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# RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

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## Wildlife in the garden

We were working away in one of the 30 gardens in Paulik Park at the end of September. Plenty of digging, dividing, and moving plants.



### ***Bombus vosnesenskii***

Visnja Gasparic Vojvodic

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Up popped a handful of yellow-faced bumblebees, *Bombus vosnesenskii*! This species is common on the Pacific coast from Canada to Southern California.

*B. vosnesenskii* are colony dwelling bees. Mated queens emerge early spring to scout suitable nesting sites, often rodent dens or dry hollows in the ground. At the end of the summer, the colony workforce and any remaining drones die out, leaving only the newly mated queens to overwinter.



Yellow-faced bumblebees are great for pollinating agriculture, especially tomatoes. With yellow-faced bumblebees early arrival in the spring, and ability to feed on a wide range of flowers, makes them particularly suited to city life! They can outcompete other species of bumblebees for resources, though, especially in urban environments.

So back to our gardening activity where all of these little critters were surrounding our feet and garden tools. We had to remind ourselves that we were just **visitors in this ecological habitat** so removed ourselves from an apparent colony of *Bombus vosnesenskii*, yellow-faced bumblebees. We also found some woolly bear caterpillars, the larvae of the Isabella tiger moths, burrowing into the soil in this particular garden bed.



So, another lesson learned while working in our gardens - respect nature and leave the garden alone when you find you are interfering with their home. Early fall and early spring are times when insects and pollinators are very active in the soil.

## Gardening in October

We should actually look at what chores we do in the summer in our garden. We have had such a long stretch of hot, dry conditions.

**Leaves** are starting to change colour and fall, so time to think about using in your garden beds as a mulch or rake them up and store them in bags to create a yummy leaf mulch for next year.

Once our night time temperatures hover around 10 - 12 degrees C, it is time to move **tender plants indoors**. Make sure to clean your pots and remove debris from the top of the soil. Check for any slugs, bugs, or other insects that you may accidentally bring into your home.

Trimming **perennials** after they have finished flowering will help improve their appearance and may encourage a few more flowers. Leave some stems and seed heads over the winter to provide food and shelter for wildlife. Then trim them back in the spring.

**Dividing perennials** at this time of year will ensure healthy, vigorous plants. It also gives gardeners a great opportunity to multiply their favourite plants.

Richmond Garden Club created an interesting YouTube video on How to Divide Perennials. Click on the video below to learn how easy it is to divide plants and even bulbs. Thank you Gary Lake for your valuable information and Kathy Miao for her wonderful filming!

**Other jobs for October** include:



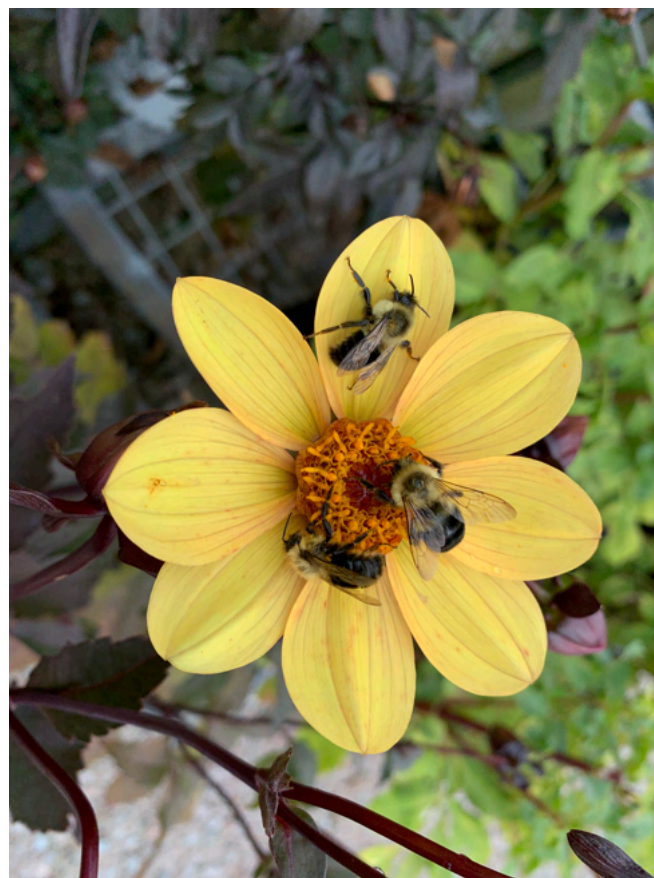
Plant out spring cabbages



Divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants



- 🌱 Prune climbing roses
- 🌱 Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year
- 🌱 Plant wallflowers, forget-me-not, *Bellis* daisies, *Primula*, *Viola*, and winter pansies
- 🌱 Plant spring-flowering bulbs (plant some in your lawn!)
- 🌱 Plant new herbaceous perennials
- 🌱 Lily bulbs can be planted this month



## Trees and shrubs in October

October is an ideal time for moving and planting trees, shrubs, and climbers. It is also time to trim deciduous hedges to keep them looking tidy over the winter.

