

MAPLE COMMUNITY NEWS

Organic Urban Gardening

Kudos

The biggest we can imagine to Carol for being so supportive to all of us through her role as Secretary. Thank you Carol.

Kudos as well to Karen C. who is going to give the Secretary position a try, at least until the Spring AGM. Nobody else stepped up, and she didn't want us to be shorthanded.

To Natalie for dealing with our finances as well as to Joyce who gave her a helping hand.

What to plant

Learning how to nurture healthy soil is the first step towards sustainable agriculture. There are various schools of thought on how to best do so, and we encourage you to talk with other gardeners about their methods.

A [CBC article with a VanDusen Garden apprentice](#) makes suggestions on preparing the soil now for the Spring. Think of this Fall prep as a good investment that you'll enjoy next year.



From your Executive

Happy October friend gardeners, and what a fine one it has been.

Our last work party of the year was wonderful. While the turnout was not large - see photo above - a lot got accomplished under a gorgeous blue sky and warm sun. Note that the water has now been turned off for the season. Thanks to Kate who brought beautiful apple and red current / apple sauces and bread for all to enjoy. The red currents came from [Johnson's Landing Retreat Centre](#) in Kaslo B.C. which she highly recommends checking out. Apparently it is quite the inspiring place. In any case, the sauces were lovely.





Kits Bees

Wasps - pictured above - brutal, insistent, numerous and fatal. Another hive has been lost to their ceaseless offensive.

All hopes are on our great granddaughter in the West hive. Thankfully, she is strong and still defending well.



Here or not?

Though the decision was taken to remove the composers from Section 5, they still need to finish composting what they contain. In light of this please do NOT put anything in them.

Appropriate items such as grass clippings, and cut up clean and disease free garden clippings can still be put in the Section 4 composter.

Though there is less to feast on, the garden is teeming with life and a joyous place to be in. It's becoming rare to see the communal areas without someone enjoying themselves, alone or with a friend in peace. These spaces are a special and beautiful gift from our community to the greater one. We are all so very honoured to be part of it. (That said, you might want to keep an eye on the figs in Communal A - if you get a good one, they're pretty yummy.)

After some six months of build up, Henry and Trevor at [everclean Recycling](#) offered us one of the first samples of their upcoming line of planter boxes. It can be found right behind Marg's bench, temporarily planted with two pots. Made from recycled plastic and wood pellets, they hope to open their factory in Abbotsford. Astoundingly dense, the box has an expected 20 year lifespan, and when finished is intended to be ground up and recycled into new product. We are hoping to convince the city to use us as a trial garden - on fences, the tool shed or the accessible beds - to see how it stands up here. MCG is seemingly at the instar of cleaning up the tons of waste we as a society have so foolishly generated. Thank you Henry and Trevor.

Your exec has been asked to (re)communicate the following invasive weed information, after which we will return to our regularly scheduled programming. Morning glory/bindweed, buttercup, gout weed, couch grass/crab grass, etc. We all need to return to more diligent removal of these Invasive plants as they are building up again, especially around edges Section fence lines and individual plot boxes. These weeds are extremely aggressive. They have very deep roots that multiply like crazy and spread rapidly to neighbouring plots and sections. In fairness to your fellow gardeners, please be diligent in digging out and removing roots as deeply as possible on a regular basis and disposing of the roots, stems, tops and seed Away from the garden. Do NOT put any part of these invasive plants in the composter.

Wishing everyone a beautiful Fall, enjoying the changing world around us, preparing our gardens for the future while enjoying the present. May you all find a friend with peace in you hearts in the garden soon.

Your Maple Community Garden Exec