

# Parkland Nurseries Garden Centre Ltd. Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 3

Fall 2004



*Dear Fellow Gardeners*

*There is still plenty of planting season! This is an excellent time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials to enhance your landscape for next year.*

*The staff of Parkland would like to thank everyone who shopped with us this year. We would be happy to assist you with all your fall planting needs or help you with ideas and suggestions for next year. We are open year round with staff available to assist you at any time.*

*Business hours are: Monday – Saturday 9:00 am until 6:00 pm  
Sunday 11:00 am until 5:00 pm*

## Xeriscape -A Question of Water

Would you like to do less watering, weeding and fertilizing? Then xeriscape is the answer. Xeriscape means being environmentally friendly. All styles of gardening can be xeriscaped: Naturalization (native plantings), cottage gardening (layered mixed borders), and conventional gardening (newly introduced and native plantings)

There are six main principles to xeriscape:

**Conservation of water** - Plants with similar watering needs should be grouped together

**Amending soil** - Adding amendments (soil boosting ingredients) will better hold nutrients and water within the soil

**Reduction/elimination of lawn** - Lawns should be reduced in size, or the shape changed to accommodate good watering practices

Drought tolerant grasses may be used instead of conventional. Also knowing the saturation level or the amount of water grass needs (the rest draining away,) will also reduce waste

**Plant selection** - Red Deer and area receives approximately 12 – 18 inches of rain per year. Trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals are available that can and will survive these conditions

**Organic mulch** - Grass clippings, decomposed manure and garden compost placed on soil surface will work its way into the soil adding to its richness and structure. While it will need to be replaced, this is usually a 'free' process

**Water efficiency** - Most water we use is wasted. Proper watering techniques, timing and knowing how much your plants actually require are **KEY** to xeriscape

Parkland is pleased to announce that our website, [www.parklandgarden.ca](http://www.parklandgarden.ca), is up and running. We would like to invite everyone to visit our site.

We are taking a survey to inquire how many of our readers prefer to receive the newsletter by mail or by electronic mail? We also ask that if we have your name or address incorrect, please let us know so that we may correct it immediately. If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter please let us know.

For those who would like to receive a newsletter electronically please send us an electronic mail message at [info@parklandgc.ca](mailto:info@parklandgc.ca) indicating which e-mail address to send the newsletter to.

## Parkland Nurseries & Garden Centre Ltd. – Garden Club newsletter

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### Summer in the garden series

You still have plenty of time to register for our remaining **summer in the garden series** courses!

Wednesday, August 11, 2004

**The art of Bonsai** - 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm

Course fee \$10.00 plus GST

Learn how to plant and grow Bonsai plants

Saturday, August 14, 2004

**Harvesting herbs** - 10:00 am until 11:00 am

Course fee \$5.00 plus GST

Learn the best ways to harvest and store herbs

Saturday, August 28, 2004

**Water plant care** - 10:00 am until 11:00 am

Course fee \$5.00 plus GST

Learn how to save water plants for next year

Sunday, August 29, 2004

**Forever flowers** - 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm

Course fee \$5.00 plus GST

Learn how to keep a floral wreath dressed for all seasons

Saturday, September 4, 2004

**Fall planters with pizzazz** – 10:00 am until 11:00 am

Course fee \$5.00 plus GST

A little frost does not mean the end of the summer for your planters; learn why

Saturday, September 11, 2004

**Blooming bulbs by Christmas** – 10:00 am until 11:30 am

Course fee \$15.00 plus GST

Make your own pot of bulbs to take home and have blooming by Christmas

Saturday, September 18, 2004

**Fall colour for the garden** – 10:00 am until 11:00 am

Course fee \$5.00 plus GST

Learn which plants are best for a spectacular fall display

Saturday, September 25, 2004

**Dividing perennials** – 10:00 am until 11:00 am

Course fee \$5.00 plus GST

Learn how to make your plants “multiply” with proper techniques

### Parkland’s course registration form

Name _____ Res (Phone) _____ Bus _____			Visa or M/C Please circle one Card number _____
Mailing address _____ Postal code _____			
Course title	Date	Fee	Start date _____
_____	_____	_____	Expiry date _____
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
All courses must be pre-registered and paid in advance			Or please enclose cheque for course(s) payable to Parkland Garden Centre  NO POST DATED CHEQUES PLEASE
		Total _____	Registration and fees should be brought to Parkland Nurseries & Garden Centre located on Highway 11 East of Red Deer
You may phone in payment using VISA or MASTERCARD at (403) 346-5613			

## Thank you!

All the staff of Parkland Garden Centre would like to thank everyone who came out and enjoyed breakfast with us on Saturday, June 26, 2004.

The day was a success with great food cooked by the Balmoral Community Association, entertainment by Pals of the West and a special thank you to Parkland's very own clown who entertained the crowd.

