



## Blue Heaven: Encounters with the Blue Poppy

by Bill Terry

Softcover, 192 pages

6 x 8 inches \$25

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English poet, novelist, and garden writer Vita Sackville-West famously described the Himalayan blue poppy as “the dream of every gardener.” With *Blue Heaven: Encounters with the Blue Poppy*, author Bill Terry offers up an inspiring and thoughtful account of his own insatiable quest for that dream and, in the process, reveals an expert’s insight—that resolute gardeners, particularly in temperate areas of the Pacific Northwest, can surely make that dream come true for themselves.



*Meconopsis* ‘Barney’s Blue’

*Blue Heaven* vividly distills Terry’s own years of experimentation, trial, and error in this pursuit, and his straightforward methods are particularly relevant to our climate as they are based exclusively on his own experiences living and gardening on the Sunshine Coast. After 35 years with CBC Radio and TV, Terry retired there in 1994 determined to devote himself full-time to “creating the perfect garden” —an impossible task, he now agrees; but along the way he managed to succeed in amassing the most diverse collection of Asiatic poppies in Canada, including the blue poppy in several themes and variations as well as many other *Meconopsis* species. *Blue Heaven*, indeed.

Terry eagerly and generously shares the secrets behind his achievement, laying out for readers a set of clear and thorough instructions for successful propagation and cultivation. For those who have previously tried and

failed to grow the fabled poppy, he is keen to encourage them to try again, explaining that earlier failure was likely not their fault, but instead the consequence of simply having used dead seed.

But *Blue Heaven* is a great deal more than just a “how-to” manual for *Meconopsis* lovers. Along with the breathtaking photographs that grace almost every page of this book in a range of bold colours—red, white, yellow, pink, purple, and, of course, many shades of blue—Terry’s obsession for his subject reveals itself further in his effort to share with readers the depth of his passion for its history. He tells of the discovery of the blue poppy in the early 20th century and its subsequent introduction to cultivation, which in turn led to near pandemonium

when the public saw it for the first time at the Royal Horticulture Society’s spring show in 1926.

For Terry, if there is a hero in the story of the blue poppy, other than itself of course, that hero is Frank Kingdon-Ward—“the last of the great plant-hunters.” Travelling in a remote, dangerous, and largely unexplored region of Tibet in 1924, it was Kingdon-Ward who came upon “a stream of blue poppies dazzling as sapphires in the pale light.”

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# Letter from the Chair

The Vancouver Chapter held a special meeting on January 17 with personal invites to all students who took the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 Basic Training classes—190 in all. The idea was to create an opportunity for newer members to be heard and to encourage them to play a greater part in the association. Thirty members attended (which aptly demonstrates our problem). There were lively discussions and some members actually signed up to fill positions on committees. We can consider this event a success and proof that we need to pay attention to the needs of our newer members and ensure that we go out of our way to make them feel welcome and part of the family. For those who attended, I can assure you that the issues raised will be followed up and we will take appropriate action.

I believe that if we are to maintain the interest of our members and motivate our newer members to increasingly participate in our association, then we must, at both provincial and local chapter levels, offer activities and opportunities which stimulate and encourage all our members. I am hoping that this year we will develop a program of activities that will be of interest to everyone.

Since I took office, we have held three Council meetings with good attendance from Vancouver Island Master

Gardeners Association, Victoria Chapter, Summerland Chapter, and the Vancouver Chapter. We have our hands full in trying to develop an Educational Standards Policy, a Policy and Procedures Manual, and a Mission Statement to which all chapters feel they can subscribe. Striking a balance between allowing all chapters to be autonomous and yet having common policies and procedures will be an interesting ongoing challenge. And, of course, there is the imminent Spring Seminar which takes a big effort and which may prove to be a big success again this year. Meanwhile, quietly in the background, major efforts are being made on a continuing basis to publish the Newsletter, maintain and update the Website, schedule the 2009 Clinics, and plan all the Community Projects.

