

# Maple Community Garden Mail

## Organic Urban Gardening

### Kudos

To Suzanne who in spite of her busy schedule is easing into her new role as Secretary wonderfully - and this while getting us a grant and organizing the building of our new tool shed.

To Natalie and Malachi who have worked on and off over the last three years to design and redesign the tool shed and of course to Malachi and his helpers for the building of said.

This one was a long time coming, but should serve our community well for many years. We are astoundingly fortunate to have such dedicated and talented people in our midsts. Thank you one and all.

### What to plant

There's a small window for overwinter broccoli and cabbage, so act quickly if you desire either. There is also time for a last batch of peas, ditto turnips, Swiss chard and spinach. Get your greens on with arugula, cress, lettuce and endive.

There is also still time to spice things up with onions and scallions. Don't forget that these are greedy, so you might think of adding some organic fertilizer beforehand.



## From your Executive

Happy Summer dear garden community. Whether this finds you at home or traveling, high summer is such a precious time. As many of us are on vacation, please remember that food is not allowed to be left to rot in the garden, as it attracts pests. So if you have been helping to keep plots watered, please do pick anything from those plots that is at the peak of perfection.

Your exec has received an invitation for all members to participate in a UBC research project that is looking into “nature-based solutions for a multifunctional community.” They are asking us as a community and as individuals to participate in a study that aims to generate city-wide, quantitative evidence on the “diverse benefits of community gardens that are important for communities in Vancouver.” The collected information will serve as a basis for understanding our garden, and the factors that influence how and who benefits from community gardening in



the city. All gardeners are invited to take the survey either in person, or on-line. It is important that our voices be heard, so please participate by clicking [here](#). Additionally, gardeners are requested to keep a month long diary about their practices and experiences in the garden. Don't be afraid, it isn't a time suck and has some potentially important implications for both ourselves and the greater community around us. Your exec will also be meeting on-site for a recorded interview.

The BC Council of Garden Clubs - who among other things help gardens like ours obtain the required insurance - is already gearing up for it's Fall AGM. This year, [Dr. Richard Hebda](#) will speak about climate change, and its implications for gardeners. Dr. Nick Wong will also give an update about the Japanese beetle which is becoming a dangerous invasive species in BC. There will be new vendors, old favourites, a fabulous floral display, and super-helpful break-out workshops. Mark the date: October 26th. All can, and are encouraged to register by clicking [here](#).

While beautiful, many of the wildflowers North of the fence are starting to go to seed. Please take the time to cut them back so they don't spread into our plots. Every gardener is needed for this process.

The Westside bed of gorgeous poppies has been cleaned up, and Rosemary would like to plant drought resistant succulents there. If anyone has some at home that they can split, please let us know.

Wonderful news everyone; bees are back in the garden! More on this next newsletter. Thanks Malachi, well done.

Our next work parties are on Mon. Jul 22nd from 19:00-21:00, Thurs. Aug. 8th from 18:30 - 20:30, as well as Mon. Aug. 26th also from 18:30 - 20:30. There are not a lot of work parties left, so if you've fallen behind on your required four, it is important to participate. If you've already completed your required four, kudos to you, but don't let that stop you from coming out to play with us.

May we all garden in peace, share love and kindness, and always find a friend in each other; your Maple Community Garden Exec.



[maplecommunitygarden.ca](http://maplecommunitygarden.ca)



## Wisdom from Ontario

While at a farmers market in Ontario, your chair spoke with farmer John (above) who suggested putting a nail in the ground by the roots of tomato plants in order to give them beautiful colour as well as flavor. By the look and taste of his early ones, it works. John also suggested that it works beautifully for roses as well. Your chair for one is excited to give it a try.



## Gardens and health...

Looking for a short read about the relationships between nature and health? Your Chair recommends [this article](#) from the N.Y. Times. It has him wondering if perhaps the health and longevity of our current eldest gardener Jean is not somehow aided by her deep commitment to our community; an inspiration to take more on to say the least.