

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025



Armstrong & District Garden Club

WEBSITE <https://armstronggardenclub.com>
FACEBOOK Ken Barr

EXECUTIVE

President – Heather Hayes, 250-546-4969 triple-h@telus.net

Vice president - Vacant

Secretary – Mary Jackson

Treasurer – Paul Peacock

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

Past President – Carolyn Farris

Director – Sue Wiebe

Director at large – Linda Meraw

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

GENERAL MEETING

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, September to June (except January) in St James Anglican Church Hall, Armstrong.

Next meeting 6:30 pm May 6, 2025.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker this month was Kevin Scollon.

Kevin was a horticulture instructor with Thompson Rivers University for many years. He is now retired and living in the Vernon area where he keeps busy with his 12 X 40 greenhouse.

His presentation to our club was titled “15 Ways to a Healthy Yard “.

A. Maintenance (lawns)

1. Lawns should be fertilized regularly.
2. Raise the mower level and leave clippings on.
3. Aerate and dethatch- Leave cores on the lawn after aerating.

B. Irrigation

1. Water in the morning. There will be less evaporation and plants will not stay wet all night.
2. Water deeper and less frequently. Use micro irrigation when possible for better root penetration.
3. Know how your irrigation equipment works. Install a filter.

C. Pruning

1. Prune at the correct time. Early spring blooming plants such as lilacs should be pruned just after blooming.
2. Prune properly. Don't leave stubs. Cut close to the branch. Prune to encourage an outward facing branch.
3. Prune to increase airflow, light, and space for plants to grow. It is helpful to take a pruning course.



D. Plant Selection

1. Right plant, Right zone (some big box stores will sell perennials that will not survive our winters)
2. Proper location – sun, shade, moist, dry i.e. turfgrass varieties
3. Choose hardy or less susceptible plant material and plants that attract beneficials.

E. Design

1. Group plants with similar needs. Adjust irrigation. Xeriscape needs water.
2. Re-evaluate your need to eliminate all weeds and insects.
3. Buy locally grown plants or native plants. They are more familiar with the growing area.
4. Combine edibles with landscaping.



ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Minutes for April 1, 2025
St. James Church Hall, Armstrong, B.C.

19 members and 1 guest in attendance

1. Call to Order: President Heather Hayes called meeting to order at 7:45.
2. Approval of agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Carolyn Farris.
3. Move to approve the circulated minutes of March 4, 2025 by Rea Smith.
4. Correspondence: Fire Smart, Salmon Arm Garden Club, Green Fair (see details in New Business).
5. Treasurer's Report: Presented by Paul Peacock. The club is in a healthy financial position. Move to accept the financial report by Suzie S. and seconded by Chris W.
6. Old Business:

1. Petunias

Petunia planting: Glen Gytenbeek reports that petunias are ordered and he will pick them up near the end of May. He circulated a sign up sheet for members to take a two week stretch of maintenance once petunias are planted.

A steep rise in cost of the petunias prompted lots of discussion about future commitment to this endeavor. Glen is involved in talks with Shirley Fowler to see if we can get any financial help from the city for the cost of this year's petunias. He will report back.

Much discussion and different ideas were presented concerning future city planter expenses. Glen made a motion that the City of Armstrong be presented with a proposal that the club will be willing to pay up to \$400.00 per year for plants and will continue to plant and maintain the planters.

Rea seconded the motion. It was voted on and carried.

2. A Goodies sign-up sheet was circulated as volunteers were needed for May, June, September, October and November. (A reminder to those who sign up to bring a small container of cream.)
3. Plant sale: Please contact Glen, Heather H. or Sue W. if you need help digging plants, or for pots or labels.

7. New Business:

FireSmart requested a setup area at the garden sale. Heather H. will let them know the club agreed

Jackie W is removing her haskap plants and is offering them free to members. They are up to 4 feet tall. Contact her as soon as possible if interested. (note: These are no longer available.)

Green Fair invited the club to participate in their event. There were no volunteers so the matter was tabled.

Shuswap Garden Club invited our club to attend Bedrock Nursery with them April 29th at 6 pm. Wear name tags, cash only. Carpooling option. Heather H. will send out an email notice closer to the date.

Potting Party at Sue Wiebe's (2199 Wolfgang Road) April 10th, at 1 pm.

Reminder: Spring into Garden event in Salmon Arm, April 5th, 9am-4pm 170-5 Ave SE Salmon Arm. Free admission.

Heather adjourned at 8:30 pm.

GARDENING INFORMATION

Growing Peonies

Peonies are a favourite in many heritage gardens as well as new gardens in Canada. Originating in China, they were exported to Europe in the early 1800's . Their popularity spread to North America and by the 1850's were established into the prairies.

Only 3 types were available in the 1930's to 1940's – white, crimson and rose pink.
Once established they can last for generations (they do not bloom in their first year).
Some are hardy to zone 3.
Deer avoid them as they do not like the bitter taste.
They make beautiful cut flowers and many varieties are very fragrant.
Fall is the best time to plant them.

Planting:

Peonies do not bloom in the shade. Provide 6-8 hours of direct sun.
Do not crowd your plants. Some can grow 3 feet in diameter and 3 feet tall.
A container grown peony should be planted at the same depth as it came in the container. The plant will not bloom if it is planted too deep.
Try not to disturb the root ball or damage feeder roots.
A newly planted peony can take up to 3 years to reach its full flowering potential.
They do not like transplanting so choose a suitable permanent place.

Maintaining:

Deadhead after flowering.
Cut back foliage in the fall.
Mulch new plants after the ground freezes.
To avoid botrytis (fungal disease) and powdery mildew provide good air circulation by not overcrowding.
Provide support with a wire cage or peony ring to keep the heavy flowers from bending the stems. Place the supports in early spring to allow the plant to grow up through the support.

Be patient with your new peony and you will enjoy many years of its colourful beauty.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next meeting: 6:30 pm May 6, 2025 St James Anglican Church Hall

ADGC plant sale: Saturday May 10, 2025 8:30 am – 12:30 pm IPE grounds

Member Discounts

Members of the Armstrong & District Garden Club receive discounts at a number of local garden centres:

Shepherd's Home Hardware Outdoor Living in Armstrong: 15% Discount on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants

Blue Mountain Nursery in Armstrong: 10% Discount on all products

Swan Lake Market and Garden in Spallumcheen: 10% Discount on all products

Nicholas Alexander Nursery in Vernon: 10%-15% Discount on Regularly- Priced Garden Plants

Show your membership card at the till before the cashier rings up the total and kindly request your member discount.