In my Letter from the President-Elect in the December 2008 issue, I committed us to reviewing how we are fulfilling our mission to educate the public. Council has now confirmed that this is our number one goal for 2009. I will keep you updated on our deliberations but I hereby invite all members, throughout the province, to contribute their ideas by email to [roberts\\_bn@yahoo.ca](mailto:roberts_bn@yahoo.ca). Many of you have considerable experience which would be invaluable to us. I look forward to being inundated with comments, ideas, and suggestions. I challenge you to overload my inbox.

—Barry Roberts  
MGABC Chair

## Remembering Doug Hosgood

On February 7 the *Vancouver Sun* ran the obituary for Doug Hosgood, a long-time and very good MG.

Doug took the MG program in 1989 and was very active doing clinics and teaching in the Basic Training program. His specialties were growing roses and vegetables in raised beds.

He lived in Burnaby, where I remember he once did a clinic at Sears, Metrotown, which had a garden shop at that time. I can still recall clearly when Doug phoned me to say we should not be doing any clinics at places like Sears because they were selling those roses in one-gallon waxed (milk) cartons. The roses had sprouted and were etiolated and just generally poor quality. I had to agree.

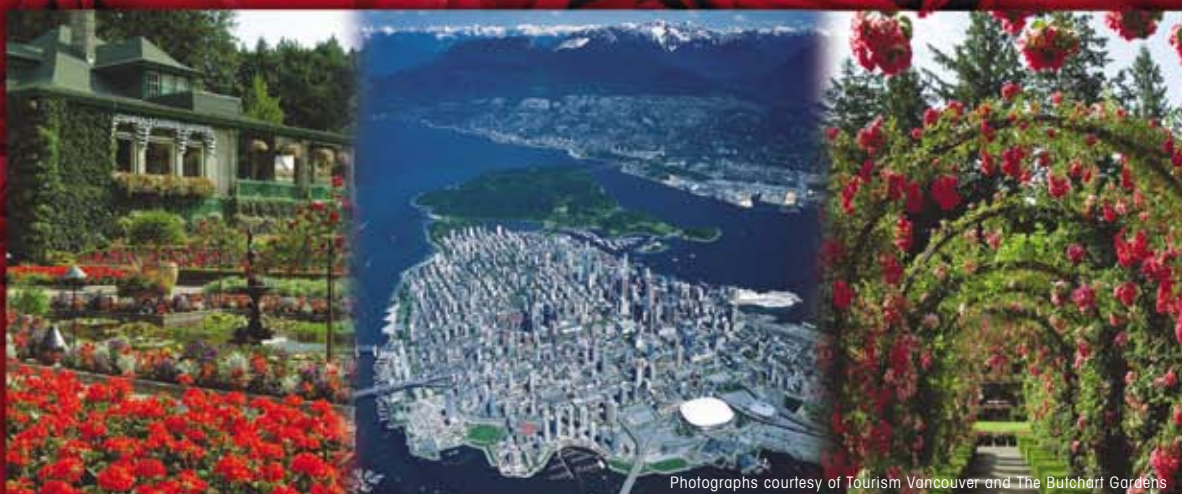
Doug was an active MG until arthritis crippled him, but he loved it that he was kept on the MG membership list and continued to receive the MG newsletter.

—Derry Walsh



## WORLD ROSE CONVENTION | JUNE 18-24, 2009

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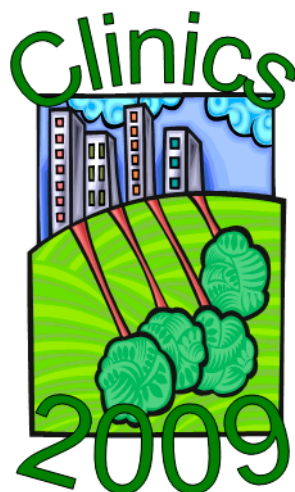
*We look forward to welcoming you. See you in Vancouver!*

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By the time you read this newsletter email signup will be completed and the book will be at VanDusen Botanical Garden until March 6. It will be found near the Administration Office during the week, and the garden shop cashier will have it on weekends. The book will then be at the Spring Seminar on March 8. That will be the last opportunity to make changes directly in the book.

