



Why will my Lilac not bloom?

There are several reasons why a tree or shrub that would normally flower suddenly becomes hesitant to do so.

The most common reason is simply pruning at the wrong time. Most of our spring blooming specimens bloom on the branches that grew the previous year, having set flower buds in August. Pruning these shrubs in fall or spring will result in removal of flower buds prior to bloom time. This includes lilacs, white flowering spireas, Persian yellow roses and our native roses. These plants should only be pruned right after they complete blooming – usually in early July, and not trimmed in the fall.

The second cause for this lack of blooming is environmental and results in a simple lack of sufficient vigour to set flower buds again, resulting in no blooms. This includes—drought, stress, overcrowding, and competition from larger more aggressive plants such as poplars or willows. Also most plants that bloom require full sun to bloom and will not perform the same in shade.

In summary, make sure your flowering plants have adequate fertilizer to keep them healthy, make sure they get watered to help eliminate drought and stress. Make sure they are not overcrowded or placed in the shade and are pruned at the right time and they should perform beautifully every year.



Why should I use a Garden Bandit?

- Easy to use!
- Eliminate setbacks & sore backs!
- Cuts away from roots—preventing damage
- Improves soil health
- Improves high clay soils
- Prevents compacting

This concept is incorporated into the Garden Bandit and Telesco-Weeder and allows you to get all the benefits of proper cultivation plus removal of weeds without damaging your desired plants! The thin blade and open “Flo-thru” design allows the soil to remain in place – reducing your work load as the tool works its magic. Plus, being pure Stainless Steel, the blades are very strong and will never rust out, providing you with years of gardening pleasure!



Garden Bandit

20% OFF

Limit one coupon per customer
While quantities last
Expiry date: July 30th, 2013



To Do List for July/August/September

July

- ⇒ Keep hanging baskets and window boxes well watered, fed and deadheaded. Fertilizing (with a fertilizer such as Plant Prod water soluble, 15-30-15 flowering plant fertilizer) and removing spent blooms (deadheading) allows the plant to continue to set new blooms all season.
- ⇒ Fertilize rhododendrons and blueberries with plant food for acid-loving plants (Aluminum Sulfate).
- ⇒ Spread available compost over all beds. Then overhaul and turn the remaining compost pile.
- ⇒ Remove suckering shoots from roses and fruit trees.
- ⇒ Prune deciduous shrubs that have finished blooming (such as Lilac bushes, June flowering roses and Spireas).
- ⇒ Prune Birch and Maple trees before the middle of July (usually done mid-June to mid-July)

August

- ⇒ Deadhead annuals and some perennials for continued bloom. Some decorative seed heads can be left.
- ⇒ Reduce watering trees, shrubs and perennials on a regular schedule but reduce volumes to encourage winter hardiness.
- ⇒ Continue fertilizing annual plantings and containers.
- ⇒ Discontinue fertilizing trees, shrubs, roses and perennials to encourage winter hardiness
- ⇒ Stop deadheading hardy roses in late August.
- ⇒ Carefully remove mildewed or black-spotted foliage from roses and place in plastic garbage bags for disposal
- ⇒ Take geranium cuttings, etc., before the first frost.
- ⇒ Make a list of spring bulbs to acquire then purchase any required.
- ⇒ Top off tomatoes in early Aug to encourage finishing of existing fruit
- ⇒ To keep containers going as long as possible, cover them or place them indoors if frost is predicted.

September

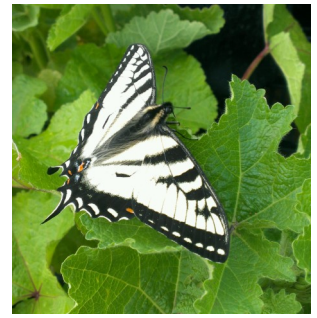
- ⇒ Plant spring flowering bulbs as soon as possible—Arriving at Parkland in early September
- ⇒ This is the last chance to lift, divide and replant irises.
- ⇒ Continue weeding; place any weeds that have gone to seed in the garbage (not your compost pile).
- ⇒ Assemble a supply of frost covers. Parkland Garden Centre carries them in various sizes.
- ⇒ Following overnight frosts, mist tender flowers with sprinkler before the sun touches them; you may save some.
- ⇒ Cut flowers that preserve well and save them for winter containers. Globe thistle and nigella both preserve well.
- ⇒ Be sure to visit Parkland Garden Centre to see our fall displays, have our horticulturists answer all your questions, and check out what's new!

