

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 5 2024



Armstrong & District Garden Club

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EXECUTIVE

President - Carolyn Farris, 250-546-6083; cfarris@telus.net

Vice president - Vacant

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer - Sue Wiebe

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

Past President - Glenn Gytenbeek 250-546-9891; gcgardenedge@telus.net

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

Directors - Heather Freeman, Paul Peacock

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

Door Prizes - Sue Rook

GENERAL MEETING

First Tuesday of the month, 7 pm, September to June in Odd Fellows Hall, Armstrong except January.

EXECUTIVE MEETING – 6 PM before General Meeting

Next meeting 7 pm April 2, 2024.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

We enjoyed an informative presentation on invasive species. April will see a Fire Smart presentation to help us all be more aware of how to keep our homes and yards safe in the predicted drought which will increase fire risk.

We are looking for someone to host a summer potluck in July or August. The date will be set in consultation with the host.

The plant sale committee is well down the road of organizing events and volunteers are always needed.

Please contact Sue Wiebe or Glen Gytenbeek if you can help. Please let them know if you are planning to bring plants.

They are also looking for garden wagons to use on the day of the sale.

There will be a sign up list at the next meeting for summer maintenance of the downtown planters. Two week blocks worked well last year with one or two people signing up for each. The petunias looked great all summer with the Garden Club TLC.

GUEST SPEAKER

Megan Blackmore – Let's Be Plantwise"

Megan is a speaker for the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC). It is a provincial charity with the goal of "Healthy landscapes and communities free of invasive species."

Definitions

Native – Plants indigenous to a given area and that evolved naturally
e.g. balsamroot.

Non-Native – Plants introduced to an area outside their natural range.

Weed – Plant growing where it's not wanted.

Invasive – Introduced species which lacks natural predators and diseases and is difficult to control.

Noxious – Regulated invasive plant under the BC Weed Control Act.
It can be defined as provincially or regionally invasive.

Characteristics of Invasive Species:

- reproduces quickly
- spreads effectively
- establishes quickly
- lacks predators

Why care?

- environmental impacts (e.g. reduces biodiversity, alters the soil, and harms wildlife)
- economic impacts (e.g. damages infrastructure and involves costly maintenance)
- sociocultural – can pose health and other risks (e.g. fire)

Why are they still sold?

- people like the look of the plant and may not know that it is invasive
- nurseries respond to consumer demand
- is it worth it?

What can you do?

- influence by not buying
- report and remove
- spread the word
- report to RDNO or Invasive Species (via IAS app or INaturalist app)

Plants that may be in our gardens:

- spurge - e.g. myrtle (euphorbia ssp)
- baby's breath
- bachelor buttons
- Himalayan blackberry
- fox glove
- loosestrife
- yellow flag iris

Suggestions:

Look in printed material or on-line to find suggested alternatives.

Check seed mixes for invasive seeds.

National Plantwise Program is where alternative plants are shown

E-Learning courses are available

Help STOP THE SPREAD!

Contact address;

mblackmore@bcinvasives.ca



Megan was assisted by her colleague Lara Phillips (Lead, Special Projects).

Photos by Mary Jackson

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, March 5, 2024, 7:00 PM
ODDFELLOW'S HALL, ARMSTRONG

1. Call to Order – Carolyn called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.
19 members in attendance.
2. Approval of Agenda
Nicole moved to approve the agenda with additions. CARRIED.
3. Approval of February Minutes
Paul moved to approve the minutes of Feb 2024 as circulated. CARRIED.
4. Correspondence - none
5. Treasurer's Report
Rea moved to receive the Finance report. CARRIED.
6. Old Business
 - a. Planters – Glenn has arranged the order of petunias for PV Boulevard.
He will bring a maintenance schedule for members to sign up at the next meeting.
 - b. Plant Sale -2 pallets of Black Diamond Soil have been donated.
Gene will pick it up before the sale.
Mary and Chris will be cashiers and Glenn will contact Jackie to see if she can help.

We'll need everyone to get involved to put out the plants and help at the sale. Please start thinking about potting up some plants. Sue has a greenhouse available if needed.

Sue will make posters and advise the Chamber. Paul will assist as well.

Mary will arrange a notice in Vernon Castanet and Enderby Riverwalk.
She will also provide an article for Country News.

7. New Business

- a. Volunteers needed - directors, vice president
- b. Goodies for April - Linda
 May - Yvonne
 June - Chris
- c. Summer Pot-Luck – planned for July or August. Looking for a host.