**March 8 is also the last opportunity to check that your clinic choices are listed correctly and make any changes that may be necessary. I would advise this, as I am careful, but not infallible.**

By or before the middle of April you will receive the master clinic list in the mail. The first thing to do when you receive your copy of the master list is to check that all of your clinic selections are listed correctly. At this time, also please ensure that you have recorded the dates, times, and locations on your personal calendar as well.

If you have been designated as the Clinic Coordinator, please review the job description. It will be your responsibility to call the other MGs listed for the clinic; to remind the host that there will be a clinic on that date, and to ensure the pink form is completed and submitted.

If you would like to volunteer at more clinics, then look through the master list to find empty spots, identified by the symbols “~~~~”. Telephone the Area Coordinator, who is listed on the first page of the master list, and ask to be assigned to the empty spot. The Area Coordinator will let you know if the spot is still available. Please take this extra step to register as a volunteer at an open clinic. Do not simply show up as you will not receive credit for those volunteer hours.

If you find you cannot attend a clinic that you are signed up for, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. You can find replacements in several ways.

The email discussion group established expressly for this purpose is one method.

- Sign up for the mgclinics email discussion group by sending an email to [mgclinics-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:mgclinics-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca). Within a couple of days you will receive a response and once you are a member you can post replacement requests to the discussion forum by email.
- The mgclinics forum is a way to find or exchange clinics; it is not a forum for exchange of gardening information or questions.
- Please keep your messages short and to the point. Include the date, place, and time of the clinic you want or must find a replacement for. It is not required or desired that an extended explanation be included.
- Another way to find replacements is to call classmates and offer exchanges.
- As well, you can call the Area Coordinator who may have the names of MGs who are willing to take extra clinics.

If you are able to take on clinics on short notice it would be a great help if you notified the Area Coordinator of your willingness.

You will receive Clinic Information/Who Does What form with the Master Clinic List. Please read it through to refresh and prepare yourself for the coming season.

Have a great year and thank you for your help in making this another successful year for us all.

**—Diane Hartley  
Overall Clinic Coordinator**

# Local Rose Gardens Renovated for 2009 World Rose Legacy Project

When Vancouver organizers set about accommodating some 800 international rosarians for the triennial World Rose Convention (June 18 to 24), and developing the first ever World Rose Festival (June 19 to 21), they decided it was necessary to commemorate the events by thanking the local communities that would be their gracious hosts.

A survey of Lower Mainland rose gardens turned up a few “black spots,” either as a result of funding neglect, use of older and less disease-resistant varieties, and the important steps taken to reduce or eliminate the use of cosmetic pesticides. The Vancouver Rose Society knew that there was a better way. Their rose passion and hobby meant that they were well studied in varieties that could survive and thrive in the local climate, without chemical support.

Committee-member Brad Jalbert, a Langley rose breeder and Select Roses nursery-owner, was dispatched to make contacts with gardeners and administrators and discuss renovation prospects.

Jalbert, who is also the World Rose blogger ([worldrose2009.blogspot.com](http://worldrose2009.blogspot.com)) and a whirling dervish of rose knowledge, quickly found ways to involve public gardens in what would become a massive rose renovation project.

By February 2008, Jalbert had enlisted support from Weeks Roses USA, which jumped in with an offer of 350 plants; Jackson and Perkins Roses USA followed suit with 200 more. Kordes of Germany and Meiland of France each offered 400 or more. Palentine Roses Canada, a small mail-order grower of Kordes roses, provided 30 new disease-free shrub roses. Meanwhile, Brad's own Select Roses offered 200 roses more.



With roses aplenty, Queen Elizabeth Park, VanDusen Garden, Stanley Park, and UBC (Vancouver), Royal Roads University and Government House (Victoria), Queen's Park (New Westminster), and Burnaby Mountain Rose Garden, each subscribed to become part of this lasting legacy. The renovations are well under way, and the World Rose Convention and Festival are extremely pleased to have contributed to the continuing beautification efforts of the local communities.

