



October Newsletter

<i>Top 10 Things To Do</i>	1
<i>What's Happening in Store</i>	1
<i>Fall Pond Prep</i>	2
<i>Houseplant Care</i>	2
<i>Bulb Timing</i>	3
<i>Planting Trees & Shrubs</i>	3
<i>Country Garden Events</i>	3
<i>Squash Mash</i>	3
<i>Minter Gardens Update</i>	4
<i>So Much to Do!</i>	4

Top 10 Things to Do in October

October is a truly glorious time for the garden. The light is golden, the air is crisp and it just feels like comfort season! There is still plenty to be done before fall gets into full swing though...

1. Add some vibrant fall colour to containers with foliage perennials such as euphorbia, heuchera, new varieties of evergreen ornamental grasses (carex and fescues), and splashes of colour with kale, winter pansies and miniature cyclamen.

2. Plan your spring bulb garden and start planting! Snowdrops, crocus and aconites should go in now for January blooms.

3. Begin forcing bulbs now for indoor winter colour.

Prepared Hyacinths and Paperwhites are the first to bloom.

4. As soon as possible, aerate, sand, lime and apply Scotts Winterizer slow-release fertilizer to your lawn (the forecast is for a brutal winter!).

5. Harvest and store crops from your fruit trees and veggie garden. Don't forget to compost green stems and vines, and to pick up and compost all dropped fruit too.

6. Plant Fall Rye or Rejuvenation Mix in your veggie garden to add nitrogen to the soil and to prevent compaction over the winter months.

7. Celebrate fall by decorating your home for the season. Pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, candles, stems and our

homemade mini hay bales quickly add warmth and character.

8. Plant colourful trees, berried plants and shrubs with unique foliage for the season (and years) ahead. Yes, it's still a perfect time to plant!

9. Gather components for compost. Grass clippings and dried leaves are ideal for the 'brown layer' so bag and store some for later use. That said, now is also a good time to purchase a new rake!

10. Clean up and divide overgrown herbaceous perennials. Be sure to use clean, sharp tools. Transplant into well-drained soil (mix in lots of bark mulch!) and use Bonemeal and Nurseryland Transplanter to get them settled in quickly.

Happy Halloween!

Get into the spirit with these garden inspired costumes:



- An Insect: ladybugs, bumblebees and caterpillars are popular
- Scarecrow
- A Pile of Leaves: secure leaves all over your outfit and make a hat, so that only your face is showing. Variation – Compost... throw a few banana peels and carrot tops in the mix!
- Fly Caught in a Spider's web: just pick up a set of wings and some decorative spider webbing
- Dress all in green, walk around with the beverage of your choice and tell everyone you're 'Drought Tolerant'.
- 'Edward Pruner Hands'

What's Happening in Store

We love decorating for the seasons and fall lets us go wild with pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, mums, mini hay bales, candles, gorgeous giftware and more! Definitely stop by to pick up a little something to decorate for

Thanksgiving or Halloween. It's an Apple Extraganza right now too, as we have fresh apples (and Red Anjou pears) in, direct from the Okanagan. Crisp and delicious, this is definitely apple season, so make

the most of it! We've got lots of events coming up this month (pg3) and save the dates for our Gift, Craft & Antique Fair Nov. 6 & 7. We still have lots of in-store specials on in each department - it's a great time to save!



Maple Magic

Maples are pure magic in the garden during fall, but how is one to choose?!

Acer circinatum: The new 'Pacific Fire' vine maple is a real stunner, with winter bark that looks like it's on fire!

Acer griseum: The Paperbark maple has distinct, you guessed it, paper-like, red bark that peels back offering great winter interest. Grows to 26' and is very insect and disease free. Late to leaf out in spring.

Acer palmatum: A big group of smaller maple trees, generally staying under 25'. 'Bloodgood' has scarlet fall colour while green types have lovely yellow, orange and red colour. For a real stunner, try 'Sangukaku' with vibrant yellow leaves in fall and intense coral coloured stems for winter interest. 'Atropurpureum' is the most popular red type though, with red foliage maturing to green/burgundy and finally scarlet in fall.

Acer rubrum: Red maples are fantastic shade trees and grow quickly to 20-40'. Brilliant red fall colour.

Acer saccharum: Ahh the sugar maple. Source of that delightful syrup and traditional Canuck symbol. We can indeed grow sugar maples out our way and next spring we are trying to bring in 'Apollo', which grows to only 25' high and 6' wide!



Fall and Winter Pond Prep *By Collette G.*

What you do now to get your water garden ready for winter will have a big impact on how much (or little!) trouble you'll have next spring. Here's how to make life easy in 2011:

Plants: Many plants begin to go dormant as the weather becomes cooler in the fall. Stop fertilizing now in order to stop top growth and encourage root development. Remove yellow/brown or decaying foliage to keep it from falling into the pond. Take a good look at your plants and decide which ones can be overwintered in the pond, which ones must be brought indoors for winter and which ones should just be discarded and replaced with new ones in the spring.