Thank you once again!



## Upcoming events

We still have lots of exciting events coming up. If you would like more information on any event, please contact us at (403) 346-5613.

Red Deer & District Garden Club Flower Show  
Saturday, August 21, 2004  
Show open to public 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Craft and Market Sales  
Saturday, November 13, 20 and 27  
Saturday, December 11, 2004  
All sales run from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm

Red Deer Chamber of Commerce  
Business After Hours  
Tuesday, November 30, 2004  
5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Ladies Night  
Thursday, December 2, 2004  
7:00 pm until 9:00 pm **RSVP only**  
Tickets can be purchased starting on  
Friday, October 8, 2004, limited tickets

SPCA Pet Pictures with Santa  
Sunday, November 21 and 28, 2004  
Both run from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm



## Did you know?

As our little furry friends seem to be repelled by the scent of humans, scattering the contents of vacuum cleaner bags, or human hair (gathered from a hairdresser floor sweepings) over newly planted bulbs can be an effective deterrents. This works at planting time, and also in the spring when the new shoots appear. The added bonus is that household dirt and hair are both biodegradable.

If birds ate your yellow crocus flowers last spring, try planting purple ones. This colour does not seem to appear on our feathered friends' menu.

Deadheading is simply cutting of the dead flower and promotes more profuse re-blooming.

Remember nature always arranges plants in groups.

Plant labels are a gardener's cheat sheets.

Birds like to have the protection of the trees from predators. Have birdhouses and feeders high and near or in trees.

When planning your shrub beds, think of all the things that plant will do for you. For example ask: Will it give me fall color? Can I feed the birds? When will it bloom?

A cluster of leaves at the bottom of a plant is called a basal rosette.

 Parkland  
Garden Centre

Garden Club Gift

Bring in this coupon for  
**ONE FREE**

Fall tulip bulb (bulk)

Bulbs will be arriving first week of September

Limit one coupon per person

Expires September 30, 2004

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### Fall planting

You can plant as long as you can get your shovel into the ground, although it is much easier to plant before the frost sets. Please make sure to add bone meal when you plant. Water plants in well using plant starter.

When planting your fall bulbs keep the following points in mind:

- Plant bulbs with the pointy end up!
- As a general rule, plant bulbs about twice as deep as they are wide. For example a 1” diameter bulb should be planted about 2” below the soil level
- Plant in clumps – Mother Nature does not do rows, so why should you! Planting in clumps is more natural looking and more appealing
- Do not overcrowd your bulbs. Some people like to plant bulbs right against each other. It is best to give them space since they will multiply. A good rule of thumb is to plant bulbs about 4” to 6” apart depending on the size of the bulb
- For a natural look of mixed bulbs, take your bulbs toss them in the air over the area you plan to plant them. Where they fall – plant them. If you have multiple varieties, toss them one at a time, then plant them. You will love the natural look of your bulbs in the spring!

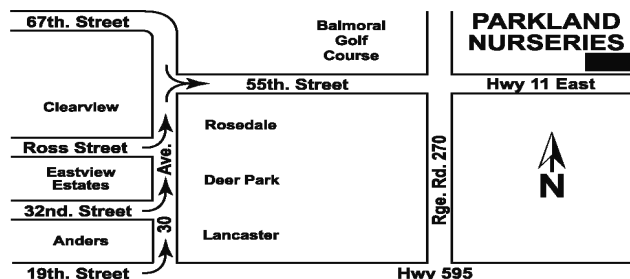
### Fall preparations

Many plants can take a beating from the cold winters we have.

Spending a little extra time in the fall to prepare your plants for the cold winter will be beneficial to them and help them during those months.

Here are some tips for protecting your plants:

- Add a layer of mulch to your perennials, especially the tender ones. Not only does it protect them from the cold winter, but spreading the mulch around them enriches the soil for the spring preventing plants from drying out
- Protect tender shrubs or small trees from wind and snow. Create a simple teepee made up of two boards or use burlap or other wrapping material
- Protect your roses with a Styrofoam hut, rose collar or mulch. If using mulch simply mound up the mulch around the rose to protect it from the cold
- Lay down your tender vines and climbing roses. Grapes, climbing roses and many clematis benefit from being taken off their trellis for the winter. It is simple, just lay them down on the ground and let them get covered with snow. Sometimes you can pull the trellis out of the ground and lay everything down at once



Parkland Garden Centre publishes the Garden Club Newsletter articles are written and edited by the “Specialists” of Parkland Garden Centre  
Subscription is free

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at:

Parkland Nurseries & Garden Centre

RR#2 Red Deer, AB T4N 5E2

Telephone: (403) 346-5613 Fax: (403) 346-4443

E-mail address: [info@parklandgc.ca](mailto:info@parklandgc.ca)

Website: [www.parklandgarden.ca](http://www.parklandgarden.ca)