For more information on and to register for the World Rose Convention, visit [www.worldrose-vancouver2009.com](http://www.worldrose-vancouver2009.com) or call 778-338-4142 for a registration brochure.

For details on the World Rose Festival, how to participate in the Rose Show (a major feature of the Festival and anyone who grows roses can enter), and how to purchase tickets, visit [www.worldrosefestival.com](http://www.worldrosefestival.com).

Communities wishing to participate with an educational or tourism exhibit should send a message to [opportunities@worldrosefestival.com](mailto:opportunities@worldrosefestival.com) or call 604-984-6449.

# Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Welcome New MGs in Training

After 12 weeks of classes and after successfully completing the final exam 23 new students joined the Vancouver Island Master Gardener's Association on January 31, boosting membership to 89. Students had travelled from as far north as Courtenay and as far south as Cobble Hill to attend classes held in Parksville. Despite the record snowfall in December and more snow in January only one class had to be cancelled due to weather. A warm welcome to our new recruits—we look forward to getting to know everyone better at spring and summer clinics and MG events.

## Seedy Saturday and Sunday on the Island

Northern and mid-Vancouver Island has three Seedy Saturdays this spring. Qualicum Beach hosted the first Seedy Saturday on February 7 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. Originally organized back in 2003 by Sally Shivers and Kim Hammond, two Master Gardeners who did their basic training in Vancouver, Qualicum's Seedy Saturday used to be considered the first Seedy Saturday in Canada, but we now have competition from Guelph and Pickering, Ontario. I was happy to see that the Seeds of Diversity website ([www.seeds.ca](http://www.seeds.ca)) lists no less than 44 seedy events scheduled for venues all across the country, beginning on February 7 and running through to April 18.

Attendance at the Qualicum event achieved a record crowd this year, with close to 1,800 people attending what in my estimation was the best event ever. Along with the exchange of treasured seeds, more than 55 vendors participated in this year's event. On the theme of

Gardening Year Round, three knowledgeable speakers gave different perspectives on growing food.

Courtenay and Nanaimo coordinate their dates so that seed vendors can attend both events. Visit Seedy Saturday in Courtenay on Saturday, March 7, at Filbert Centre, and, in Nanaimo, on Sunday, March 1, at Bowen Park Auditorium.

Seedy Saturdays signal the hope for a new gardening year. With seeds in hand we return home with visions of summer gardens in our heads as we wait impatiently for spring to arrive.

—Janet Sawatsky



VIMGA Seedy Saturday MGs from right, Bev Ford and Sheila McWha

## Victoria Hardy Plant Group Weekend features Speakers, Plant Sales, and More

Victoria Master Gardeners are excited that their parallel organization, the Victoria Hardy Plant Group, is sponsoring this year's Pacific Northwest Hardy Plant Study Weekend, June 19 to 21, at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. Speakers include Dan Heims, author, plant explorer, and president of Terra Nova Nurseries in Canby, Oregon; Philip MacDougall, plant explorer in Chile, Taiwan, and Tasmania; Julie Moir Messervy, author and landscape designer; and Mary Toomey, author and founder of the Ranunculaceae Society in Dublin, Ireland.

The study weekend will include plant sales, garden visits on Friday and Saturday afternoons, and a wonderful garden party at Glendale Gardens on Saturday evening featuring wine and finger foods from Feys + Hobbs. For registration, please visit [www.islandnet.com/~voltaire/HardyPlant.htm](http://www.islandnet.com/~voltaire/HardyPlant.htm).

# Spring Seminar 2009

## The Ever-Changing Garden

Sunday, March 8, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Michael J. Fox Theatre, 7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby

Our gardens are always changing—sometimes changes are in our control, sometimes not, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse, but no matter what, our gardens change. We need to be aware of the things that have changed over the years, both within and outside our control.

When changes are beyond our control we can learn how to control our reaction to them. With this in mind there are four speakers lined up for the day, each bringing his or her own thoughts and ideas of how we can manage some of our garden changes—those which are necessary and unavoidable, those which are good for us, those in the environment and those that will affect others. The speakers are:

- *Dr. Richard Hebda, Royal BC Museum*
- *Gail Wallin, Invasive Plant Council of BC (new speaker)*
- *John Gibeau, Honeybee Centre*
- *Lindsay Coulter, David Suzuki Foundation*

Come join us for the day. There will be plant and compost sales, a silent auction, door prizes, and other vendors.