Hardy water lilies, cattails, sedges and rushes can be put in the bottom of the pond with a water depth of 10" or more. Deep water insulates the plants from cold temps. and the following spring these plants can be returned to shallow water. Plants such as papyrus, canna lilies and taro need to be brought in and treated as houseplants. Keep them well watered and near a sunny window. Floating plants such as water lettuce and water

hyacinths should be added to the compost bin and replaced in the spring.

Fish: When the average water temp. drops below 10C, stop feeding fish, no matter how badly your fish may beg for food. Fish go into a semi-dormant state in cold water and cannot digest food. Small goldfish can survive most winters in as little as 18" of water. Larger goldfish and koi need at least 36" of water. If you are overwintering fish in your pond, add a de-icer or an aerator to your pond. If your pond does freeze, whatever you do, do not whack a hole in the ice with a hammer or any other tool as shock waves can harm the fish. Instead, set a pot of hot water over the ice to melt an opening.

Equipment: Disconnect and drain tubes, pipes, ultraviolet sterilizers and fountains. Store these inside or in the garage. Above ground filters should also be drained, cleaned and stored inside. Submerged pumps should be cleaned and stored over the winter in water in an area that won't freeze. This will prevent the seals and gaskets from drying out and cracking. Should you

decide to let your pump run over the winter, it can make for some spectacular icy waterfall scenes. Just be careful that the ice doesn't build up and that water doesn't drain over the ice and out of the pond area. If you have underwater lights in the bottom of your pond, it can be quite a dramatic look as they shine through the ice.

Pond: Clear out and keep out dead vegetation. Scoop or vacuum out as much of the gunk on the bottom of your pond as you can. Resist the urge to drain your pond to give it a thorough cleaning, as this is not in the best interest of your fish. To keep leaves from getting in, lay stakes across the pond and stretch netting across the top. Shake leaves off every few days. Head off algae by adding cold weather beneficial bacteria such as Microbe-Lift Fall Prep, and replace old barley straw with new. Lastly, mark the perimeter of your pond to prevent accidents at times when snow and ice may totally cover it.

Join us Oct. 23 at 10:30am for a more in-depth seminar and to answer all your specific questions! Call 792.6612 to register (session is free).

Helping Out Your Houseplants

Last month we looked at preparing tender outdoor plants for the season ahead. To give your indoor garden a boost:

1. Cut down on watering. Water thoroughly, but allow all your plants to become dry before watering again. They need to be rootbound over winter. No repotting!

2. Stop fertilizing with your regular fertilizer and switch to Shultz fertilizer.
3. Increase the light in your rooms by opening the drapes and curtains and by moving your plants closer to the windows. Grow lights help a lot.
4. Improve your plants' environment by improving the airflow in your home with fans or

by purchasing a humidifier. You can also improve humidity quickly and easily by keeping your room temperature lower and by adding saucers of water around your plants.



Bulb Timing



Here is a general guide to what bulbs bloom when, so that you can plan a fantastic spring show!

January: aconites, early crocus, snowdrops.

February: aconites, snow drops, dwarf iris, leucojum.

March: grape hyacinth, dwarf iris, leucojum, crocus, anemone blanda, chionodoxa.

April: anemone blanda, chionodoxa, daffodils, narcissus, tulips, muscari, fritillaria persica, hyacinths.

May: anemone blanda, late narcissus, tulips, muscari,

scilla, early alliums, erythronium, English blue bells.

Bloom times and duration will vary based on many conditions, namely weather.

Fall is for Planting! October is the best time to plant most evergreens, fruit trees and shade trees. They are now becoming dormant and, once planted, they will immediately form new roots. By spring they will have established root systems ready to put on a full year's growth. Two points to remember: the quality of the soil in which you plant your new trees will determine how well your trees grow, and secondly, if your trees are in burlap sacks, you MUST leave the sack on the rootball. Be sure to use bonemeal and liquid Transplanter to get your trees off to a faster start too. Evergreen hedges are a good idea as they provide a windbreak for cold winter winds, thus helping the hydro bill!

October Events at Country Garden



Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Visit October 9

10am-5pm

Frank Peters of Harrison's Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is here to discuss how they make some of their incredible treats and to share tips with home cooks. He'll also have a few items for sale (perfect for a holiday weekend splurge!).

Container Makeovers October 9-11

10am-3pm

No time to freshen up the deck before company

comes? No problem! Bring in your empty containers (max. 4 per order please) and we'll plant them up for you! Prices vary on pot size and plant selection.

Wildlife Gardening October 16

10:30am-11:30am

It's often midwinter before we start thinking of our feathered friends, but putting out the welcome mat before January is much appreciated! Maureen Raymond from Naturescapes BC will be giving a presentation addressing how to grow a

wildlife garden, know what feeders and seed work best for our frequent fliers (local bird populations), help wild visitors over the fall and winter months and more.

Fall Pond Clean Up October 23

10:30am-11:30pm

Collette is here to help pond owners put their water features to bed for fall and winter. Spending a little quality time with your water garden now will help you maximize your investment and make things easier for you come spring time!

