

MAPLE COMMUNITY NEWS

Organic Urban Gardening

Kudos

To Karen, Joyce and Carol who have taken their time to help your Exec prepare for the upcoming AGM. We all owe these three a sincere thank you for all that they do for us.

To Aaron and Mark for their cyber gardening. Those digital fields are challenging to farm.

What to plant

Pac-Choi and spinach can be direct sown now IF they are covered. By March, no cover should be needed.

Broad beans and mustard greens can go in now without problem. Start Fennel, asparagus, onions and parsley indoors for transplanting later.

Depending on how your plot was left for the Winter, you might think about a layer of manure and mulch on top. It will warm the soil as it decays, and fertilize for the upcoming season.

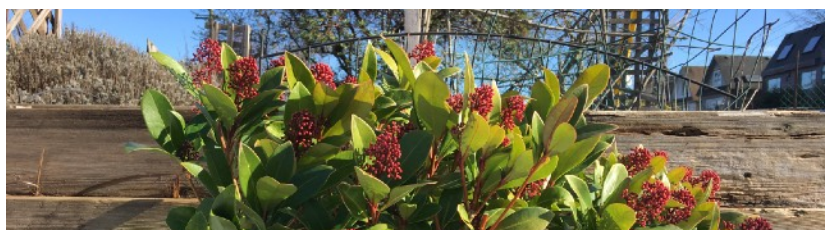
Don't forget that our soil tends to be acidic. Adding some lime now will allow it to sink in.



From your Executive

Happy Winter in all its glory dear gardeners - finally a bit of cold to beat back some pests, with the added bonus of sunshine.

The Spring AGM is this Sunday, February 24th from 10:00 - 12:00. Everyone should have received their information email containing the agenda with the Fall AGM minutes, finance report, and proposed updated contract to vote on. While no-one stepped up to organize a seed swap, all are still encouraged to bring any saved seeds that they might like to offer. In any case, do come early to share a moment with others, enjoy a treat and allow us to start promptly at 10:00 AM.





Seeds, local seeds

The [BC Eco Seed Co-op](#) is the only province wide co-op committed to providing 100% BC grown seeds to gardeners, are all organic, open-pollinated and regionally selected. Check out their "[seedy events](#)" page, score some clean seeds, support our farmers and learn something new.



Membership at work

Our Membership Chair has been hard at work going through the waitlist and assigning plots. Mothé has gone so far as to meet with the newest gardeners already and given them a basic introduction. Every seasoned gardener is encouraged to welcome the new ones and guide them throughout their first season.

The Spring AGM marks the beginning of a new season, and after cleaning up the detritus from last season, moves into tilling for the new one. This part of the AGM is really about "what is it that you would like to plant in the garden of our community this season? How would you like to contribute to its evolution? Like any garden, the healthiest communities are tended by thoughtful and involved gardeners. From single day projects all the way to the executive, opportunities to pitch in abound.

Anyone who has taken the time to look through the finance report enclosed with your AGM has seen that the great fence project of 2018 pretty much broke the bank. While we should have the funds to - finally - finish the tool shed, we are otherwise strapped for cash. With this in mind, gardeners might be interested in applying for a [Neighbourhood Small Grant](#). There are two types of grants available, one focused on building community, and the other sustainability. (Our bees were originally established with the help of a grant.) Plant a communal seed by coming up with a plan and applying before the deadline April 9th.

One of the main pieces of business at the pre-Spring AGM exec meeting is the evaluation of gardeners participation. While some gardeners saw the writing on the wall and chose to leave the garden, your exec made the decision to terminate two gardeners who did not fulfill their obligations for the second year in a row. Two others were put on conditional. While we understand that life happens and sometimes the garden needs to take a back seat, please do recall that gardeners are permitted to take a year off without penalty IF they notify the exec early on and someone is found to take over their plot for the season. It is not fair to the other gardeners, nor to those volunteering their time on the exec to have to do the work of and enforce the issues of non-compliant gardeners. We ask that you please be honest with yourself, and if you can't at a minimum fulfill your contractual obligations without being scolded, then please do not sign up again. These plots are far too precious to go to waste, and there is much too much to do for any member to not pull their own weight. Thank you for your honesty.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM as well as to a great season of collective work, smiles and community in 2019,

Your Maple Community Garden Exec