also hired a bus to take us to VanDusen Botanical Gardens Christmas lights in December. The club subsidizes the cost of the bus for members and welcomes guests to join us paying a slightly higher fee.

We celebrated our 75th anniversary in 2022. At that time we decided to archive our historical documents and some trophies at the White Rock Museum. This has been a wonderful mutual arrangement involving poring through boxes of photos and albums from past years, which will now be housed in electronic form at the museum.

At our monthly meetings, we offer our “Front Porch” table to our members to buy puzzles, books, jewellery, knick-knacks, and garden supplies donated by our members. It is very profitable.

Our annual plant sale is held every May, including a bake sale, a flower market with floral arrangements, and our Front Porch table. This year we had record sales!

We continue to have new members join and encourage them to get involved in running the club. With aging members, we need to keep renewing our membership and executive. We believe our website and social media activity, along with our monthly emailed newsletter, have been instrumental in communicating with existing members — and reaching out to new ones. To view our website: <https://www.white-rock-garden-club.ca/plant-sales-advice-gardening-south-surrey-bc.html>.

Photo from White Rock Garden Club/Instagram



TIPS ON CARING FOR POINSETTAS

LYNDA PASACRETA, BC COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS COMMUNICATIONS

A big pot of colourful poinsettias always kicks off the holiday season in our house.

My goal this year is to have the plant last at least until the end of January!

One of my go-to websites for advice is The Spruce (www.thespruce.com) which always gives me common sense information.

As we know the poinsetta, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, is a perennial shrub native to Mexico. The poinsettias we pick up at local nurseries are most likely forced into bloom in time for the holiday season.

Thanks to hybridizers we now have some fabulous colours to choose from — from the familiar scarlet red to white, cream, salmon, yellow, and pink.

Poinsettias typically bloom in winter and spring and then go dormant. If we take the right care, we may encourage our plants to rebloom next winter!

Here are some tips to keep your pointsettia healthy:

🌲 Plant in well-draining soil (if purchased remember to remove the colourful foil).

🌲 Maintain temperatures between 18 and 23 degrees Celsius.

🌲 Bright indirect light or diffused light is best.

🌲 Located near a window without a cold draft is best — where it will get at least six to eight hours of

diffused light per day. Leaves of a poinsetta touching a cold window can injure the leaves.

🌲 Allow the top surface of the soil to be dry to the touch. Saturate the soil completely until the water runs through the container's drainage holes, but do not let the plant sit in water.

🌲 Poinsettias love humidity! If your house is dry, consider placing a dish of water nearby.

🌲 Wilted leaves and rotted plant roots are a sign of overwatering.

🌲 Water less frequently during the dormant stage of growth.

🌲 Do not fertilize during the blooming period. If you are keeping your plant throughout the year, start fertilizing in the spring at half-strength when there is no growth. Feed every three to four weeks until the plant is re-established.

Okay. I can do this. I have set a new goal. I will keep my holiday poinsettia throughout the year and bring it back to life in the spring!





To kick off the 2025 theme of the year — edible gardens — send us your photos of any vegetables, fruits — even those peeking out through the snow or hanging on to your trees despite the cold!

We will publish some of your photos in our January newsletter and also on the homepage of the BC Council of Garden Clubs website, www.bcgardenclubs.com.

Send your photos via email to communications@bcgardenclubs.com.

Growers Delight is now a member of COTA, the Canada Organic Trade Association. Check us out: <https://organicdirtsupplements.ca/>. Use code BCCG12 for special discounts.

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MYLITTA CRESCENT BUTTERFLY

CINDY TATARYN, VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS

Mylitta crescent (Phyciodes mylitta)

Range: The *Mylitta crescent* can be found locally, in Victoria and the Gulf Islands. It has also been seen in the Nanaimo area and Strait of Georgia where it is common and found in specific locations. The *Mylitta crescent* ranges from Southern BC south to Baja California and Sonora Mexico.

Mylitta crescent occurs across southern BC in the habitat of the pale crescent butterfly, but also Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, and West Kootenays. The *Mylitta crescent* is found in disturbed habitat where its food source can be found.

Larval Food Plants: The larvae of BC species of *Mylitta crescent* feed on asters (*Aster*) and thistles (*Cirsium*).

Time of Flight: The adults can be seen flying from May to August. There are two generations, one flying from April to May and the other from July to August.

Life Cycle: The larvae produced by the second-brood adults hibernate as fourth instar larvae on Vancouver Island.

The eggs are pale green when laid, but change to dark grey before the larva emerges. It is .50 mm across.

The mature larvae have a shiny black head. The body is dull black with a dark dorsal line and white spots on the anterior base of prominent hairy spines. The spiracular band consists of two thin yellow lines.

Description:

Larvae: The black larvae can be seen feeding in a mass from May to June and again in August and September. The partly grown larvae overwinter in dead thistle leaves and resume feeding in late spring.

Adult: The *Mylitta crescent* is very similar to the pale crescent but much smaller. The pattern on the underside of the wings is less crisp. The adult *Mylitta crescent* has a complex ventral wing pattern. The common name “crescent” refers to the crescent-shaped spot in the centre of the ventral hindwing margin. The male butterflies are smaller and darker than the females.

The genus is Nearctic and contains nine species.

Native Plant:

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

The Canada thistle is a perennial herb with deep, wide spreading roots and creeping rhizomes. It is designated as a Provincial Noxious Weed by the BC Weed Control Act.

The stem is erect and glabrous, the basal leaves are deciduous. The stem leaves are alternating, lance-shaped on the lower stem and becoming broader as it gains height, up to 2 metres tall. The leaves are 20 cm long and 7 cm wide. They are irregularly lobed, spiny-toothed, glabrous or green above, and densely white-hairy beneath.

The flower heads are discoid (flat and circular), unisexual composed of either male or female flowers on a plant. There are numerous small solitary flowers at the ends of branches in an open inflorescence.

The disc flowers are pink-purple — the female ones being 23—26 mm long and the males 12—14 mm long.

The Canada thistle prefers dry roadsides, fields, pastures, meadows, clearings, and disturbed areas in the lowlands, steppe, or mountain zones.



MYLITTA CRESCENT, CONT'D

Sources:

Plants of Coastal British Columbia: Including Washington, Oregon & Alaska, by Jim Pojar & Andy Mackinnon (2014, BC Ministry of Forests, Partners Publishing and Lone Pine Publishing).

E-Fauna BC: Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia [efauna.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.

E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the Plants of British Columbia [eflora.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, by Brian Klinkenberg, 2020/2021.



Photos by Wikimedia Commons



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

We would **love** to feature your club or community garden in the newsletter.

Tell us about some of the projects your club or community garden is involved in.

You are invited to **submit an article** at any time (please include photos and name of author). Photos should be high resolution and you should include the name of the photographer if possible. Articles should be in the range of 300–500 words. If you have an idea

for a longer piece, connect with the newsletter editor in advance to discuss your idea.

Articles are due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. If they are submitted after that date, they will be held for the next issue.

The **next due date is December 15 for January 1**. Submissions/ inquiries:

newsletter@bcgardenclubs.com

Lynda Pasacreta, Editor

Pam Robertson, Copy Editor

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