

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER MAY 7, 2024



Armstrong & District Garden Club

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EXECUTIVE

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

Vice president - Vacant

Secretary – Mary Jackson and Yvonne Moore

Treasurer - Sue Wiebe

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

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

Directors - Heather Freeman, Paul Peacock

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

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 June 4, 2024.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Many thanks to ALL the volunteers who came out to help with the Plant Sale. Lots of fun and fellowship resulted in a good sum for the club. Unfortunately we have soil left over so are offering it to members at \$5.00 per bag and family and friends at \$7.00. Just for info Central in Enderby is selling it for \$9.00 and Buckerfields in Salmon Arm is \$10.00. I really appreciate all the work Sue W.. Glen and Mary J put into the leadership of the event and thank you to Gene for allowing us to tie up his trailer for a month's time. Many others, too many to name, did things large and small to make it a success. THANK YOU ALL.

Mark your calendars for the Summer Potluck on Thursday, July 25 at the Meraw residence on Becker Street. Spouses and significant others are welcome so plan to bring your dishes and cutlery, lawn chair and a dish(s) to feed at least 8 people. Tea, Coffee and Fruit punch will be supplied.

The June meeting will start with a Grow and Share event so watch for the class lists and plan to show off the results of your gardening labors. Heather Hayes will share tips for entering garden shows and the IPE after the judging.

Several positions will come open for new people as terms are reached or the person can no longer continue in the position. Please think about where you can offer to help or take on all or part of the duties. We will be needing a Treasurer as Sue is unable to continue due to other commitments. Someone to organize speakers is also essential if we want to continue to have speakers.

Your executive,

Heather F, Paul, Glen, Chris W, Sue W. and Carolyn

Plant Sale Photos – May 11, 2024









GUEST SPEAKER

A speaker was not available for the May meeting.

Members of the club held an informative discussion sharing tips on gardening.

**ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY May 7, 2024
ODDFELLOW'S HALL, ARMSTRONG**

The minutes of the meeting will be sent in a separate email.

The Executive will meet at 6:00 PM before the general meeting. Next meeting
Tuesday, June 4, 2024

GARDENING INFORMATION

Zinnias are a popular annual flower. They bloom in a variety of beautiful bright colours and they can survive dry conditions. The following information is from website address www.gardendesign.com

HOW TO GROW ZINNIAS

Easy annuals that will bring your summer garden alive with color
By Linda Hagen



Photo by: Unverdorben Jr / Shutterstock.

One of the easiest annuals to grow, zinnia flowers bring an explosion of color wherever they go. The show lasts from late spring until the first frost in fall. Butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the cheery flowers that bloom in nearly every bright color imaginable. They grow quickly and reliably, making them a great choice for first-time flower growers. Add in their low maintenance requirements and the variety of sizes and shapes, and you can't lose.

THE BASICS

Zones:

Annual. Zinnias are appropriate for seasonal use in all zones.

Height/Spread:

Varies by type. There are dwarf varieties 6 to 12 inches tall and wide, and others grow up to 4 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide.

Exposure:

Full sun

Bloom Time:

Late spring until first frost, but may show a slow-down in blooming at the peak of heat in summer.

Color:

Flowers bloom in shades of orange, pink, purple, red, white and yellow and there are also bi-color and tri-color varieties. Leaves are pale to mid-green.

Characteristics:

Zinnias come in a wide variety of flower shapes with stars, daisies, dahlias, spiders, buttons, domes, and quill-leaf cactus shapes. Within those shapes, there are also singles, semi-doubles and doubles.

Toxicity:

Zinnias are safe to plant around animals because they are non-toxic to dogs, cats and horses.

PLANTING ZINNIA SEEDS

When to plant:

As long as there is no further threat of frost, zinnias can be planted any time through the end of June. In fact, it's a great idea to plant multiple rounds at 2- to 3-week intervals up until the end of June for non-stop blooming into fall.

Where to plant:

Locate your zinnias in an area that will get at least 6 hours of sun each day and where there is well-draining soil.

How to plant:

Zinnias are best started from seed and can be sown directly in the garden after the threat of frost has passed. If you'd like to get a jump on them and start earlier indoors, try peat pots or other containers that can be planted directly in the ground, as zinnias can be a bit finicky when transplanted. Sow seeds ¼-inch deep and follow spacing directions on seed package. Give them sunshine and water and you'll have seedlings popping up in 4 to 7 days. Thin the seedlings to spacing of 6 to 18 inches (depending on variety) by snipping at the soil line with scissors. (Tip: Pulling out seedlings can disturb the roots of those left behind.) Zinnias grow quickly and you'll have beautiful bright blooms in about 60 days.

CARE**Pruning:**

For taller varieties that you'd like to use for cut flowers, Floret Flower Farms recommends snipping out the center flower when the plants are about 18 inches tall, and although it "feels pretty counterintuitive at the time, it will encourage plants to begin branching low and ultimately produce much longer stems." Spent blooms should be deadheaded to encourage and prolong further flowering.

Soil:

While zinnias aren't particularly picky about their soil, they do prefer it to be fertile, humus-rich, well-drained and with a pH of 5.5 to 7.5.

Amendments & Fertilizer:

Add compost to the area where zinnias will be planted to enrich the soil. An occasional light dose of a well-balanced fertilizer can be applied, but isn't always necessary.

Watering:

Water regularly, for a total of about 1 inch per week. Although they can tolerate dry conditions, they will do much better with consistent moisture in the soil. Keep excess moisture away from the foliage by watering at the base of the plant; this will help keep your plant healthy and prevent disease.

Propagation:

Seeds are easy to save by letting the flowers dry completely on the stem. Remove seeds by lightly crushing the dried seed head. Store the seeds in a cool, dry place for planting next spring. Keep in mind, however, that seeds saved from hybrid plants may not develop true to the parent plant.

Diseases and Pests:

Bacterial and fungal spots, [powdery mildew](#) and bacterial wilt can all be troublesome for zinnias. Keeping the foliage dry and providing good air circulation will go a long way toward prevention. Zinnias can also be host to caterpillars, [mealybugs](#) and [spider mites](#). It's best to remove caterpillars by hand, but mealybugs and spider mites can be treated with insecticidal soap. Try cultivars from the Profusion series for increased resistance to powdery mildew.

Other:

Zinnias are deer resistant and may even help protect other plants located next to them.

ZINNIAS IN YOUR GARDEN

- Incorporate different varieties in a mixed border for a mixture of heights and colors.
- Use smaller, dwarf varieties in window boxes, along edging, and in containers.
- Plant near patios and walkways to enjoy the butterflies and hummingbirds that will visit.
- Sow seeds in 2- to 3-week increments for blooming flowers spring through fall.
- Long strong stems make them perfect for cut flower arrangements. Cut the stems at an angle above a bud joint and strip the stems of any foliage before placing in water.

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
- 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 membership discount. Let us know if you have any difficulties getting the discount.