

RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Oh those pesky wabbits! ~Bugs Bunny



Mark your calendars

Sundat, July 14, 2019:

Members gardens tour:

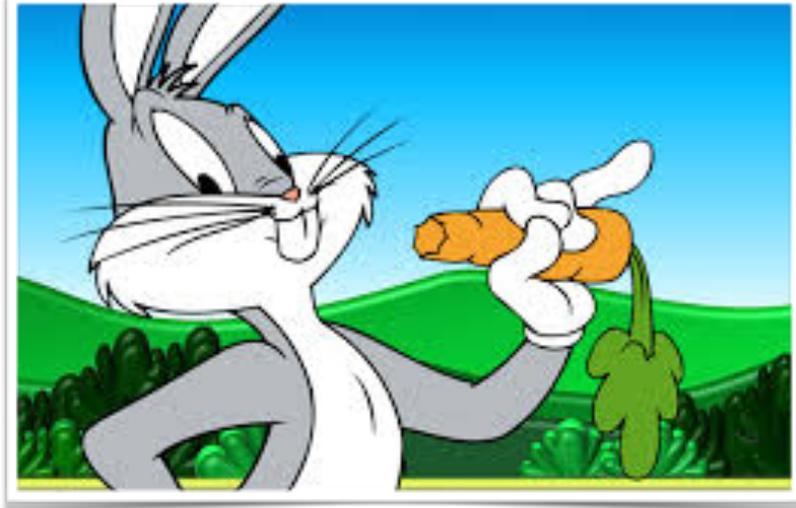
Join us from 11am to 3pm for a tour of 4 private gardens and one community garden. We will be enjoying a social get-together in Linda McPhail's lovely garden at the end of the tour. Hope to see you all there!

Saturday, July 27 - Sunday July 28: BC Fuchsia and Begonia Society - Annual Show & Competition:

VanDusen Botanical Garden, Floral Hall & Cedar Room, 10 am - 5pm (4pm on Sunday). Show admission by donation.

Friday, Saturday Sunday, Garden Stroll, Darts Hill

Garden Park: The garden is open to the public, 1633 170th Street, Surrey BC (16th Ave at 170th St). Admission by donation



President's message

We have been enjoying the most incredible blooms and fruit production this year. There has been an incredible explosion too of unwanted pests (and rabbits!) in our gardens this year.

While sitting on my front porch sipping a California red, I noticed the leaves on my dogwood shrub were covered in these white cottony masses on the underside of the leaves. I was shocked at the amount of infestation.

After much deliberation amongst my fellow Garden Club colleagues at the recent Steveston Horticultural Show, we pinpointed the dastardly **mealybug** as the culprit.

Mealybugs are generally found in warmer climates and are a common greenhouse pest. As in the case of our dogwood leaves, they often appear on the leaves, stems and fruit of



Waskly Wabbits

Rabbits are a very common site in Richmond. They love to situate themselves in residential neighbourhoods, especially the homes with well-established gardens and landscaping. Unfortunately your yard may be providing them food and protection from predators.

Some tips on how to get rid of rabbits:

- Try planting onions around your garden. Rabbits do not like the smell of onions
- Powdered red pepper sprinkled around the garden may help
- Chicken wire fencing is the best way to keep rabbits out of your yard. Wire fencing 4 feet high and buried 6 inches deep is best. Bend the wire fence away from the garden to keep rabbits from hopping over.
- Keep your yard clean of debris, piles of leaves to discourage rabbits from finding shelter in your yard.
- For more info:
www.richmond.ca

plants.

Adult females lay 300-600 eggs on the underside of leaves. The white masses can be confused for powdery mildew. The female dies after laying her eggs which can take up to 2 weeks. Our poor dogwood leaves are now close to the stage of the eggs hatching releasing small active nymphs starting search for feeding sites on which to settle. Time for some mealybug control action in our household!

Mealybug Control

Three stages of the life cycle of these pests take as little as one month for one generation. So through our growing season there can be continuous and overlapping generations of mealybugs in your garden if not controlled.