Cost \$45. Registration is open to anyone and is available at the door. Please make cheques payable to Master Gardeners Association of BC (MGABC). Visit [www.bcmastergardeners.org](http://www.bcmastergardeners.org) for more information or registration forms.

## Blue Heaven is “an irresistible book.”

*continued from page 1*

In recounting attempts to cultivate this most prized of poppies, Terry describes the consequences of undocumented hybridizing when the two blue poppy species first acquainted themselves in gardens. The confusion and misnaming that ensued, as well as recent attempts to sort that out, are all addressed. He then proceeds to give special attention to the gardens in Scotland where the world's finest *Meconopsis* collections are now to be found, including named sterile hybrids of unsurpassable beauty. Also highlighted is the Les Jardins de Métis, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, Quebec, where some 10,000 stalwart perennial plants of a single blue poppy species (*M. betonicifolia*) thrive in a woodland glade.



*Meconopsis aculeata*

The allure of the blue poppy and the passion of the author for his subject are eloquently summed-up in a back-cover note by 2007 Scotiabank Giller Prize winner, Elizabeth Hay, who calls *Blue Heaven* “An irresistible book. Bill Terry’s ardent account of the fabled Blue Poppy is elegant, humorous, and bracingly practical—a master class in gardening, the record of a 30-year passion, a chronicle of other gardeners and plant hunters equally possessed. Author and subject are a match made in heaven. I loved the book all the way to the end.”

While considering such praise, readers should nonetheless proceed with caution. In another back-cover note, award-winning journalist, broadcaster, author, and environmental activist Des Kennedy issues this warning: “Beware, *Meconopsis* obsession may follow.”

True enough, admits Terry, adding without hesitation, “But what a magnificent obsession.”

—J.R. Rendón

# Coreopsis Beetle

## This little-known beetle can be highly destructive

In the spring of 2008, two of my three *Coreopsis* plants were destroyed by a beetle that looked deceptively like a benign, aphid-eating ladybug. Although B.C. entomologist Linda Gilkeson was able to identify the beetle as *Calligrapha californica coreopsivora*, initial attempts to find information about it in local gardening literature were unsuccessful. Considering the damage to my *Coreopsis*, and the likelihood that other gardeners probably have also seen it, I wanted to help MGs identify this bug and fill a serious gap in the literature for Pacific Northwest gardeners.



Coreopsis beetles are about 1/4-inch (.6 cm) long, dark brown with three (not five or seven) heavy stripes on the



*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*  
(Striped ladybug)  
Photo: Tracy D. Porter

### Initial observations

In early May 2008, I noticed what I initially thought were hordes of lady beetles on my seed grown *Coreopsis grandiflora* “Sonnenkind” plants. I had three *C. grandiflora*, so checked all three. One was clear of the beetles but the most heavily infested had about 60 beetles on it and perhaps 25 to 30 were eating the third one. I have a large garden with a variety of plants, so I checked and found no beetles anywhere else. They were 100 percent confined to the *Coreopsis*.

My first error was to misidentify them as something benign and I wondered why I would have such an abundance of lady beetles on that one species. I then noticed that, although they were the right size and general colour to be lady beetles, they had stripes, not

spots. Coccinellids, the group of beetles commonly known as lady beetles, are usually recognized by the presence of spots, not stripes, on their backs. However, a very few Coccinellid beetles with stripes on their elytra include *Hippodamia falcigera*, *Hyperaspidius vittigerus*, and *Macronaemia episcopalis*, but they look clearly different from the *Coreopsis* beetle.

I then noticed there were no aphids on the *Coreopsis* and the beetles were actually eating the plant buds, stems, and leaves.

