

feature plants

What's looking great in street gardens this month?



Geranium 'Philippe Vapelle'
Hardy Geraniums or Cranesbill produce purple flowers all summer long over a neat mound of foliage. About 1 foot tall and drought-tolerant, they are a great compliment to almost any garden. Full sun or part shade. 'Rozanne' is another great variety for the street garden with prolific blooms.



Hemerocallis stella d'oro
Daylilies easily survive the harsh conditions of street gardens. Stella d'oro is one of the best performers with brilliant yellow trumpet flowers that last for months. Daylilies form a compact clump of grass-like foliage and are easy to divide and share with fellow street gardeners. Full sun or part shade.



Liatris spicata 'Kobold'
Gayfeather is a perennial often grown for its showy purple flowers. It thrives in full sun and is very drought-tolerant. Kobold has a nice compact habit that works well in street gardens, growing about half a meter tall. It is excellent for attracting birds and butterflies.



Monarda didyma
Bergamot or Scarlet Beebalm is an aromatic herb attracting hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Beebalm will produces blooms for an extended period of time and with vigilant deadheading you can have flowers for eight weeks or more. It will spread quickly and likes full sun or part shade.

gardening tasks

Finally, Summer! Now that it's here, you can kick back, relax and enjoy all the work you put into your garden this spring. Pat yourself on the back and appreciate the summer lull as your plants are in full bloom!

- In the summer months, weeding and watering are the gardeners' focus. Think of ways to conserve water - collect rainwater or find ways to retain grey water such as shower water from around the house. A layer of mulch goes a long way and keeping the garden weed-free means water gets to the right plants.
- Once the foliage of your bulbs has dried, you can easily tidy up the stems and foliage. Some gardeners leave bulbs in the ground year round. Others remove and store them in a cool dry place until fall for replanting.
- Keep deadheading flowers to encourage rebloom.
- Cleanly remove suckers from roses and shrubs as they come up.
- There may be lots of pests roaming around the garden causing damage. Aphids, flea beetles, snails, slugs. Yikes! To learn about natural pest management, visit City Farmer at Maple & 6th or call 604-736-2250.
- That compost bin should be nice and steamy! Add water if needed so it doesn't dry out and to keep the worms happy.

Make compost in your own backyard!

It's the most sustainable way to manage your garden waste and nourish your soil. It doesn't get any more local than your own backyard!

Don't forget, as a Green Streets gardener you can get a free compost bin to help get started. Just contact Green Streets to find out how to get your free bin.



gardener profile

Garden: NW Bulge & Boulevard @ Manitoba & 21st
Gardeners: Syd Hartley & Monique De Jong
Joined Green Streets: 2004

At VanDusen Garden where Syd volunteers and participates on the board, he is known as the lord of the flies or, in less visually inspiring terms, master of the compost.

At Manitoba and 21st, Syd's neighbours know him as the gardening genius behind the beautiful bulge and boulevard gardens that surround the Hartley residence. A few years after Syd and his wife Pat moved to the neighbourhood, Syd began expanding their garden to the boulevard. With some advice, encouragement and donated plants from their neighbour at Manitoba and 20th (another Green Streets gardener), the boulevard began to take shape.

Syd set out designing the layout of his new gardens. He took a lawn mower to the grass, carving out curvilinear lines that helped him visualize the space and determine the edges of the new beds. A turf path flows along the edge of Manitoba St as a substitute for the sidewalk which does not exist on his side of the street. He has since created a spectacular garden and a welcoming place for people to walk and for kids to play.

When the garden was in its early days there was still a lot of room for plants. Syd decided to take one full gardening season to fill up the empty spaces. He

would visit garden shops every few weeks to acquire new plants, purchasing whatever was flowering at the time. Consequently, no matter what time of year you stroll past Manitoba and 21st, something is sure to be blooming.

After 7 years, the garden beds are still expanding. The most recent addition was initiated a couple years ago when new tenants moved into the Hartley basement suite. Monique and her husband were excited about this lovely neighbourhood. They told Syd and Pat just how much they loved cutting grass, which was a huge selling point for the Hartley's. Monique and her family moved into their new home and it has been a great gardening partnership ever since.

For Syd, the garden is a place where he can be as creative as he likes. It's also a place of solitude and quiet escape – even if neighbours stop to say hello and offer advice. For Monique, gardening is simply about watching things grow and appreciating the result. She and her husband love having a variety of herbs right outside their doorstep that they can pick fresh and throw into dinner.

Next on the agenda is the boulevard along 21st Ave. Syd describes how the curvy lines of the garden on his side of the sidewalk will project across to the boulevard. With big trees overhead, it's much drier and shadier than Manitoba St, but he's already got some planting ideas in mind.