Some steps you can take if you find these pests on your plants:

- 1.Prune out light infestations as quickly as possible or dab insects with a Q-tip dipped rubbing alcohol.
2. Do not overwater or overfertilize. Mealybugs are attracted to plants with high nitrogen levels and soft growth.
- 3.Ladybugs and lacewings are natural predators to this pest.
- 4.Washing your foliage a leaf shine product made with neem oil will help discourage future infestations. (Editors note: on the hunt for this product.). Neem oil disrupts the growth and development of pest insects and has repellent and antifeedant properties. Best of all it is non-toxic to **honey bees and other beneficial insects**.
- 5.*Safer Insecticidal Soap* will work fast on heavy infestations.



It works by damaging the outer layer of soft-bodied insects, causing dehydration and death within hours. This treatment needs to be reapplied every 7-10 days as needed.

July garden tips

- ✦ Plant beets, carrots, cauliflower, lettuce, kale and peas for winter harvest
- ✦ Add compost to your asparagus and rhubarb beds
- ✦ Watch for diseases and pests!
- ✦ Get at your weeds early. Pull them as soon as you see them.
- ✦ Add mulch around flower beds, trees and shrubs to help reduce weeds and retain moisture.
- ✦ Water is critical this time of year. Container plantings need as often as twice a day during hot, dry and windy weather.
- ✦ Divide bearded iris after leaves turn brown. Trim leaves before digging and dividing rhizomes. Let the rhizomes dry in a shady spot for a few days.
- ✦ Take time to remove suckers from pear and apple trees when you spot them.
- ✦ Continue to deadhead

When to harvest garlic

Each leaf on the plant represents one potential paper wrapper around the mature garlic bulb. Having well developed, fully intact paper wrappers means your garlic will store long and keeps its wonderful flavour and aroma.

The trick is to let the leaves die back but harvest the garlic before all the leaves turn brown. When the lower two-thirds of the leaves have dried up and turned brown, your garlic bulbs will be at their best. Green leaves indicate there is still quite a lot of moisture left in the bulbs. The process of letting the moisture reduce naturally is called 'curing' and will increase the storage life of your garlic by months.

Harvest your garlic bulbs carefully. Take the time to loosen the soil above each bulb. Be careful when loosening the soil if using a fork as you may pierce the bulb. Pull gently and at the same time coax the bulb out of the soil with the other hand.

Once the bulbs are dug up, lay the plants in a single layer somewhere that is dry, airy and out of the sunshine. Leave the bulbs this way for at least week turning them a couple of times. Your goal is to have the green leaves dry up and turn brown on their own which can take several weeks.

Clean your garlic using a toothbrush once the bulbs are cured (no green is left showing on the upper leaves). Trim the roots with scissors. You can braid soft-neck garlic to hang in your kitchen for easy access. Hard neck garlic does best in garlic netting (one gardener I know and live with, stores his garlic in clean panty hose, each bulb stored in a section tied with a knot).

Save your biggest, best looking bulbs for planting in September!!

Mystery solved!

Speaking of pests! There has been a mystery in Paulik Park for many months now. The City has been involved and even some arborists have been involved.

We could not figure out who is peeling bark from the cedar trees in Paulik Park. It continues and at times is very prevalent.

Today while meeting with the City of Richmond at Paulik Park, we wandered into the forest as there was new damage to our magnificent coniferous trees.

Fresh cedar strips were hanging limply from the tree. We all noticed a black squirrel on a tree right beside us. In its mouth was a big load of cedar bits of bark! The little squirrel appeared to be using the material to build a nest as it ran up the tree with all of its treasure. We had heard these forest foragers take to peeling the coniferous trees when they are bored. This one had a mission. Mystery Solved!



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Members private gardens tour

This is what you have been waiting for! Sunday, July 14, 11am to 3pm, we will be touring 4 private gardens and one community garden. You can start at which ever garden you would like but leave the Linda McPhail garden for last as that is where we will have our social get-together.

