

feature plants

What's looking great in street gardens this month?



Aster subspicatus

Douglas' aster can be seen right now with delicate blooms of lavender coloured flowers, covered with bees and other beneficial insects. It looks beautiful alongside other members of the sunflower family. This aster does well in dry to moist soil and in full sun or part shade.



Helictotrichon sempervirens

Blue oat grass can be a striking addition to many street gardens, offering a silver-blue foliage to the mix. It is drought tolerant once established and in Vancouver it remains evergreen in the winter. It does well in dry sandy soil and will not get taller than 30". Overall a great addition to any street garden.



Rosa meidiland 'Scarlet'

This rose is a lovely repeat bloomer throughout the summer, seen in many street gardens around the city. It is a spreading rose that prefers sun or part shade and will do fairly well in drier months. Its vibrant red colour will no doubt be able to stop traffic!



Solidago

Goldenrod is a great addition for end of summer blooms. Newer varieties such as 'Fireworks' are more attractive than the wild varieties, as they are less prone to falling over. Growing 1m tall, they are best as a backdrop to lower growing perennials.

gardening tasks

It is hard to believe that September is here! The sun and heat finally arrived. But alas, the nights are getting cooler and the days shorter. It is time to start thinking about your fall clean up. Assess what may or may not have worked in your garden this past year and keep notes to remind you of ideas for next summer.

- ❑ Start your fall clean-up by cutting back anything that has finished blooming or has become diseased.
- ❑ Remove suckers from roses or other shrubs.
- ❑ It is just about bulb time! Near the end of the month you can start planting early spring bulbs. Size matters when it comes to bulbs; shop early for good selection – the biggest and best sell quickly. Tulips can be left until November to plant.
- ❑ If you have wallflowers in your garden, pinch out the tips to promote bushier growth.
- ❑ If your compost is ready, spread it out in the garden as you will likely need the room in your bin for fallen leaves. Save leaves in a bin next to your compost to add as a brown layer throughout the year.
- ❑ Don't forget to save seeds from some of your favourite flowers. Store them in a cool dry place, such as in the crisper of your fridge.

Welcome New Green Streets Gardeners!

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

YarOn at Chambers & 38th - Circle
Bruce at Willow & 16th - NE Corner
Erin at Lakewood & Turner - SE Corner

gardener profile

Garden: Jervis & Nelson

Gardeners: Bertram Allen and Cleve Foster

Joined Green Streets: 2005

When Bertram and his gardening friend Cleve, saw the traffic circle at Jervis and Nelson, they saw a labour of love about to start. It was old and unruly with a rather pitiful layer of soil, but they were determined to turn the circle around and make it a gorgeous spectacle in the heart of the West End neighbourhood. Out came the St. John's Wort and in went fresh layers of soil, manure and peat. Together, they undertook the renovation of the shabby circle and later as the design and planting evolved the garden became Bertram's focus. The colourful and informal oasis found there today is a reflection of Bertram's gardening passion.

Coming from a long line of gardeners, gardening has always been a part of Bertram's life. He thanks his father and grandfather for instilling in him a love and understanding of plants. In the 80's he decided to take a gardening course to solidify his informal education and with that, the majority of his working life has been dedicated to gardening. For such an avid gardener, the sight of the dull and unloved traffic circle was disheartening. Something needed to be done.

If one word could be used to describe the circle today, it would be colourful. Bertram uses lots of annuals, mixing them in with perennials and grasses for year-round interest. Hyacinths, Tulips and Daffodils in the spring open



Bertram proudly keeping the garden and the streets looking beautiful!



There are always perennials blooming, providing colourful year round interest.



Even the street garden knows how to celebrate Christmas in the West End!

to Geraniums, Pansies, Daisies, Astilbe, Poppies, Iris', Sedums, Fuchsia, and his favourite – Columbine – to create an orchestra of colour in the circle. Every year he tries something new. This year, orange geraniums. Encompassing the entire circle is a graceful perimeter planting of Carex that flows out over the circle's edge and nods in the wind as cars pass by. The centrepiece of the garden climbs up the trunk of the cherry tree. Bertram's clematis, which he named Dorothy LaMour, has been a four year labour of love. It took several years to get her to bloom but finally she provided 5 beautiful blue flowers. Everybody in the neighbourhood loves her.

Bertram noticed a definite change in the community since the circle was renovated. People have become friendlier and the intersection has turned into a meeting place where people interact. The neighbours have taken ownership of the circle and everyone in the area takes joy in the beauty that it adds to their street.