My second error was to conclude that, given the huge number of these beetles on a small plant, they must be something common, and local gardening literature and internet data would have information on them. But by the time I realized I could not properly identify them, the

*Coreopsis* had already been killed and I’d disposed of all the beetles I could find. However, during the infestation, I was able to get some digital photos which I later sent to Linda Gilkeson for her review.

### Identification

I am grateful to Linda Gilkeson for providing the initial identification of the beetle. Then, early in 2009, Karen Needham, the curator of the Spencer Entomological Museum at UBC, confirmed that *Calligrapha* is well known by British Columbia entomologists and has been seen to be associated with different plants, including *Coreopsis* species, *Bidens dentata* and *B. puberula*, dahlias, *Eupatorium*, *Ambrosia*, *Solidago* (goldenrod), *Veronica americana* and *Balsamorhiza sagittata* (arrow-leaved balsamroot, frequently seen in dry areas of British Columbia).

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# “Manual removal of the beetles is an effective control mechanism.”



*Calligrapha c. californica*



*Calligrapha c. coreopsivora*

## Identification

Needham confirmed that two subspecies of the beetle are known here: *Calligrapha californica californica* and *C. californica coreopsivora*. *Calligrapha californica californica* is identified by a small, light-coloured diagonal patch on the outside elytra stripe, which is missing on *Calligrapha californica coreopsivora*. These pictures are of typical specimens of the two “subspecies”.

The beetle infesting my *Coreopsis* was *C. c. coreopsivora*. It is likely much more common in local gardens than the lack of information about them implies. Manual removal of the beetles is an effective control mechanism.

## Remaining questions

I have yet to determine why the Coreopsis beetle chose to infest my garden. What was it that attracted them? Why did they appear now? I never noticed this beetle up until 2008 and I've gardened in Metro Vancouver since 1979. Have other MGs found the same beetle on their *Coreopsis* and misidentified them as lady beetles? Certainly we want to help the gardening public identify these pests and remove them from their garden plants before damage is done.

—Don Wilson



*Coreopsis grandiflora* 'Sonnenkind'

# Cypripediums

## The Large, the Small, and the In-Betweens

*Cypripedium parviflorum* is the lovely North American yellow slipper orchid. Due to a recent unfortunate but necessary name change, this group of orchids was renamed to the present “*parviflorum*” from the former “*calceolus*.” These Latin names refer to the flowers of these slipper orchids. *Calceolus* means “carrying a small shoe,” and now describes only the yellow slippers of Europe. *Parviflorum*, which describes all North American yellow slipper orchids, means “small-flowered.” This is a bit of a misnomer, as some varieties challenge the European yellow slippers in flower and plant size, if not out-classing them altogether.

The different *Cypripedium parviflorum* varieties are distributed in North America, from coast to coast and from the mid-United States up into the arctic regions of Canada. Due to this large growing region, many distinct flower sizes and shapes have evolved. The mid-section of North America is the home of some of the largest plant and flower varieties. It is interesting to note that this region has also the smallest flowered variety.



### Some interesting observations

The tallest and largest flowering varieties are the slowest to increase in plant size, usually doubling in clump-size per season, whereas the mid-size and smaller flowered plants clump-up relatively fast, increasing more than four-fold per season. Where plants are left undisturbed, seedlings will appear close to established plants after several years. Allow some three to five years for these seedlings to bloom.

### How we grow them

The different *Cypripedium*s that we own we have accumulated over some 18 years from diverse sources. Some were blooming-size plants or divisions at time of purchase; others were seedlings. We grow all in plastic pots, one gallon and larger. Growing in pots minimizes damage to roots of the plant and nearby plants.

The pots are placed on a gravel bed in a raised 18-inch deep flower bed. The gravel is some 5 inches deep and has three 4-inch plastic

drain pipes running through it. This facilitates excellent drainage, a necessity in the Pacific Northwest. The flower bed measures some 4 × 8 feet. The space between the pots is filled with fir bark mulch to prevent slug damage. The pots are top dressed with the same material.

