



Vancouver Dahlia Society

Promoting Dahlia Growing Since 1955

June-July 2016

Bulletin 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you asked yourself recently: "Am I watering my dahlias correctly?" If so, allow me to offer some suggestions. Dahlias are a heat loving plant. Watering with cold water gives them quite a shock. The best approach to watering is to collect water in a larger container (I use plastic garbage cans) and to let it stand for a day. This warms up the water. This also helps dissipate the chlorine which is not good for the plants. This approach is good if you do not have too many plants. If you have more plants, watering with a hose is more practical. I use a watering wand that allows me to direct the water to the ground so I water the soil and not the plants. The morning is the best time to water. The plants and the soil have cooled overnight and they are closer to the water temperature. They also have all day to warm up. Watering during the day when the plants are hot is too much of a shock and watering in the evening leaves the plants wet and cold through the night. Watering lightly every day is not good. This leaves just the surface of the soil moist and the plants constantly cold. I water 2 days in a row and then allow the plants to warm up for 2-3 days. The first day I water lightly to break the surface and the second day I water deeply so the water gets down to the roots. Usually, by the third day of not watering, the soil is nice and warm again and there is such a burst of growth, it is visible from one day to the next.

Should you use an overhead sprinkler? Sometimes there is not option, especially if you have acres of dahlias. It does become a problem when you want to cut exhibition blooms because they spot easily from the water. That is why some of us use umbrellas to keep the blooms dry, especially when the dew starts to fall later in the season. What about irrigation? It's nice if you can get it. Perhaps we can get a speaker to address the subject next year if there is enough interest.

We have some exciting speakers lined up for the June and July general meetings. In June we have Conway Lum to speak on fertilizer and beneficial botanicals. He works at Mandeville Gardens in Burnaby near Marine Drive. He is extremely knowledgeable and much in demand as a speaker. In July we have Connie Young-Davis. We will be hearing her presentation in July instead of June due to a scheduling conflict. This is a meeting not to be missed. I am confident she will inspire you to get more involved in showing dahlias.

Peter Krueger

BURNABY RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL

We had a very successful sale at the Burnaby Rhodo Festival again this year. Our total sales were \$857.00. With the fee on credit card sales and cost of the table we made a profit of \$823.64. This would not be possible with out the generous donation of tubers by our members. A big thank you to all of you!!!

Your Tuber Sale Committee

Next Meetings: June 15 and July 20

The VDS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except November, December and January in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Gardens at 7:30 pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 23
Federation Summer Workshop
Seattle , WA

July 30
Judges Training
Mt. Vernon Washington

September 3 & 4
Vancouver Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show

September 10 & 11
Whatcom County Dahlia Society
Annual Dahlia Show

September 17 & 18
Fraser Valley Dahlia Society
Annual Show

JUNE MEETING AGENDA

Conway Lum from Mandeville Gardens will share his knowledge on all things gardening. It will surely be an informative evening. Be sure not to miss this one.

JULY MEETING AGENDA

Connie Young-Davis from Vancouver Island will be welcomed as our guest speaker. Connie is well known for her head table wins but she is also becoming known for her hybridizing of Connie Harry and Connie Jean in 2015 and Connie Marilyn in 2016. Should be a very interesting meeting.

Please come out and support our guest speakers.

1979 - 2016 COMPOSITE LISTING OF DAHLIAS

I will have copies of the Composite Classification books for sale at the next few meetings. The cost is \$10.00 each, no tax. This book contains the names and descriptions of all the dahlia varieties for the last 37 years. The list contains 9,901 cultivar names.

Tina McNabb



NOTE FROM THE SHOW COMMITTEE:

Please consider recycling your show ribbons and rosettes. If you have ribbons from previous shows that you have enjoyed over the last few years and no longer need to hang on your wall, you are welcome to return them to Wally Kurth. They will be enjoyed by the 2016 winners, and who knows? You may get them back again.....