Jill Wright

**Climbing roses** should be pruned now if not done last month. You can also cut back by half, shrubs you would normally prune in the spring such as *Cornus alba*, *Lavatera*, *Buddleja davidii* to prevent wind damage and to tidy up their appearance.



With the dry weather, **keep watering early-flowering shrubs** such as camellias, rhododendrons, and azaleas, so flower buds will be healthy for blooms next spring. Add mulch around the base of these shrubs (or arborists wood chips) to hold the moisture in.

Thora Gislason

Art's Nursery ~ frog on a  
rhododendron



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Elsie Chan

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David England

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Lorri Romhanyi

Polyphemus Moth  
Caterpillar

## October calendar!

<b>Tuesday, October 11</b> 6pm to 8:30pm	Richmond Garden Club meeting; Donna Tanaka, guest speaker
<b>Saturday, October 29, 9:30am to 11:30am</b>	Paulik Park clean up of invasive species - community event (thank you to the City of Richmond for the Environmental Enhancement Grant of \$1050.




AT-A-GLANCE GROW GUIDES

WHAT TO PLANT NOW

From Northwest Edible Life

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OCTOBER  
THE CALM OF AUTUMN

October Tip!

Cure your winter squash for about 2 weeks at warm room temperature. Good air circulation is key - the goal is to help the squash rid itself of excess moisture.

Before storing, wipe squash rind with straight white vinegar or a dilute bleach solution to kill surface molds and bacteria.

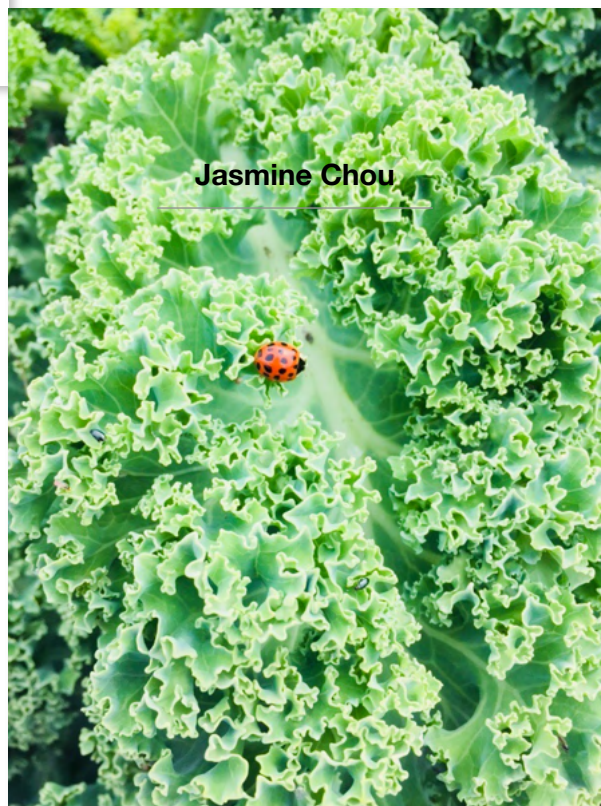
SOW OUTDOORS	TRANSPLANT OUT	HARVEST / PRESERVE
<p><b>ASAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fava Beans (Overwintering)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Peas (Overwintering)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carrots (Overwintering)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mache</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce (Overwintering)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Radishes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spinach (Overwintering)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Arugula (Overwintering)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mustard Greens (Overwintering)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mid month</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Garlic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shallot</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sprouting Broccoli</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Winter Leeks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spinach</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chard</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mustard Greens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apples</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pears</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Late Plums</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fall Raspberries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cabbage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese cabbage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Asian Greens</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chard</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kale, cooking greens</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce, spinach, arugula</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beets, carrots, radishes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkin, winter squash</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Late peas</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Late beans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scallions, leeks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Late tomatoes, peppers</li> </ul>



James Donner



Karen Hakansson



Jasmine Chou





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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. (Photos: Dwight Young)







Terri Calvert



## And finally!

October is generally a quiet month, other than final harvesting and getting your garden ready to put to bed for the winter. A few other chores to add to the list:

- 🥕 Weed, weed, weed. Remove bindweed and other aggressive weeds to minimize their growth in the spring.
- 🥕 Get your garlic in! This gives them time to establish their roots.
- 🥕 Add mulch to your gardens to ensure there are no bare spots on your soil that can be damaged from pounding rain. (We are heading into a La Nina winter - wet and mild.)
- 🥕 Plant legumes ~ overwintering peas and fava beans. Great nitrogen fixer for your soil!
- 🥕 Plant overwintering root crops ~ carrots, beets.

## Thank you Richmond Garden Club members!



David England



Lauren Craze

Visit [www.richmondgardenclub.ca](http://www.richmondgardenclub.ca) to see all of the photos of wildlife on plants taken by our talented members.



Jasmine Chou

