

## Pruning calendar: Autumn

~ The Royal Horticultural Society

Your garden is now ready to put to bed for the winter, but as you do so, take time to enjoy the firework display produced by the leaves and berries of ornamental trees, shrubs, and climbers.

### *Main pruning tasks:*

Don't prune trees and shrubs in the autumn unless it is absolutely necessary. There are many fungal spores around at this time of the year and a high risk of diseases penetrating the cut surfaces.

Catch up with any pruning that you missed or didn't have time for in the summer, such as pruning back leggy growths on wisterias. It is also an ideal time to clean and sharpen pruning tools.

### *Shrubs to prune:*

Although most pruning jobs are best left until late winter or early spring, you should reduce the height of hybrid tea and floribunda roses by one-third to prevent their stems from rocking in winter winds and damaging the main stem and roots. Also remove *Buddleja* flowerheads and the top one-third of the shoots to prevent the plant self-seeding. Do not remove spent hydrangea flowerheads as they help to protect developing flower shoots from frost, and also provide attractive architectural structure in winter. Seedheads, fruits and berries that are left on shrubs now have both wildlife and decorative value.

### *Climbers to prune:*

Autumn is the ideal time to prune climbing and rambling roses. These plants still have sap in their stems, which makes them pliable and easy to train onto the supports. If the job is left until winter, the stems lose their flexibility and are more likely to snap. You can also prune Virginia creeper and Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus*) after leaf fall.

### *Hedge care:*

Any hedges not pruned in summer can be cut back now, but do not prune wildlife hedges, which are best left until spring, as their fruit and berries provide food for the birds and other wildlife through the colder months.

### *Other jobs to do now:*

The autumn is tidying-up time. Cover trees or shrubs that need frost protection, such as palms, tree ferns, and fruits like apricots. Leave the fronds on tree ferns and palms as they protect plants from frost. For further protection, tie them together over the crown. As the leaves fall, the basic structure of plants becomes more visible, and you will be able to see more clearly what needs to be pruned in the spring. Rake up fallen leaves and fruit, such as apples, and use to make compost and leaf mould, which you can later spread under pruned plants to feed and mulch them.

If you have any logs left from pruning in the summer, you could construct a log pile, which benefits wildlife.

Then sit back and admire the foliage and fruiting displays around you!



# Send me your secrets!

(or your favorite stories!)

Send to Cheryl Fiddis @ [ecfiddis@telus.net](mailto:ecfiddis@telus.net)

We would love to have more members share their 'secrets' and garden thoughts. Don't be shy!

# Help Birds Get Through the Winter Months

~ Canadian Wildlife Federation

Birds can usually fend for themselves and, if healthy habitat is available, readily find their own food. When the north wind blows, however, many food sources disappear, temperatures plunge and survival becomes a continuous challenge. You can lend a hand by providing high-energy foods for your feathered friends. Here's how to turn your backyard into a wildlife oasis in the bleak of winter.

## *Provide a Feeding Station for Birds*

~ Include in your backyard buffet such goodies as peanuts, millet, cracked corn and sunflower seeds.

~ Chickadees, woodpeckers and other insectivores need a source of animal fat to stay warm. Make treats for them by pouring leftover pan drippings or suet into foil trays, adding peanuts and sunflower seeds.

~ Locate feeders close enough to trees and shrubs that birds can escape from predators but far enough that cats can't creep up on them.

~ An awesome array of commercial bird feeders is available, including sophisticated squirrel-proof ones. Some simple alternatives include strings of peanuts hung from branches, mesh onion bags filled with suet and tied to tree-trunks, and pine cones coated with suet and cornmeal and strung from branches.

~ Birds will soon depend on you for food, so don't let them down. Clean off feeders during and after snow storms and make sure they're always stocked with seed in winter.

~ Make sure your feeders are well away from windows and launching pads for predators as poorly located birdfeeders can expose birds to the dangers of window collisions or predation by cats or hawks.

## **BRAGS Membership/Meetings**

Annual membership cost \$12. Members share various gardening interests and enjoy 10% discount of regularly priced items at Garden Works by presenting their membership cards. All meetings start at 7 pm at the Burnaby Village Museum, - Main Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. It's centrally located and there is ample parking. Refreshments are served. Everyone is welcome. Bring your own mug to be eco-friendly!

# Refreshments Committee: Help Wanted!

Have you ever wondered how our refreshments magically appear in time for our break? Have you thought that perhaps you would like to assist? Our refreshments committee currently consists of Helen Vaughn who has done this job for a very long time. We're asking for someone new to volunteer to take this over and let Helen retire. It's not a huge job, and can easily be shared by a few people. If you are not able to make every meeting, that won't be a problem: there is always someone who can step in and assist. If you are interested and have questions about this position, please visit Helen when you arrive at the next meeting...you'll find her in the kitchen!