Thank you to the following members who have opened their gardens for us to view:

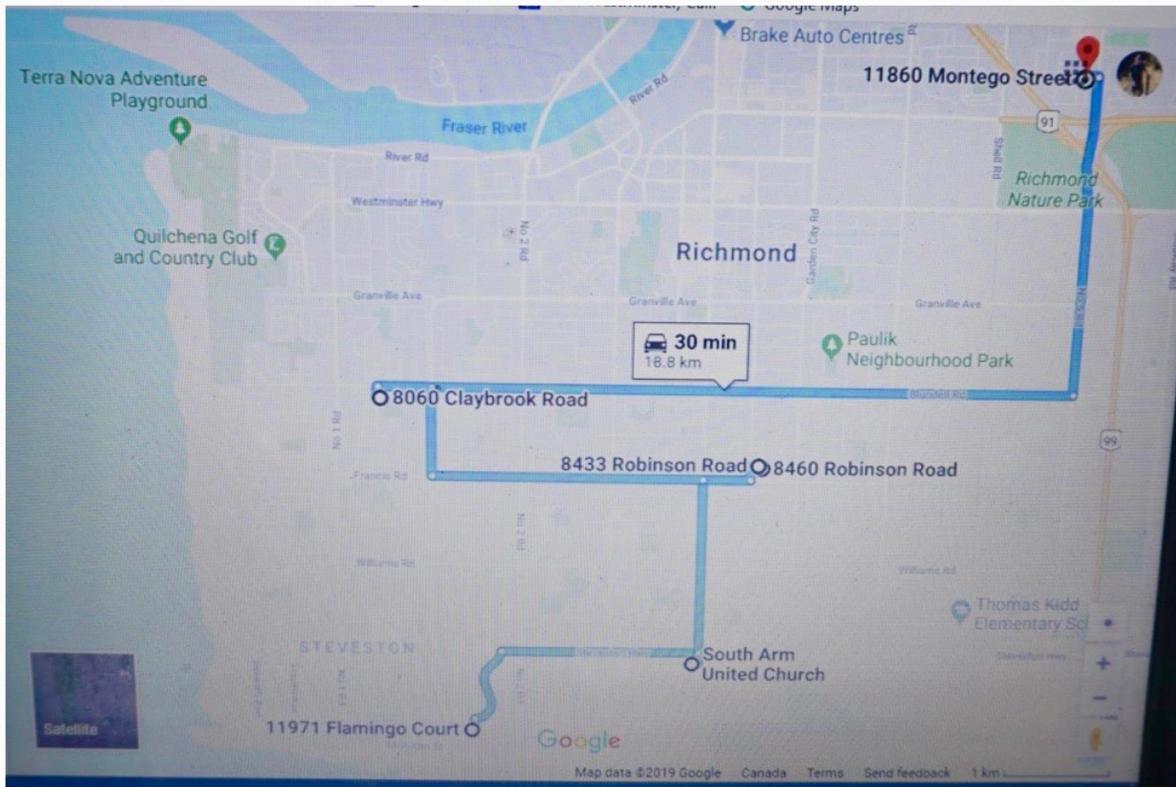
1. Joyce and John Novick - 8460 Robinson Road
2. Zoya Ferdman - 8433 Robinson Road
3. Judy and Ken Hackwell - 8060 Claybrook Road
4. Pat Walach - South Arm United Church Community Garden - No 3 Road and Steveston Hwy
5. Jennifer Morgan and Nikolas Guemos - 11860 Montego Street

At 3 pm, we will all meet at Linda McPhail's house, 11971 Flamingo Street for our social get-together.

For our new members, this is a 'not to be missed' day. You will love wandering through some beautiful gardens. It is a huge opportunity to chat with fellow members and get all kinds of ideas for your own gardens.

Thank you Gary Lake for creating the tour map. Watch for more information about the gardens in upcoming emails.

Richmond Garden Club Garden Tour July 14 2019



11971 Flamingo Street

Linda McPhail - Garden Tour tea location

South Arm Church Steveston and No 3 Rd

Pat Walach, community gardens

8460 Robnson Road

Joyce and John Novick

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