A movable shade canopy is used to shield the plants from the afternoon sun or heavy rainfall. In December, plastic sheets are placed over the whole flowerbed, keeping a 12-inch space between the pots and the cover for air circulation. This cover is removed at the end of February. The purpose of this cover is to provide conditions similar to those that exist east of the Rocky Mountains where most of these orchids originated and where they get no rain for most of the winter.

### The planting mix

The planting medium also takes into consideration the West Coast weather conditions, and good drainage is planned for. Also consideration is given to the soil requirements of these orchids. Most grow near moving water and prefer a slightly alkaline soil condition. Our mix consists of equal parts of



*continued on next page*

# Slipper Orchids

“Most grow near moving water and prefer a slightly alkaline soil condition.”

crushed lava rock, medium-size perlite, and commercially available compost (without sand). To this mix smaller amounts of crushed oyster shells and bone meal are added. Planting is done before the medium is wetted, to facilitate better packing between the roots. To test the planting medium, place some into a pot and pack it down as if planting an orchid. Add water to the mix. If the water takes more than four seconds to disappear from the surface of the mix, more lava rock needs to be added.

## Watering and fertilizer

We fill a 20-gallon plastic garbage can with tap water and add one tablespoon (15 ml) of water-soluble powder fertilizer, such as Schultz Orchid Food 19-31-17. I have used other brands and found no performance differences.

The plants are hand-watered with this solution every other day on non-rainy days, when the cover has been removed in early spring and continuing during their active growth season. It is also used on all other hardy orchids in our garden.

It is almost impossible to let the plants dry out at this time of the year on the west coast of British Columbia. When the first growth of orchids is visible in the spring, I pay more attention to the watering and make sure that the planting medium never becomes dry. After flowering, less water is given, usually two or three times a week and fertilizer is added only once a week or less. When the seed pods have developed, no more fertilizer is used. Please remember, these are “wild” plants and will not tolerate

over-fertilizing. If you get black or brown edges near the tip of the leaves, quit fertilizing.

## Seeds and plantlets

Most of these slippers develop seed pods. Since there is no control over the pollination process, nature is left to its own. If left undisturbed for several years, most pots will show



new plantlets, mostly near the base of mature plants. After a couple of years, some can be identified by their appearance; others need to bloom to be positively classified. These seedlings should remain several years in this position before they are planted-on to insure replanting success.

Interestingly, several seedlings have germinated in pots of different species of slippers (that is, *C. parviflorum* in *C. reginae* pots and vice versa) yet none of the slipper seedlings has been found outside the special “Slipper Bed.” Other orchids in our garden, especially the *Dactylorhiza*, have colonized parts

of our garden, some a fair distance from the assumed parent plants.

## Dividing and replanting

The best time to divide all slipper orchids is during blooming, or right after. At that time the plant has developed a small new shoot or several of them, depending on the species or variety. These shoots are less easily damaged at this time because new roots have yet to appear. If you wait too long and larger shoots are damaged, the plant will likely show smaller growth and take a year or longer to bloom. Just don't give up, but hope.

We have found that by growing *Cypripediums* in a separate place in our garden we have more control. The individual plants can be observed from the time they appear in the spring until they go dormant in the fall. In their natural setting there is physical support from many nearby plants, which is totally lacking in pot culture. Therefore, we find it necessary to stake some plants. The use of fir bark mulch has helped prevent slug damage, especially during the early growth stage. When the plants have somewhat matured, little slug or insect damage is observed. Reportedly, rabbits and deer do not damage yellow slipper orchids.

There you have it, a beautiful group of hardy orchids that are very easily cultivated in your garden. They are readily available from several sources, including local garden stores. Native slipper orchids add exotic flavour to your home garden and we wish you much enjoyment in growing them.

—Carla and Bill Bischoff



# Newsletter

of the Master Gardeners Association  
of British Columbia  
in Association with  
VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association

## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia is to provide information about gardening to the community and to educate people about environmentally responsible gardening practices.

Please send all **contact information changes** to Pat Taylor, membership chair.

All other **newsletter correspondence** can be sent to the editor, Ann-Marie Metten, at [ametten@telus.net](mailto:ametten@telus.net).

Newsletter layout by Wendy Jones.

