

Welcome to a brand new year at Parkland! Our staff is busy getting new and exciting things ready for the 2008 season. We look forward to seeing you again this year and thank you for the opportunity to be your personal plant supplier for all your gardening requirements. Have a wonderful gardening season!

“Going Green Indoors”

Environmental awareness and “going green” is becoming more and more important in today’s world, and when these concerns are mentioned, most people think first of the great outdoors. However, our indoor environment is equally important.

Adding some plants to your interior décor provides many benefits. First, they soften the décor and create a more relaxing atmosphere – a very real benefit after a busy day at work. It also provides the therapeutic effects of gardening through the long winter months when gardening is not possible outdoors. Increased humidity, less carbon dioxide, more oxygen and reduce air pollutants are added benefits to make breathing easier.

A few large floor plants, some hanging plants, or even some smaller flowering plants on the window sill can add a real breath of fresh air to any room.

Remember, those with colorful foliage, or flowering plants, generally require bright light to full sun, while most green foliage plants will tolerate lower light levels. However, dark corners or rooms without windows are not ideal for even low-light plants.

Equally important is the water quality, even more so than quantity and frequency of watering. We recommend rain water, melted snow, or distilled water.

If insects appear, we recommend bringing in a sample for accurate diagnosis, but most often the safe and healthy control will consist of wiping, cleaning, hand-picking, or trimming and disposal of effected parts. Do not use household soaps as they are often damaging to the plants.

Drop in soon and often to view our ever-changing selection of indoor plants and our garden-safe line of plant care products and let us help you enhance your environment!



Parkland^{Nurseries}
Garden Centre *ltd.*

Please present this coupon and receive

Strawberry Plants

Bare Root/Ft. Laramie

10 for \$8.88

Did You Know!

- Parkland Nurseries and Garden Centre re-cycle plastic flats and most pots – just drop them off, and we will re-use them.
- Rain water is the BEST source of mineral-free water for all your plants. At Parkland, we catch all the rain water and snow melt from our greenhouse roofs, to water our plants.

Xeriscaping

The magic word these days seems to be “Xeriscaping”, but what does it actually mean?

Xeriscaping refers to the conservation of water through creative landscaping.

Originally developed for drought-afflicted areas, the principles of xeriscape today have an ever broadening appeal. With water now considered an expensive and limited resource, all landscaping projects, residential or commercial, can benefit from this alternative.

Xeriscapes do not have a single look – almost any landscaping style can be achieved. The principles can be applied to all or part of a yard, in any geographic region of North America.

The benefits of Xeriscaping are many.

- Xeriscape can reduce water use by 50-75%.
- Aside from occasional pruning and weeding, maintenance is minimal.
- A good xeriscape can raise property values.
- Fossil fuel consumption from gas mowers is minimized or eliminated with minimal turf areas.
- Use of native plants, shrubs and trees offer a familiar and varied habitat for local wildlife.

Xeriscaping is a balance of many different things, including water requirements, fertilizer, mulching, native plant material and design.

Mulching is also very important to xeriscaping. Mulch is an organic material that is used to cover the soil around plant material. A wide variety of different mulches is available including bark chips, shredded bark, pea gravel, shale, grey rock and others. Mulching helps by reducing water loss, thus regulating the temperature of the soil as well as controlling the growth of weeds around the plants. Using mulch also can improve the quality of the soil and produces a finished appearance even when the plants are small.

By using native plant material for xeriscaping, there is more chance for plant survival. Although you may not always be able to find the true native form of the plant that you want, a similar variety may be substituted successfully.

Fertilizer becomes less necessary when using xeriscaping. Since the plant roots extend further into the soil where nutrients and water are more available, fertilizing becomes less important.

Designing and planning for xeriscaping in your yard is important and can be broken into three main spaces; the public or front yard, the private area or back yard, and the service area or area for garage, garbage cans, composter or storage. There are many listing for drought-resistant plants, shrubs, trees, succulents and ornamental grasses. Be sure to check your local ordinances for landscape bylaws before starting as some communities have restrictions. Find out what the annual natural precipitation is for your

region and how that precipitation is spread throughout the year. This will help you select plantings. Windbreaks help keep the plants and soil from blowing dry. Use trees, hedges, shrubs or tall ornamental grasses as natural windbreaks.

It is important to remember that you want to create an atmosphere that you will enjoy as your yard is a wonderful extension of your home.