When the garden was first planted, it was not unusual for plants to go missing, but as the garden became more established, the community took ownership of it and became very protective. Local neighbours would deter anyone caught snooping around the garden from causing any damage. Today, it's far more common for Bertram to find plant donations than to notice missing flowers - evidence that the community respects and values the garden as their own. This sense of ownership is one of the changes Bertram has noticed over the past six years.

As we stood at the busy corner of Nelson and Jervis, a lady rolled her window down to tell Bertram "Thank you for making this corner beautiful. I enjoy it every time I come by". Bertram tells me that sort of thing happens all the time. It's compliments like this that reinforce what Bertram believes about street gardens – a pretty garden makes a neighbourhood look good and makes people feel good. And that's something I'm sure many Green Street gardeners can relate to!

Thanks Bertram for all of your wonderful work in making Jervis and Nelson a gorgeous spectacle! And of course, a big thanks to Cleve for helping get the project started.

september events

Vancouver Dahlia Society Annual Dahlia Show

Sat Sep 3 & Sun Sep 4. Saturday: 1-5pm and Sunday: Noon-3:30pm. VanDusen Garden Floral Hall & Cedar Room
Admission by donation. Contact Tina McNabb at 604-572-8981 or themcnabbs@telus.net for more information.

Cedar Lecture: Invasive Plants and the Ecosystem

Thur Sep 8. 7:30pm. VanDusen Garden Floral Hall
Listen to Jennifer Grenz of the Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council discuss invasive plants. Learn about the common invaders in our region and how to control them if you have them in your garden.
Info: 604-257-8666 for registration and ticket information.

Pt. Grey Chrysanthemum Association Early Varieties Show

Sat Sep 10 & Sun Sep 11. Sat: Noon-4pm, Sun: 10am-4pm.
VanDusen Garden Floral Hall
Info: Marie Ogryzlo at 604-261-9219 or ogryzlo@chem.ubc.ca.

Bloom Gala

Thur Sep 15. 6-9pm. VanDusen Garden Visitor Centre
A fundraiser in support of VanDusen Education. Visit www.bloomgala.com for details, pricing and tickets.

HSBC VanDusen Family Program: Yes, Please, Trees

Sat Sep 17. 10:30am-Noon or 1:30pm-3pm. VanDusen Garden
For families with children ages 5 - 10 years. Investigate the wonderful world of trees. Meet some of VanDusen coolest trees and learn easy ways to identify them. Pre-registration required by contacting VanDusen at 604-718-5898 or familyprograms@vandusen.org.

Autumn Shift Festival 2011

Sat Sep 17. Noon-6pm. Main St from Broadway to 12th Ave
Shift into a more sustainable lifestyle with Mount Pleasant BIA's Autumn Shift Festival! Info: Desi Diebel at 604-874-9816 or mpbia@telus.net.

Walk in the Tropics: Interior Plantscaping

Tues Sep 20. 10:30am-11:45am. Bloedel Conservatory
Given proper care, many of the plants in the Bloedel Conservatory could thrive in a home environment. Alex Downie's extensive knowledge of Bloedel's plants and their requirements will benefit anyone interested in growing tropicals indoors. Tickets: members \$10, non-members \$15.
To register call 604-257-8332.

Treasured Bulb Sale

Sat Sep 24. 11am-3pm. UBC Botanical Garden
Call the Garden at 604-822-3928 for more information.

Harvest Festival at Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House

Sat Sep 24. 11am-4pm. 800 East Broadway
The annual Harvest Festival showcases arts and culture in our lively, vibrant, and diverse Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. Join in the fun!
Email Rachel Malek at events@mpnh.org for more information.

VanDusen's Annual Compost and Spring Bulb Sale

Sat Sep 24. 10am-3pm. VanDusen Garden parking lot
\$5 for a 20kg bag of compost. Lots of bulbs available.

Dried Flower Sale at VanDusen Garden

Sat Sep 24 & Sun Sep 25. 10am-4pm. Entrance pavillion
Sale of dried flower centre pieces for Thanksgiving and autumn wreaths of vibrant Fall colours made from materials gathered in the Garden.

Alpine Garden Club of B.C. Fall Plant Sale

Sun Sep 25. 1pm-4pm. VanDusen Floral Hall
Info: Linda Verbeek at 604-526-6656 or beekbos@vcn.bc.ca.

Green Streets Garden Party

Sat Oct 1st. 2pm-4pm. VanDusen Garden
Please RSVP at your earliest convenience and no later than September 26th to: greenstreets@vancouver.ca or 604-873-7204. Please confirm if you are bringing a guest(s). Can't wait to see you all there!