How to Attract Butterflies & Hummingbirds

By Heritage Perennials

Gardens and Nature

In addition to being beautiful, gardens can be a place where humans and nature meet and interact in a positive and beneficial way. Imagine watching colourful butterflies flitting around the border, moving from flower to flower in search of the tasty nectar within. Or sitting perfectly still while a bright green hummingbird investigates a blossom not five feet away from you! Butterflies and hummingbirds exist naturally over most of the populated areas of our continent, although species vary from region to region. By planting flowering plants that are their favourite food sources, we can easily set the stage for the local population to become regular visitors to our gardens, providing them with a much needed source of nutrition, and giving the gardener an opportunity to view them often, and from close proximity.



What attracts them?

Butterflies are guided by the invisible world of scent and smells. Certain kinds of flowers give off a fragrance that butterflies find attractive, a signal that the plant may be a source of sweet nectar for the insects to feed on.

Hummingbirds are guided by visual means, and are especially attracted to certain shades of red. Many red coloured flowers just happen to be good sources of nectar – a clever signal from Mother Nature.

What's in it for the plant?

Often the plants benefit from being pollinated by butterflies. Why flowers attract hummingbirds is a little less clear.

So where do I start?

Decide which perennial plants to include in your garden. Included in this article are a number of annuals and other plants that are also useful for this purpose.

Get the whole family involved! This kind of interactive nature project is an ideal way to introduce kids into the garden, and they may have already studied this at school!

Which part of the garden is best?

Choose a location that gets full sun for the better portion of the day. Both butterflies and hummingbirds appreciate the warmth from the sun, and will be guided more quickly to the plants you have placed to attract them.



How soon will they come?

This depends on where you live. Both butterflies and hummingbirds are usually migratory, particularly in the Northern part of the continent. Since they often spend the winter in warm, sunny climates, don't expect to see them return until the weather begins to warm up – usually no earlier than May. As soon as the plants you have put in the garden begin to flower, you can expect to see some activity. Sometimes hummingbirds will find a fuchsia basket only minutes after you hang it up!

Don't give up looking! If you don't see any action after the first season, wait another year or two and just enjoy the flowers in the meantime. Alter the times that you go out into the garden until you figure out the favourite feeding time. And remember to keep as quiet as possible!

Plants that you can use in your garden to attract Birds & Butterflies

Type	Botanical Name	Common Name	Attracts?	
			Birds	Butterflies
Perennials	Leucanthemum	Shasta Daisy		
	Liatrus	Blazing Star		
	Monarda	Beebalm		
	Perovskia	Russian Sage		
	Phlox paniculata	Summer Phlox		
	Solidago	Goldenrod		
	Thymus	Thyme		

<u>Type</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Attracts?</u>		
			Bird	Butterflies	
<u>Perennials</u>	Achillea	Yarrow			
	Alcea	Red Hollyhock			
	Aquilegia	Columbine			
	Aster	Michaelmas Daisy			
	Coreopsis	Tickseed			
	Delphinium	Delphinium			
	Dianthus	Pinks, Sweet William			
	Echinacea	Purple Coneflower			
	Echinops	Globe Thistle			
	Heuchera	Pink or Red Coral Bells			
	Lavandula	Lavender			
	Physostegia	Obedient Plant			
	Rudbeckia	Cone-flower			
	Salvia	Perennial Sage			
	Scabiosa	Pincusion Flower			
	Sedum	Autumn Stonecrop			
<u>Annuals</u>	Ageratum	Ageratum			
	Begonia, Tuberous	Begonia, Tuberous			
	Fuchsia	Fuchsia			
	Geranium	Pelargonium			
	Monkey Flower	Mimulus			
	Petunia	Petunia			
	Snapdragon	Snapdragon			
	Sunflower	Sunflower			
	Verbena	Verbena			
	Zinnia	Zinnia			
	<u>Shrubs</u>	Cotoneaster	Cotoneaster		
		Lonicera	Red Trumpet Honeysuckle		
Ribes		Flowering Currant			
Spiraea		Spiraea			
Syringa		Lilac			
Weigela		Weigela			



GroVert— Designer Living Wall Planter

Open up to a world of decoration possibilities with the newly designed and versatile GroVert Vertical Planting Kit. This is the latest in BrightGreen Living wall products suited specifically for the creative homeowner. With over 15 frames to choose from and an endless amount of plants from your local nursery, adding personality to your homes has never been easier or more fun. Bringing Life to Art!