We all look forward to seeing the next transformation at Manitoba and 21st! Thanks Syd and Monique.



The bulge in summer bloom is bursting with beautiful crocosmia flowers.



Syd & Monique stand next to the boulevard garden on Manitoba St.



Beautiful tones of purple, blue and grey characterize the garden in June.

Welcome New Green Streets Gardeners!

A warm welcome to all the new gardeners that joined during the month of June.

Emily at Blenheim & 5th - Circle

Beverly at Commercial & 37th - SE Corner Bulge

Yasuko at Discovery & 10th - SE Corner Bulge

Julien at Fremlin & 46th - Circle

Sara at Mackenzie/Quesnel & 27th - SW Corner

Mark & the UBC Learning Exchange at Main & Keefer - NW Corner Bulge

Laura at Ontario & 28th - Circle

Karin at Skeena & Oxford - Circle

Hanna & Miia at Yukon & 15th - NW Corner Bulge

july events

Guided walking tours of VanDusen Gardens, every day @ 2pm
Free for members or with garden admission. Meet at the Information Desk on the Deck.

Viva Vancouver: Pedestrian Weekends on Granville Street
Every Weekend Starting June 25th

Every weekend this summer, downtown Granville St will be transformed into a pedestrian street with interesting community events and other unique activations for people to participate in. Pedestrians can sit, relax and take in the atmosphere street life on offer. Visit vancouver.ca/viva to find out about all the great activities!

UBC Farm Farmers Markets

Every Saturday from June 21 through October. 9am-1pm.
For info on what's fresh every week visit www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm

Cedar Series Lecture: The Diversity of Plants of New Zealand
Thu Jul 14. 7:30pm. VanDusen Floral Hall

Eagan Davis will share his travel adventures through the alpine, sub-tropical, warm temperate forest, tussock and coastal ecosystems of New Zealand. Tickets: Members \$10. Non-members \$15. In advance at Admin Office (Mon-Fri) or at the door, subject to availability. For more information visit educate@vandusen.org.

HSBC VanDusen Family Program: Our Feathered Friends

Sat Jul 16. 10:30am-Noon or 1:30pm-3pm. VanDusen Garden
Learn about the birds that call VanDusen home and then create bird-related crafts. Price: Member Family \$10, Non-member Family \$20. Includes admission to the Garden. Pre-registration required: 604.718.5898 or familyprograms@vandusen.org

Viva Vancouver: Liveable Laneway Project

Sat Jul 16, 23 & 30. 5pm-9pm. At Main St & Broadway
Transforming the laneway west of Main St. between Broadway and 8th Ave to create an interesting pedestrian experience which involves adding several creative design elements that will remain all summer long. A weekly artist market will occur Saturday evenings in July. During market hour, the laneway will only be open to pedestrians. Fun!

Vancouver Shade Garden Society Annual Show & Sale

Sun Jul 17. 11am-4pm. VanDusen Floral Hall
Free. For Information: Chris Jennings at 604.602.6644 or sikokianumcjl@shaw.ca

Berry Festival at the Main Street Farmers Market

Wed Jul 20. 3pm-7pm. Main Street Station @ Thornton Park
Celebrate BC berries! Berry bake-off, recipes and tips on preserving and cooking local berries. Great fun for the kids! Visit eatlocal.org for more information.

BC Fuchsia & Begonia Society Annual Show & Competition

Sat & Sun Jul 23 & 24. 10am-5pm. VanDusen Floral Hall
Admission \$2. For more information: Frances Carter at 604.591.3262

Announcement: Updating the Green Streets Gardening Guidelines

The City of Vancouver has a goal to become the greenest city in the world by 2020. Green Streets already contributes in many ways to making our city green and sustainable. Street gardens provide residents with access to nature, which is one of Vancouver's 10 long-term goals. They contribute significantly to our urban ecological system, wildlife habitat, storm-water infiltration of ground water while fostering a sense of community. Plus, they make our streets more beautiful and that in itself is valuable.

Another goal in becoming the greenest city by 2020 focuses on local food and Vancouver aims to become a leader in urban food systems. It's a complex goal with many components and Green Streets can play role. The current guidelines for street gardening do not encourage volunteers to plant vegetables; however, after some research and brainstorming, Green Streets has determined that vegetables can be grown in street gardens in a way that still ensures the safety of the public and the year-round beauty of our streets.

So, if you've ever considered planting a few carrots among the shrubs and perennials in your circle or bulge, review the NEW Green Streets Gardening Guidelines. The guidelines will be up on the Green Streets website this summer. If you have questions about this new initiative, do not hesitate to ask.

Visit vancouver.ca/greestreets to learn more!