## **AGM...Nominations, Nominations, Nominations!**

Our December meeting is not just a time for celebrating the Christmas season with members, but it's also our Annual General Meeting and time for Nominations when applicable.

This year we are looking for one Executive position: *Treasurer*, and two Standing Committee positions: *Publicity* and *Rhodofestival*.

Do you have a feel for numbers? Can you balance your chequebook? The *Treasurer* position might be the right fit for you. This position is not time consuming, only requiring approximately one hour of your time per month.

Our *Publicity* position is more of a 'behind the scenes' position. You can handle this position either via email or by phone, and contacts will be provided. If you think you might be the right one to make PR happen for BRAGS, this role is for you!

Our *Rhodofestival* position is primarily a 'weekend intensive' position in early May, with a few planning meetings taking place with the City of Burnaby and volunteers beforehand. This festival involves most of our members pitching in to help before, during and after the festival. This role works best with a Chair and Co-Chair.

At the next meeting, if you are interested in any position, whether currently or in the future, please speak to your executive team or your Nominations Chair, Judy Wellington. Holding one of these important positions can be both rewarding and enjoyable! If you are not able to attend the

## **BRAGS 2011 EXECUTIVE**

### **President**

Verna Adamson  
604-294-5550

### **Vice-President**

Lanny Hui  
604-415-8287

### **Treasurer**

Kim Taylor  
60435-0728

### **Secretary**

Linda Cholette  
604-298-9059

### **Past President**

Judy Wellington  
604-434-8287

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## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Membership**

Anne Forsyth  
604-298-6350

### **Nominations**

Judy Wellington

### **Publicity**

Lanny Hui  
604-415-4564

### **Rhododendron Festival**

Wendy Thompson  
604-420-6513  
June Dodson  
604-939-2597

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## **OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Garden Tour**

Vacant

### **Plant Sale**

Lanny Hui

### **Newsletter**

Cheryl Fiddis  
604-435-2801

Anne & David Forsyth

604-298-6350

### **Welcome**

Faye Kilpatrick  
604-434-5921

Sheila Chowdhury

604-298-1196

### **Raffle**

Joy Makepeace-Smith

604-433-5869

### **Refreshments**

Helen Vaughan  
604-299-2014

### **Speakers**

Rosemarie Daviduk  
604-431-6207

### **Website**

David Forsyth  
604-298-6350

November meeting, please note that nominations cannot be accepted less than 14 days prior to the AGM, or during the AGM. However, should there be positions available once the AGM has concluded they can be discussed/elected at that time.

And remember, - while all positions may not be up for election at this time, if you think you might have a future interest in any one of them, you may wish to 'shadow' with the current holder of the position. Just ask!

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### **November 2, 2011**

Carol McIntyre gives a talk on winter harvest vegetables.

### **December 7, 2011**

This meeting will commence with our AGM/Elections and then we will all enjoy our annual Christmas party. Please come with a dish to share with your fellow members, and also bring your significant other to kick off the festive season.

\*Ideas for speakers? Please see Rosemarie!\*

### **January 4, 2012**

Arzeena Hamir, Co-ordinator at Richmond Food Security, will give a talk on one of 2 topics: Get ready to vote at the November meeting! Topics are: Zero Mile Diet - How to assess your backyard and choose plants that you can successfully grow to feed yourself. What veggies are most productive in our climate? or Natural Pest Control -Learn different strategies for controlling some of the most common pests and how to do so without breaking the bank.

### **Special: February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (Saturday, 11:00 am)**

A special visit has been arranged for BRAGS members to visit Westcoast Seeds in Ladner for a workshop/demonstration on planting tomato seeds. Refreshments, discounts, shopping and fun are promised! Consider car-pooling with a friend. Mark the date and please confirm your interest to Rosemarie so we can advise them of our numbers.

## **Out and About**

### **November 17<sup>th</sup>, Thursday - all day**

Christmas Open House & Customer Appreciation Day at all Gardenworks locations. Start your holiday season with special events, sales and decorating inspiration.

15% Discount!

### **November 29<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 6pm – 10 pm**

Chicks, Cheese & Christmas at Mandeville Gardens!

A great girlfriend bonding evening filled with fun, excitement, entertainment, and an amazing Christmas décor and gift selection. A fun filled evening including snacks, wine and prizes. Extra parking is in the sports field across the street. FREE! If you haven't gone to this event in the past, don't miss it this year!