

## **Linda Gilkeson:**

If you don't have a correct diagnosis, there is no way to successfully treat a problem. Disorders caused by poor growing conditions are more common than you might think and are often mistaken for pests or diseases. This talk provides tips on how to tell whether damage to fruit and vegetables is caused by pathogens, insects, mites, physical injury or growth disorders.

**Bio-** Linda earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from McGill University in 1986. Linda has co-authored pest management training manuals for the government and organic gardening books for Rodale Press. She has self-published three books, most recently *Resilient Gardens 2016: Climate Change, Stress Disorders, Pest Update*. Her comprehensive gardening book, *Backyard Bounty: The Complete Guide to year-Round Organic Gardening in the Pacific Northwest*, has become a BC best seller. Linda is a regular instructor in the Master Gardener programs in BC and is busy year around giving workshops on pest management and organic gardening.

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## **Thomas Hobbs**

...will be showing easy, gorgeous 'mini visions' of plant combos at my farm that 'work' using undemanding plants in exciting tapestries that 'don't need me'. He is a busy guy!  
Most photos are from his 20-acre farm in South Langley, which his partner Brent and he moved to in 2008. Thomas' former life as a florist-to-the-stars was a great training ground for using colour artistically.

He firmly believes that **colour control** is the most important thing in all of gardening.

**bio -** I was born obsessed with plants. I had my first greenhouse in grade six, in Regina, Sask. I sold plants from it! Marigolds were my best sellers. A family move to the west coast was like moving to heaven!

I went to Junior and Senior High in Richmond, BC., and the summer after grade 12, I opened a very tiny plant shop on Dunbar St (in 1972). I built this up to what became Thomas Hobbs Florist, which opened in a grand old TD Bank building on West 41st in 1975! I was only 21 years old. In 1989, Brent and I opened HOBBS, a tasteful gift shop next door to the florist in what was a very ancient Chinese grocery store. We closed this at the end of 2012.

In 1991, Brent and I acquired the nearby, floundering Southlands Nursery and have made it into a dream come true!! Even Martha Stewart put us on her show twice! I have written two books; *Shocking Beauty*, and *The Jewel Box Garden*.

I sold the florist in 1993. It still has my name, but I am not involved. In 2008, Brent and I sold our much-published Spanish/Mission Revival style home in Point Grey and bought a 20-acre farm in South Langley. The land itself is spectacular! With rolling hills, old growth forest (our own Stanley Park), a river and a lake. Here I have lots of room to hybridize bearded iris- my current passion! I also breed daylilies, dahlias, nerines, clivias and orchids. I drive to 'work' every day, but because I don't ever feel it is 'work' at Southlands, the 2 hours there and back is a pleasure!

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## **Linda Chalker-Scott:**

Too often we rely upon horticultural practices that are out-of-date, out-of-place, or scientifically unsound. This seminar will start with a discussion of how to select quality plant material and prepare it for successful establishment. Next we'll look at typical urban soil conditions and discuss how to avoid some common errors in preparing landscape soils. Finally, best installation and management practices will be presented. Throughout the seminar, the most current available science will be used to explain many of these "radical" practices.

## **Bio**

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott has a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Oregon State University and is an ISA certified arborist. She is WSU's Extension Urban Horticulturist and an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. In her position, she develops educational materials for home gardeners, certified arborists, restoration ecologists, pesticide applicators, and the nursery and landscape industry. She is also a regular contributor and science editor for Master Gardener Magazine, a Washington-based quarterly publication that presents scientifically valid information to a popular gardening audience.

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