8. Adjournment and next meeting

Sue W. moved to adjourn.

The Executive will meet at 6:00 PM before the general meeting.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 2, 2024

GARDENING INFORMATION

Make your own seed tape

Seed tape is long strips of biodegradable paper embedded with seeds spaced at the right interval for them to grow. Because the seeds are evenly spaced, seeds are not wasted and you probably won't have to thin out excess plants once they start growing. You can buy seed tape, but it can be expensive. It's easy to make your own.

Seed tape is best for seeds that you sow directly into the garden in spring, especially tiny seeds like carrot, dill, basil, lemon balm, lettuce, scallion (green onion), spinach and kale. Some good flower seeds to try are poppy, marigold, aster and zinnia. You can make seed tape for medium-sized seeds like cucumber, radish and beets. Avoid really large seeds like beans, nasturtium, peas and corn, which tend to poke through and fall out of the seed tape. Besides, large seeds are easy to handle anyway when sowing directly into the garden.

Materials needed:

- Assorted packages of seeds
- Toilet paper in lengths of about 1 metre
- Scissors
- White flour
- Water
- Ruler or yardstick
- Small paintbrush or cotton swabs or toothpicks
- Marker

Instructions:

1. Make the glue by stirring together equal parts of water and flour (about 2 T each). Mix well until it is smooth - not too runny and not too thick.

2. Cut the lengths of toilet paper in half lengthwise using scissors. It's easier to cut without tearing if you stack several lengths of toilet paper on top of each other first.
3. Take a strip of toilet paper and fold in half lengthwise. The crease marks the centre of the tape and makes it easier to fold over again after you finish gluing seeds onto the strip.
4. Unfold the toilet paper and smooth it flat. Read the information on the back of the seed package for the correct spacing of your seeds. If you are not sure, spacing the seeds about 1 - 3 cm apart is a good rule of thumb. Use the ruler to measure and mark spots to one side of the centre crease on the toilet paper with a marker.
5. Place a small dab of glue on each mark with a paintbrush or cotton swab. Next, pick up two or three seeds and drop them onto the glue. Once you have finished the entire strip, fold it back along the crease you made earlier. Allow the seed tape to dry completely and write the name of the seed on the seed tape.
6. Once your seed tape is dry, you can use it right away, or roll it up and set it aside until you are ready to plant.

Planting instructions:

- Seeds can be planted in spring after the snow has melted, the weather is warm and there is no longer any risk of frost.
- Use a rake to smooth the surface of the soil so that it's nice and flat.
- Unroll the seed tape and lay it down on top of the soil. Sprinkle soil on top to cover the seed tape at the planting depth suggested on the seed package, usually about .5 cm for fine seeds and 1 cm for larger seeds.
- Water the soil to moisten the area. Check daily and keep evenly moist until seeds germinate.

Note: The number of days needed for your seeds to germinate (sprout) depends on the type of seed, the temperature and the amount of moisture in the soil. This information is usually on the seed package.

Source: University of Saskatchewan

www.gardening.usask.ca



WHEN TO PLANT VEGETABLES

Air and soil temperatures are important to healthy plant growth. It is important to plant at the correct time. Planting too early or too late can deny the vegetables a chance to grow and develop under good conditions.

Each type of plant has maximum, optimum, minimum and critical air temperature. Often night temperature is most critical, especially for peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes and melons.

The following list is an example of air temperatures required for the growth of some popular home garden vegetables.

Crop	Minimum (Celsius)	Optimum (Celsius)	Maximum (Celsius)
Beans – snap	10	26-32	37-43
Corn	10	30-32	38-46
Cucumber	9-10	24-26	35-40
Eggplant	16	21-30	35-38
Melon	15-18	30-36	43-49
Pea	4-5	10-16	21-24
Pepper	16	21-26	35-38
Potato	6-7	10-16	26-32
Tomato	10-13	16-26	29-35
Night temperatures for fruit set	13	15-20	22

Minimum soil temperatures required for vegetable growth.

Crop	Temperature Celsius
Beans– snap	10
Cabbage	05
Carrot	05
Corn	18
Eggplant	16
Melon	16
Onions	02
Peas	02
Pepper	16
Potato	05
Radish	10
Tomato	13

Source: MGABC www.mgabc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Plant Sale May 11, 2024

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