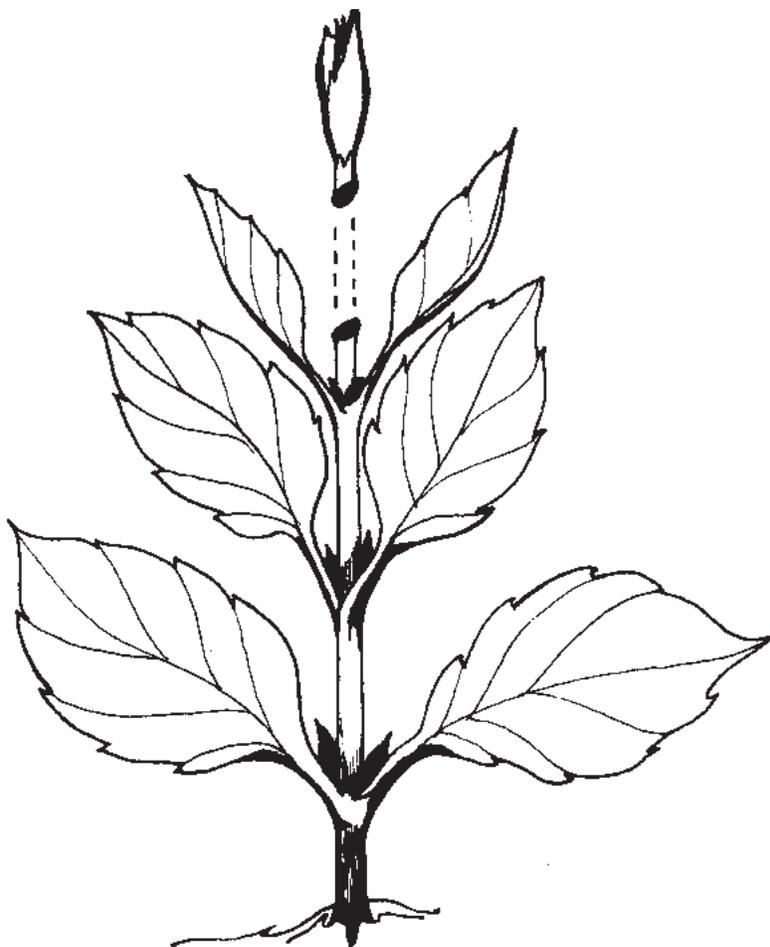
THE ADS ADDS A NEW RESOURCE TO THEIR WEBSITE

We are proud to offer a new resource on the ADS Website - "Dahlia University" is still in the building process, we have posted a number of modules and plan to add more. Dahlia University provides basic information, geared toward the new grower, on getting your garden started. Check it out!

<http://www.dahlia.org/index.php?page=dahlia-university>

JUNE IS THE TIME FOR TOPPING OR PINCHING

With this warm spring most of you will have planted your dahlias. They should grow fast. To promote sturdier, bushier plants with better blooms it is recommended to pinch out the center growth of the plant. This topping will force the plant to send out branches from the axil of the first sets of leaves. If you do not top your plant you could end up with only one bloom and a long wait for a second flush of flowers. Dwarf dahlias do not require topping.



WHEN TO TOP?

For giant and large varieties pinch out at 2 or 3 sets of leaves.

For medium size blooms pinch out at 3 to 4 sets of leaves.

Small size blooms and most other types at 5 or 6 sets of leaves.

If by the time 5 or 6 sets of leaves occur and you find a flower bud there, pinch it out, this bloom will be very inferior.

When you are out topping your dahlias examine the health of the plant. If you notice anything unusual it may be a virus. If the plant is stunted and the leaves are gnarled pull it up and discard it in the garbage, not in your compost. Other viruses can be detected by marks or patterns which show up on the leaves which are often off green or yellow. If it's questionable get rid of it.

EPSOM SALTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

There are many reasons to use Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate) in the garden. It contains magnesium one of what growers call the “major minor” elements. It helps speed up plant growth, increase a plants nutrient uptake, deter pests, increase flavour of fruit and veggies, especially tomatoes and peppers plus increase the output of vegetation.

Applying in Liquid Form or Drenching – Drenching plants with Epsom salt improves the overall health of the plant by providing a good dose of magnesium. If your plants are needing a boost, dissolve about one to two tablespoons of Epsom salt in a a gallon of water. Pour at the base of the plant and allow the water-salt solution to soak into the ground. Repeat throughout the season as necessary.

Better Flowering, More & Stronger Blooms – Although there is no “firm” scientific study to back the claim... many seasoned gardeners swear that the addition of Epsom salt to their flower garden greatly improves the colours and textures of the flowers they grow. Plants are stronger and produce more blooms.