The GroVert can now be purchased in one of 15 different kinds of kits, all with everything you will need to get started with a living art project!

Each kit comes with a GroVert frame, hanging bracket, instructions and a planting nook. All you will require is the right plants and a few care tips from an expert like the horticulturists we have in our garden centre!

Come See What We Have On Sale!!

Mulch— Natural, Brown & Black (6 for \$37.88)

Assorted Tea Roses (BOGO 50% OFF)

All Geraniums (50% OFF)

Plastic Outdoor Pots (40% OFF)

Grecian Urns (50% OFF)

Perennial Hostas (20% OFF)

Birch Bark Hanging Baskets 16" (reg. 26.99 NOW \$10.00)

Evergreen Moss Hanging Baskets (50% OFF)

Recycled Rubber Planters (reg. \$19.99 NOW \$10.00)

Sales expire July 17th, 2013 OR while quantities last!

www.parklandgarden.ca

Creative Use of Rain Barrels

by John Burnham

Imagine yourself sitting in your back yard, sipping your favorite hot drink. The rain patters on the gazebo roof. You inhale the moist air, full of life-giving aromas. The muted light and sparkle of moisture make the scene a fairyland vista. It's a good time to enjoy the fruit of your gardening efforts, to relax and think.

Whoa! Thinking at a time like this can be dangerous; particularly if you look at a down spout. Water is pouring out of it. Beautiful, clean, water, full of oxygen and nutrients, belonging to you, is flowing into the sewer. It's disturbing. Just last week, you paid for water to put on your garden. You shelled out your hard-earned doubloons for something that was depleted of oxygen and treated with chlorine while mother nature's provision flows into the sewer. It doesn't make sense does it?

Now that I've laid out that rather depressing scenario, let me mention something else that doesn't make sense. We like to put plants around the foundation of our homes. But, we build eaves on our houses that shield those areas from the rain. Consequently, we often have to water the plants closest to our houses whether it rains or not. We spend money to build eaves. We spend more money for plants to put under those eaves. Then, we spend additional money to water those plants. All the while, plants are happily growing in our exposed gardens without any artificial irrigation...hummm.

Last summer, I discovered an elegant solution to both of those "don't make sense" scenarios: Rain barrels and soaker hoses.

For the last several years, I've caught rain water. I use it to water my indoor plants. I store it in the basement for use over the winter, but I never use a fraction of that which runs off my roof. Delivery to the outside plants was a problem. This year, I hooked a soaker hose to my rain barrel and ran it through the garden that always seems to need water. Viola! Problem solved. Said patch remains green with great fluorescence at the turn of a valve every few days.

I installed another rain barrel delivering water via a soaker hose to a hard-to water area under a Spruce tree. Again, painless, free, irrigation of a difficult area. I was on a roll. I ran out and bought more rain barrels with an eye to doing my whole property in this rain barrel and soaker hose scheme .

Naturally, doing the whole works turned out to be more complicated than the one barrel / one garden deal. In order to get water where I needed it, a bit of plumbing was required. Getting the pieces turned out to be a pain as no store seemed to carry everything I needed. I had to get one item here and another there.

It didn't have to be that way. Parkland gardens had everything I needed. They carry rain barrels and the other bits needed to get the water where you want it. In addition, the manufacturer of this stuff provides great literature detailing how to set up your rainwater storage/use system.



Now, my rainy-day reverie is undisturbed by gushing from down spouts. It is enhanced by the thought that the lovely rain is being saved for delivery when and where it is needed.

Refill anyone?



Seed Categories and Definitions

The best thing about Horticulture is it is a perfect blend of science and art! We can create picturesque, inspiring landscapes while underneath it all are plants hard at work using the earth's nutrients and the sun's energy to create growth, bloom and set seed.

