

RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH/HOW TO GET READY FOR OUR MAY MOTHERS DAY PLANT SALE

Mark your calendars

* **January 12, 2019:**
January Bird Walk -
 meet Jeremy Gordon in the VanDusen visitor centre, 10am, for a guided birding exploration in the Gardens. Free for VanDusen members or with Garden admission.

* **January 15, 2019:**
 South Delta Garden Club, **Howard Wills, Fernwood Nursery, Sempervivums**, 7pm, Ladner Christian Reformed Church, 4594 54A St. Ladner, Drop in fee for non members \$5

* **January 30, 2019**
(Note date change!)
 RGC monthly meeting, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Blvd, 7pm to 9pm, Brenda Dyck, garden adventure specialist



RGC new year resolutions

I love to look back at what we were up to 1 to 2 years ago in each month. I put together a pretty cool list of new year's resolutions last January.

We accomplished most of our goals - grow our membership, attract more men and young people, engage and teach people how to become stewards of our environment and get out into the community.

We will continue to focus on those same goals this year but thought it would be fun to look at some things that we can each do in our gardens to contribute to improving our environment.

Here are a few ideas for us to get started:



January garden tasks

It has been remarkably warm this season. Our rainy days are a great time to order seeds and plants.

On sunny days, check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports to make sure your plants and trees are still protected from severe weather.

Leave your garden plants uncut to provide protection for wildlife.

Other tasks include:

- ✦ stay out of your garden - tender plants are starting to peek out from the soil.
- ✦ inspect stored tubers of dahlias, begonia and canna for rot or drying out.
- ✦ prune apple and pear trees
- ✦ start forcing rhubarb
- ✦ clean pots and greenhouses for spring
- ✦ prune deciduous trees except for ornamental cherries, plums as these are susceptible to silver leaf disease when pruned in the autumn or winter.
- ✦ plant bare root deciduous trees and hedging shrubs

- ✦ Resolve to cut down on the use of gas powered equipment.
- ✦ Resolve to increase the biodiversity in your garden
- ✦ Resolve to grow more food
- ✦ Resolve to plant more trees

Send me some of your new years resolutions for your garden this year and you will be eligible to win a **lovely houseplant**. Email me at richmondgardenclub@gmail.com or phone me at 604.275.2105.

Membership fee changes

At our November 2018 Garden Club meeting, the members approved an increase to our membership fees.

Single member fees are increasing from \$12 to \$15 per year and family rate is increasing from \$15 to \$20.

It has been years since there has been an increase in our fees. As we are more involved in the community through events, social networking and projects we have increased our marketing materials and website development/maintenance.

If you pay your membership before or on January 30, 2019 you will be able to pay 2018 rates. You can mail your cheque (made out to Richmond Garden Club) to Angie Beckman, 5551 Calderwood Cres. Richmond V7C 4S9.

We look forward to ensuring you receive value through your membership with our speakers and other education opportunities.

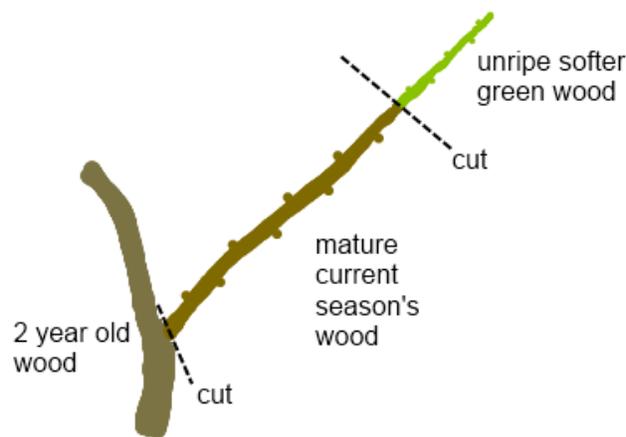
Start now for our May 2019 Mother's Day Plant Sale

Yes! You can start now getting plants and shrubs started to sell at our Mother's Day Plant Sale.

According to West Coast Seeds, you can plant these seeds - artichokes, asparagus, columbine, foxgloves, lavender, woody herbs, strawberries, lemongrass, peppers and onions.

Some folks are getting a head start on propagating hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees and woody plants. You can use the same technique for propagating figs, grapes and the current family - blackcurrants, redcurrant, golden currants and gooseberries.

The best time to take hardwood cuttings is when the trees and plants are dormant. Take cuttings that are close to pencil-thickness from the current season's growth - it will be mature and woody, not soft and green. Cut off any unripened green growth at the tips.



Hardwood cuttings are cut much longer than herbaceous cuttings because they take more time to develop roots and therefore need to use the reserves of food stored in the cutting to keep them alive through winter. A longer cutting stores more food in it.

Just to help encourage rooting, slice a thin sliver of bark at the base to expose light green cambium layer underneath. Treat your cuttings with rooting hormone to increase the chances of stimulating root growth. Simply dip the base into the rooting hormone and tap off the excess powder.

The cuttings can be placed in the ground in a 'slit trench' outside (made by pushing a spade into the soil and rocking back and forth) or into a container of propagating medium.

If planting outside, put cuttings so about 2/3rds is below the soil and place each cutting 2 inches apart. These cuttings will be ready to plant next autumn.

For our Plant Sale, your best bet is to use the container and propagating method. Put your cuttings so that 2/3rd is below the soil and place 2 inches apart. Water the soil around the cuttings. Keep the propagating medium slightly damp but do not overwater. If possible, place the container in a cold frame or a greenhouse to speed up the formation of roots. The cuttings will be ready to transplant in the spring.

Source: *Deep Green Permaculture*



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Stay tuned to our website www.richmondgardenclub.ca to find out what's happening!

Keep in touch with us through email: richmondgardenclub@gmail.com