Gardening Made Easy

- Wrap tool handles with foam padding to make grasping more comfortable. Adding a cord to the grips makes them easier to retrieve if dropped and conveniently at hand when looped around your wrist.
- Choose low-maintenance plants that require little watering, spraying or pruning. See our specialists for assistance. Vegetables trained to climb a trellis will eliminate the need for bending when harvesting. Lighten the spring planting routine by selecting perennials, which will bring many happy and unassisted returns.
- Use equipment that makes everyday gardening chores easier on traumatized soft tissues and joints. That includes kneeling stools, long-handled “reacher-grabbers”, kneepads, potting benches, seed dispensers and wagons. Wear a smock or tie on a carpenter’s apron. Both are equipped with numerous pockets for seed packets, notepads and tools.
- Weed and cultivate after a rain when the soil is easier to work.
- Use large sprinklers that cover wide areas and require less moving around. Drip irrigation or drizzler hoses are easy-care water systems for thirsty plants.
- Super-size your tool collection. If you know you’ll need two hands to make a cut with a pruner, then upgrade and reach for a lopper instead. That still may require using both hands, but the squeezing effort will be minimal.

Parkland Garden Centre has a complete selection of quality gardening tools and supplies to enhance your gardening experience. Drop by and one of our friendly staff will be happy to demonstrate and advise you on the proper tool choice for your gardening needs.





2008 Spring Calendar of Courses

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!

March

Design Your Own Landscape - Part 1 & 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.

Cost: \$60.00 covers Part 1 & 2 and includes reference material to take home.

Wednesday, March 12: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Design Your Own Landscape - Part 2

Now that you have designed your yard using the principles learned in Part 1, our landscape designer will assist you with any problem areas and guide you in refining your design.

Saturday, March 29 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Prerequisite: Part 1 Course fee is included in initial registration of Part 1.

Start Your Own Plants

This is a hands-on session where participants will learn the proper techniques, tips and secrets for successful plantings from seed and cuttings. Registrants will take home their planted seed tray. Please call 403-346-5613 to register or for information.

Cost: \$50.00 includes handouts

Thursday, March 13 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Your Backyard Orchard

Grow your own hardy apples, plums, saskatoons, raspberries and more. Site selection, care, harvesting, and how to cope with our prairie climate are some of the topics covered. A book on hardy plant material will be given to each participant to take home. Please call 403-346-5613 to register or for information.

Cost: \$40.00 includes handouts

Tuesday, March 18 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Trees, Shrubs and Perennials for Central Alberta

Learn about the different plants that you can put into your landscape. Hints and tips for having success when choosing plants for your garden. Find out what's new and trendy! Handouts and gift to assist you in achieving a more beautiful landscape. Please call 403-346-5613 to register or for information.

Cost: \$60.00 includes handouts

Wednesday, March 12 6:45pm to 9:30pm

April

Roses for Central Alberta

Alfred will reveal his secrets to a beautiful rose garden. Enjoy an evening of colorful slides and spirited discussion of gorgeous hardy roses as well as the irresistible tender varieties. Includes a colorful reference book to take home.

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

Cost: \$35.00

Thursday, April 10 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Spring Pruning Course for Trees and Shrubs

Careful pruning will enhance the appearance and improve the health of most trees and shrubs. Our specialists will teach you the proper techniques of pruning to rejuvenate trees and shrubs. This is an outdoor course, so come dressed for the weather.

All registrants must pre-register. Please call 403-346-5613 to register or for information.

Cost: \$40.00

Saturday, April 5 1:00pm to 4:00pm

New Gardening for First Time Home Owners

Looking for creative ideas to make a change or start fresh but not sure where to begin? Our specialists will teach you the tricks of the trade and help you to discover the joys of having your own garden space. Add a touch of beauty and value to your investment.

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

Cost: \$20.00

Wednesday, April 16 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Container Gardening - Hanging Moss Baskets

Create your own moss basket using a selection of plants and flowers in this hands-on session. Learn about proper care, watering and fertilizing. The beautiful planted moss basket you take home will give you a summer full of enjoyment on your patio or balcony.

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

Cost: \$60.00 includes plants, basket and supplies

Saturday, April 26 9:00am to 12:00pm

June

Summer Pruning Simplified

Learn the proper techniques to make your trees and shrubs look beautiful. All aspects of summer pruning will be covered, including deadheading, sheering and trimming.

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

Cost: \$15.00

Saturday, June 14 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Crystal Clear Water Gardens

Murky water can easily be avoided by learning the intricate balance of pond water. This course teaches the importance of pH, algae control, plant maintenance and more.

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

Cost: \$15.00

Saturday, June 21 10:00am to 11:00pm

July

Queen of Flowers - The Rose

Alfred will reveal his secrets to a beautiful rose garden. From the old to the new, this course will explore the kingdom of the rose.

Cost: \$20.00 includes guided tour

Saturday, July 5 10:00am to 12:00pm