Yellow Leaves – Yellow and dull looking leaves often means the plant is lacking the necessary nutrients magnesium or sulfur. Apply Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate), adding it to fertilizer placed in the soil once per month. For more direct approach, 1 tablespoon can be mixed with a gallon of water and sprayed directly onto the leaves. Be patient as different plants respond faster than others do.

Pest Control – Epsom Salt can be used in many instances to provide a natural, pesticide free cure for crawling slimy slugs. Sprinkle where slugs glide along and say good-bye. Epsom salt is also kid friendly, being non-toxic!

Excerpts taken from the website
“21 Epsom Salt Cheats You Don't Want To Miss”
Submitted by Donna Quinn

AN INVITATION

Again we have been invited to the Whatcom County Dahlia Society's Annual Picnic. It will be Monday, July 18 at 6pm at Cory Wynne's place this year. Potluck as usual and bring your own utensils and silverware along with chairs. Club will provide beverages and turkey. Everyone is welcome to come.

Directions to Cory's

From the Peace Arch or Pacific Highway crossing.

Take the I5 to Exit 270 (Birch Bay/ Lynden Road). Turn left over the over pass. Proceed 6.6 km to the flashing 4 way stop. Turn right onto Enterprise Way and go 1.6 km. Turn left onto Willey Lake Ro, go 1.2 Km. 1395 is your right just past Melody Lane.

Directions from the Aldergrove Crossing

Follow Guide Meridian Road to Lynden, 7.5 km. Make a right (at Safeway & Dairy Queen) onto Birch Bay/Lynden Road, go 3.3 km. Turn right onto Rathbone Road, go 1.3 km. Rathbone becomes Willey Lake Road, go 2.2 more km. 1395 is on your left just past Torch Place.

BUY AND SELL

Do you have something you would to buy or sell or even give away for free. It doesn't necessarily have to be dahlia oriented. Send me a small ad and I will post it in the bulletin. If you have a photo of the item send that as well.

Tina McNabb
themcnabbs@telus.net

THE DAHLIA COMMUNITY HAS LOST SEVERAL FRIENDS.



Long time member Gordon Stach passed away in late December 2015. Although in the past couple years he had slowed down some, he and his wife Jeannette were very active in growing and showing dahlias. After Jeannette's passing his son David became Gordie's assistant. He was one of biggest contributors to our annual tuber sale each year and bringing buckets of dahlias for our cut flower sales at our annual shows. He was always happy to have visitors to his garden and to show them his latest seedlings. He grew hundreds of seedlings. He had 20 originations that qualified on the ADS bench over the years. Most notably Amethyst Glow, Rusty Rooster, Lil Robin, Rita and Maxine. Gordie and Jeanette hosted the Fraser Valley Dahlia Society's annual picnic for several years. He was a very valuable member of both the Vancouver Dahlia Society and the Fraser Valley Dahlia Society. He will be surely missed.



Pat Preston passed away on April 17th at the age of 90. She and her husband Will were very long time members of the Vancouver Dahlia Society. Although they did not attend the general meeting for quite a few years Pat would always volunteer at our annual tuber sale and our cut flower sales. Pat had a way of brightening everybody's day with her enthusiasm and bubbly personality.

I am also saddened to pass on that Buz Carter member of the Snohomish County Dahlia Society passed away earlier this month. Buz will be remembered for his infectious laugh and his head table wins with Kenora Wildfire and particularly Reginal Keene. He will be greatly missed by the Federation.

In addition, Marge Gitts of Swan Island Dahlias in Canby Oregon, also has passed away at the age of 90.



The 50/50 DRAW

Tickets are still 1 for a Looney - 3 for a Tooney and 10 for \$5.00

REMINDER - Tickets will be on sale at each meeting only until 7:25 PM. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Please come early enough to purchase your tickets before the start of the meeting.

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If there's anything you would like see at a meeting, any ideas or comments you would like to put forth or something you would like to put in the bulletin, please don't hesitate to contact any one of the above listed people here. We are hear to listen.

REFRESHMENT REMINDER

We do like to have 2 volunteers per item if possible

June Meeting

Sandwiches: Vittorio
Sweets: Jennifer & Tina
Fruit/Veggies: Natalie

July Meeting

Sandwiches: Wally & Erika
Sweets: Jack
Fruit/Veggies:

Please bring your own mug to cut cost of purchasing foam cups and to be environmentally friendly.