The science of seed production is a complex and fascinating process of pollination, cell division and mixing of genetic traits. Whether the process is accomplished freely, in a natural setting or in a controlled growing environment, there are several ways that the seed generation takes place. The process of **hybridization** involves the cross pollination of two genetically different plants so that the resulting offspring is a mix of both parents. Hybrids can occur as a natural phenomenon, or the process can be initiated under regulated growing conditions. Often, hybrids are stronger than the parent plants and can be produced and selected for the most desirable traits. A special kind of hybrid, called an **F1 Hybrid (Filial 1)** results from a cross of two different species of plants. F1 hybrids are created by controlled pollination and often boast higher yields and overall better performance. F1 hybrid seeds must be produced each season as seed that is produced from an F1 hybrid plant will not be "true to type."

Heirloom seeds are varieties that have been in existence for many, many years and are sometimes referred to as living antiques! They often have good resistance to pests and diseases. Also, Heirloom vegetables are considered by some gardeners to have better flavour. Heirloom seeds are usually regarded as specialty varieties and are not grown on a large scale.

A relatively new category of seeds has emerged as a result of the desire to increase the production and pest resistance of certain commodity crops. **GMO's or Genetically Modified Organisms** are seeds that have been modified using genetics – the aim is to produce a new trait that doesn't occur naturally. Some of the desired results could be herbicide resistance, virus resistance, and improved growth. GMO's are usually subject to intellectual property laws and due to the cost of regulation and research, most of the genetically modified plants are used in commodity crops- corn and cotton for example only.

Another very popular category of seeds is **Organic Seed**. These are seeds that have been cultivated without any synthetic inputs as they are grown using naturally derived fertilizers and pesticides. Examples of organic fertilizers would be composts or manure. Horticultural oil could be considered an organic pest control product too. Organic certifications are strictly regulated.

Starting your own plants from seed is a great way to get the specific varieties and colours you want. We carry an amazing selection of organic seeds, heirloom varieties and hybrid seeds for vegetables, herbs and flowers; however, none of our seeds are genetically modified.



2013 Summer Calendar of Courses & Events

Pre-register in person at the Garden Centre or by telephone 403-346-5613. Please contact us if you would like more information or to make suggestions for future courses or events. **Check our Calendar often for updates!**

July

Queen of Flowers – The Rose

Alfred will share his passion for this Queen of Flowers and reveal his secrets to a beautiful rose garden to enhance your own garden. From the old to the new, this course will explore the kingdom of the rose and includes a guided tour of the many varieties of roses in our display gardens and sales areas.

Cost: \$15.00 plus GST

Saturday, July 6: 10:00am to 11:30am

Private Garden Tour

View some spectacular hidden horticultural highlights in and around Red Deer. Travel in a luxury coach accompanied by our staff to guide you through and answer all your questions regarding these beautiful yards and gardens. Come dressed for the weather, wear your good walking shoes, and bring your camera!

Please call 403-346-5613 to register or for information.

Cost: \$40.00 plus GST

Thursday, July 25: 5:45pm to 9:00pm

September

Design Your Own Landscape – Part 1 & Part 2

In this course our landscape designer will teach you the principles of good design including traffic patterns, feature areas, low maintenance tips, and tree and plant placement. Come prepared with a sketch of your yard layout. In Part 2, our landscape designer will assist you with any problem areas and guide you in refining your design.

Please call 403-346-5613 to register or for information.

Cost: \$80.00 covers Part 1 & 2 and includes reference material to take home.

Part 1 Saturday, September 14: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Part 2 Saturday, September 21: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Blooming Bulbs by Christmas

Grow your own unique Christmas gifts – learn how to induce bulbs to flower indoors for Christmas gift giving. Plant now for December blooms. Take home your own planted bulb pot.

Please call 403-346-5613 to register or for information. Includes supplies & handout.

Cost: \$25.00

Saturday, September 21: 11:00am to 12:00pm

REGISTRATION INFORMATION Payment must be made in full at time of registration.

Visa, MasterCard, Interact, or cash accepted.

REFUND ISSUED ONLY IF CLASS IS CANCELLED.

Prices do not include GST. Class sizes are limited, pre-registration required, adults only unless otherwise noted.

For more information call **Parkland Garden Centre** at **403.346.5613**

email info@parklandgc.ca or visit our website www.parklandgarden.ca.

Do you wish to receive your newsletter electronically?

You can download your newsletter and view past newsletters.

www.parklandgarden.ca