

Over The Garden Wall

April, 2019

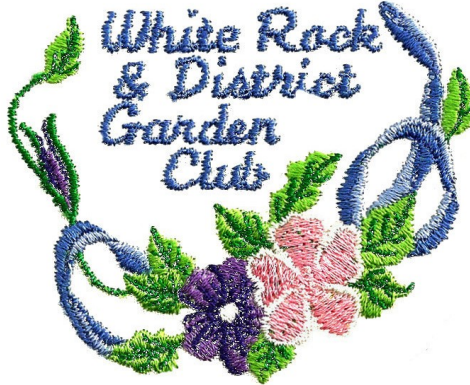
Patti Wolczuk, President 778-574-1188 Linda Martin, Secretary 604-541-6315 Lorna Bury, Treasurer 604-531-0216

President's Message

Pres Away

Hi everyone - Patti is away on a wonderful cruise in Europe and she handed this duty over to me. She was so organized before she left that all committees are going very well in her absence. Enjoy the wonderful daffodils in your gardens with the promise of tulips on their way.

Collene Ford, VP



each table. With some of our Executive members away, we need some general members to come out and help. Please call Melanie, 604-531-5076 to let her know you can meet her at the hall by 12:30. Thanks.

Melanie Rantucci, Past President

Plant & Bake Sale

Please Contribute

Contributions can be made in many ways:

- Volunteer to help the day of the sale
- Bring plants to sell
- Bring baked goods to sell
- Bring money to buy
- Donate gently used garden tools and garden decor
- Advertise the sale to all you friends and neighbours
- Donate a door prize
- Donate flowers from your garden the day of the sale
- Donate produce like rhubarb and herbs
- Questions? Call Mary, 604-581-3152

See the attached sign up sheet.

Mary Openshaw, Plants Plus

Set Up Help Needed

For April Parlour Show

We need to set up the large tables for the Parlour Show at our meeting in April. Could some people **PLEASE** volunteer to come early, around 12:30 to help with this as it requires at least 2 people to carry and set up

Secretary Needed

April & June Meetings

Our hard working Secretary, Linda, cannot attend our April, May and June meetings so we need someone to stand in for her and take Minutes. If you can, take Minutes at one or all of these meetings it would be greatly appreciated.

Melanie Rantucci, Past President

Marketplace

Moving Freebees

If you are out and about, drop into my place as I am moving early April and must find homes for lots of garden decor etc. Most is FREE to White Rock Gardener members! Happy Gardening! Collene 778-294-7339
Collene Ford, VP



In This Issue

- **President's Msg**
- **Plant & Bake Sale**
- **Help Needed**
- **Secretary Needed**
- **Marketplace**
- **Plants +**
- **Go Green**
- **Zinnia Contest**
- **Juicy Bits**
- **Next Meeting**

Plants + Easter



Easter's almost here. Donate gently used décor Bunnies and chicks and eggs. Bring Spring Bouquets to sell, silk or the real thing. Donate decorative pots that we can plant up for the plant sale.

We may have dahlias to sell - \$2.00 each or 3/\$5.00 (member's pre-sale).

Mary Openshaw, Plants Plus

Go Green Compost Order

As in previous years, will be getting a truckload of Go Green Compost delivered for our May 14 meeting. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting in April and you can pay then or in May. If you are not familiar with it look it up on Google. It comes from Gelderman Farms in Abbotsford. If we get over 100 bags (30 L) it is \$7 per bag. The website notes that Go Green compost is all natural, weed free, organic and Environmentally friendly. Go green compost is

pathogen free and meets Canadian Standard for Class A compost.

- Contains slow releasing nutrients
- Improves ability of soil to hold moisture
- Improves microbial action in soil
- Improves texture of soil

Raising pigs on sawdust beds allows us to blend manure with sawdust which is then mixed in order to add air. The temperature of the compost is brought to 65 degrees Celsius in order to kill weed seeds, pathogens as well as to remove the odor of the manure. The nutrient values is as follows:

- Total Nitrogen: .88%
- Total Phosphorous: .45%
- Total Potassium: 1.09%

Go Green Compost is excellent for many areas of your home:

- Lawns(both new and existing): The compost improves soil texture allowing roots to breath, improves microbial action and provides nutrients for the grass. To apply spread a thin layer over the lawn (15-25 liters per 100 sq ft.) 2 times per year.
- Vegetable Gardens:The compost provides nutrients for plants, retains soil moisture and improves the texture. To apply, mulch up to 2" of compost into the top 6" of soil.
- Flowerbeds: The compost retains moisture, improves soil texture and provides nutrients for the plants. To apply mulch up to 2-3" of compost into the top 6" of soil.
- House plants: Using compost makes for healthier plants by providing nutrients, retaining moisture and improving soil texture. To apply spread an even layer on top of soil 2-3 times per year.

Melanie Rantucci, Past President

Zinnia Contest September Parlour Show

Give Zinnias the space they need, and they will produce some of the best cut flowers of all. They are members of the Asteraceae family.



Growing Zinnias

Timing – Direct sow after last frost, in April or May. They don't transplant well, but try starting some indoor in peat pots 6-8 weeks before planting out.

Starting – Maintain a soil temperature of 21-26°C (70-80°F) They should germinate in 5-24 days, just cover zinnia seeds and aim for spacing of 10" between plants. Grow in average well drained soil and dig in some well-rotted manure. Pinch off growing tips early in season for bushier growth. Water regularly, try to keep leaves as dry as possible. Deadhead regularly (and save the seeds!) Feed once in early spring, and again once flowering has begun.

(The above information obtained from West Coast Seeds, where we purchased our seeds)

Note: If you haven't got large spaces in your garden, they will also grow quite well in large pots.

And this **Zinnia Information** from Collene Ford.

Zinnias are beautiful flowers and they are beloved too by butterflies and serve as a way station for monarchs on their migration. They also attract ladybugs and other beneficial insects that eat pests and so are the perfect companion in a vegetable garden.

For The Contest

You will each receive 15-20 seeds in your package. The categories in the contest are:

- Tallest Straight Stem (with a bloom attached)
- Largest bloom (measured diagonally)
- Best Vase of 3 cuts

A prize will be presented for the best, oddest looking entry in each class.

Donna Lawson, Show Chair

Juicy Bits Zucchini

From Mercola Newsletter, March 7th, 2019

Growing zucchini is simple in your garden or in containers when you ensure the soil drains well, the plants get plenty of sun, receive about 2 inches of water each week and a side dressing of fertilizer as they begin producing fruit.

- Harvesting zucchini may begin as early as 40 days after planting; once the plant begins producing fruit you'll want to check daily for tender young 6- to 8-inch fruit as they grow quickly
- Harvest using a sharp knife or pruning shears to clip the fruit from the plant. Refrigerate for up to 10 days in a paper bag with top open for air to circulate, or blanch and freeze for up to three months
- There are numerous health benefits of zucchini, including antioxidants to protect your vascular system and eye health, and fiber to protect your digestive health; consider adding to omelets, grating for zesty noodles or baked in cheesy tots

Submitted by John Davidson, Newsletter



Spring Has Sprung?

Submitted By Mary Openshaw, Plants



Next Meeting

April 9th, at 2pm

Doors Open at 12:30 pm

Cranley Place Hall, 2141 Cranley Drive, Surrey.

Feel free to bring home made goodies to spice up our tea/coffee break. Remember to bring your own cup to save money and the environment.