Fall Family Fun Weekend

October 30 & 31

Both days of the weekend we'll have a photo op station set up so that you can take pictures of the kids in their outfits. Kids and adults who arrive in costume will receive a goodie bag! Jerri and the Callicarpa themed will have special themed treats over the weekend too. For those who like a little adventure, at 1pm each day we will have a Candy Corn Scavenger Hunt... but please note, this is just for the kids! The pumpkin cannon will be up and running this year too! We are currently confirming times with a local Boy Scout troupe who will be firing the cannon as a fundraiser, so more details will follow shortly. Visit www.mintergardens.com for updates or give us a call at 604.792.6612.



Curcubitaceae Quiz

Thanksgiving weekend is a time for family gatherings... so let's see how well you know this one!

1. Blue Hubbard Squash
2. Kakai Pumpkin
3. Buttercup Squash
4. Spaghetti Squash
5. Turks Turban
6. Mesa Queen Acorn
7. Honey Bear Acorn
8. Lumina Pumpkin
9. Connecticut Field P.
10. Fairy Tale Pumpkin

- A. Cinderella's ride
- B. Casper's kind of pumpkin
- C. Has tasty, nutty flavoured seeds
- D. Why do you build me up?
- E. A delightful headpiece
- F. Pooh, Smokey, Paddington...
- G. Arizona Royalty
- H. It's cold doing shopping by foot, and all for a dog!
- I. A product of New England pastures
- J. Give this one the boot!



ANSWERS: 1-H, 2-C, 3-D, 4-J, 5-E, 6-G, 7-F, 8-B, 9, 1, 10-A



17th Annual Gift, Craft & Antique Fair November 6 & 7

There are over 75 vendors coming so there will be a huge selection of specialty items to shop from! Enjoy live music and in-store specials too!



October at Minter Gardens

The final day of another wonderful season approaches! The hillsides of the Gardens are taking on the hues of fall and it's a great time to come for 'one last visit' before we close for the season on Monday October 11.

Gift Shop Sale

From now until closing receive 30% off selected gift and sweet items in the Gift Shop. What a great way to start your seasonal shopping!

Thanksgiving Buffet Brunch Sunday, Oct. 10 from 11am-2pm

All your traditional favourites! One of our most popular buffets of the year, especially for those who have a lot of family coming over and don't want to be left with

the dishes! From home baked scones to fresh seafood, crisp salads to turkey, stuffing and all the fixin's, this is a feast for the eyes and the tummy. \$23.95 per person (children's rates available). Seating is limited so please call to reserve. Ph. 604.794.7044



Nutcracker Buffet Brunches Sundays 11am-2pm

November 21 & 28 and December 5, 12 & 19
Bring your family and friends to share in our festive holiday atmosphere. Enjoy our delicious brunch buffet complete with roast turkey, seasonal treats

and more! \$23.95 per person (children's rates available). Please call to book your place soon! As an added bonus, visit our website for a printable coupon to receive \$2 off the regular adult brunch rate on Nov. 21 & 28 only.

Looking for a new venue for your holiday party? Our Conservatories are dressed for the holidays and, along with terrific food and friendly service, they offer a classy and relaxed atmosphere for you and your colleagues to celebrate another terrific year. Some evenings are still open in Nov. and Dec. so call Jo-Ann at 792.3799 for booking details.



52892 Bunker Rd.
Rosedale, BC
VOX 1X1

Admission Rates (incl HST)

Adult \$17.00
Senior (65+) \$15.00
Youth (13-18) \$9.50
Child (6-12) \$6.50
Tot (under 5) Free
Family (2 Adults & Up to 4 Youth) \$38.00

Admission Phone

604.794.7191

The Trillium Restaurant

604.794.7044

Wedding Inquiries

Jo-Ann: 604.792.3799

www.mintergardens.com



Minter Gardens Hours of Daily Operation until October 11 ~ 10am-5pm (weather permitting)

Be sure to visit onsite shops at Country Garden...

AROMATICA

Aromatica's Tea of the Month is 'Earl Grey Vanilla Rooibos', a classic taste, now in an herbal! Organic rooibos blended with bergamot and vanilla yields a smooth, full bodied cup. No caffeine and more antioxidants than green tea make this blend a winner all around. Ph: 604.703.1178



Mark your Calendar!

17th Annual Gift, Craft & Antique Fair

Sat Nov. 6 9am-5:30pm & Sun Nov. 7 11am-4:30pm
One of the most popular events of the year and a festive way to kick off the holiday season. With over 75 vendors there will be lots to choose from too, including: baked goods, woodwork, jewelry, artwork, antiques, collectibles and so much more!
On top of the show, check out all of our fabulous Christmas ornaments and décor, enjoy in-store specials, hear live music and savor delicious café specials.



ANTIQUES BY DESIGN

19th & 20th century antiques & furnishings. New items have arrived! Ph: 604.316.1933



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Unique gifts and home décor. Ph: 604.703.1119



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