The MG Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. **Deadline for submissions** to the June newsletter is April 30, 2009.

[www.bcmastergardeners.org](http://www.bcmastergardeners.org)  
[gardener@bcmastergardeners.org](mailto:gardener@bcmastergardeners.org)



# MG Calendar

All events take place in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Garden, unless otherwise noted

## No meeting in March

### Sunday, March 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spring seminar  
Michael J. Fox Theatre  
Burnaby South High School  
5455 Rumble Street, Burnaby

### Sunday, March 22, to

**Thursday, March 26**  
2009 International MG Conference  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Find out more at  
[www.unce.unr.edu/imgc](http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc)

### Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.

General meeting  
Gwen Odermatt  
*Great Plant Picks*  
Plants available for purchase

### Friday, May 1, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Workshop  
Dr. Linda Gilkeson  
*Diagnosing Insect Problems*  
\$25 fee  
To register, contact [slazar@shaw.ca](mailto:slazar@shaw.ca)

### Tuesday, May 12, 9:30 a.m.

General meeting  
Juliano Pasko, MG  
*The YWCA's Vegetable Roof Garden*

### Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m.

Annual Master Gardener  
Garden Party

### Friday, June 19, to Sunday, June 21

World Rose Festival  
Vancouver Convention and  
Exhibition Centre  
Find out more at [www.worldrose-vancouver2009.com](http://www.worldrose-vancouver2009.com)

## Master Gardeners Association of British Columbia 2009 Local Chapter Executive

### Vancouver

*Chair:* Barry Roberts  
*Past Chair:* Lynne  
Christmas  
*1st Vice-Chair:* Susan  
Lazar  
*2nd Vice-Chair:* Penny  
Koch  
*Secretary:* Heather  
Nielsen  
*Treasurer:* Ron Fawcett  
*Member-at-Large:* Leslie  
Ingram  
*Bylaws:* Lynne Christmas  
*Nominations:* Lynne  
Christmas  
*Basic Training (BT):*  
Doreen Godwin  
*Clinic Coordinator:* Diane  
Hartley  
*Community Projects:*  
Joyce Fitz-Gibbon  
Cheri Trewin

### Plant Information Line:

Sheila Watkins  
*VanDusen Seed*  
*Collectors:* Heather Gillis  
*Seedy Saturday:* Lynne  
Christmas  
*Monthly Meetings:* Susan  
Lazar  
*Workshops / Field Trips:*  
Susan Lazar  
*Speakers Group:* -vacant-  
*Telephone:* Colleen Martin  
*Welcome Table:* Shirley  
Mason  
*Audio-Visual (meetings):*  
Ken McDonald  
*Coffee:* Sue Damm  
Ingrid Gowans  
*Plant Sales:* Joan Bentley  
Loretta Barr

### Summerland

*Program Coordinator:*  
Caroline Hill  
*Past Program*  
*Coordinator:* Linda Sears  
*Secretary:* Joyce Booker  
*Treasurer:* Karen Taylor  
Overall Clinic Coordinator:  
Joy Campbell  
*Basic Training*  
*Coordinators:* Lorrie  
Henderson (Kelowna)  
Leslie Welch (Kamloops)  
**Vancouver Island**  
*Chair:* Pam Harrison  
*Vice Chair:* Sally Shivers  
*Secretary:* Karen Bennett  
*Treasurer:* Kathy  
Westhaver  
*Master Planner (Clinics):*  
Linda Derkach

### Victoria

*President:* Sue Wright  
*Past President:* Jan  
Hemming  
*Vice President:* Linda  
Sheridan  
*Secretary:* Loredana  
Simpson  
*Treasurer:* Noralee Kirton  
Membership Services  
*Chair:* Rebecca Villa-Arce  
*Education Chair:* Hope  
Hilliard  
*Activity & Certification*  
*Chair:* Claire Pullman  
*Clinics Chair:* Chris  
Neilson  
*Training & Mentoring*  
*Chair:* Mike Juleff  
**Prince George**  
*Basic Training*  
*Coordinator:*  
Sheila Malbeuf