

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER

September 2025



Armstrong & District Garden Club

WEBSITE <https://armstronggardenclub.com>

FACEBOOK Ken Barr

EXECUTIVE

President – Heather Hayes 250 546-4969

Vice president – Vacant

Secretary – Mary Jackson

Treasurer – Paul Peacock

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

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Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

Door Prizes – Sue Rook

GENERAL MEETING

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, September to June (except January) in St James Anglican Church Hall, Armstrong.

Next meeting 6:30 pm October 7, 2025

GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker this month was horticulturist Harriet Hanna from Salmon Arm. She provided very useful information about choosing, planting and caring for fall bulbs.

The following is a copy of the handout from her presentation.

FALL-PLANTED BULBS & CORMS FOR GLORIOUS SPRING COLOUR:

WITH GROWING TIPS AND NOTES ON BULBS FOR PROBLEM SPOTS IN THE GARDEN

Presentation by Harriet Hanna

BULBS and CORMS: Bulbs may be tunicate (like an onion) or have scales (lilies) and have a basal plate while corms have solid flesh with or without a basal plate. Corms that are hard and shrivelled should be soaked before planting.

PLANTING SITE: Should get adequate sunlight for the variety, must have well-drained soil, and must be in a suitable hardiness zone.

HARDINESS ZONES: There is a new Canadian Hardiness Zone Map. Until this new map is more detailed, considering the distances from bodies of water and elevation, use the old map but consider your zone ½ zone warmer than before.

PLANTING TOOLS: bulb planters with or without a stem-on handle, bulb auger as well as regular spades and trowels.

HOW TO PLANT BULBS: Make hole(s) for bulbs, loosening the soil and adding fertilizer (2-8-4 and 2-9-6 are good formulations) at the bottom the hole. Soil temperature should be around 5-10degrees C for best root development. Plant at a depth 3-4 times the diameter of the bulb. Then water in well. Place bulbs 3-6 inches apart when planting multiples to allow for future growth and division. Water bulbs in well to activate root growth.

USING BULBS IN THE GARDEN: They can be used almost anywhere in the garden such as in the

-perennial or mixed border Use labelled stakes or rocks to mark where they're planted. Note: Because Narcissus foliage takes a long time to ripen (yellow) and MUST NOT be cut off, tied, or braided, plant Narcissus where the foliage of emerging perennials (like daylilies, ornamental grasses or hostas) will hide the 'uglies'. The minor bulbs are particularly appropriate to grow in a perennial groundcover that will hide the dying foliage of the bulbs.

-annual bed If the foliage has not yet ripened, plant annuals between the ripening foliage of the bulbs so that they can get established when it's the right time to plant them

-rock garden/xeriscape Species tulips, dwarf narcissus and the minor bulbs are perfect

-woodland garden Under the shade of deciduous trees. Be sure to use critter deterrents! Some of the best narcissus for this purpose are Actaea, Birma, Barrett Browning, and Jack Snipe.

-in the lawn The average time for bulb foliage to dieback is 6 weeks, during which you cannot mow your lawn! Use early narcissus, crocus (particularly C. tommasinianus and the snow crocus) and eranthis aka winter aconite. The earliest varieties of Narcissus are Rijnveld's Early Sensation, February Gold and Tete a Tete.

-grassy verges and roadsides Use bulbs that are noted to be good naturalizers such as Actaea, February Gold, Ceylon, Carleton, Cheerfulness, Dutch Master, Ice Follies, King Alfred types, N. poeticus var. recurvus, Quail, Pipit, Sir Winston Churchill, Sweetness, and Yellow Cheerfulness.

-pots Bulbs MUST NOT freeze so bury pot-and-all in the ground, put in a cold-frame, or cold room that doesn't freeze. Bulbs MUST NOT touch the edge of the pot.

Use varieties suitable to the site.

-part shade areas The best types of bulbs for part shade are Crocus and Colchicums, Eranthis, Fritillarias, Spanish and English bluebells, Ornithogalum, Pushkinias, Scillas, Martagon lilies, and Anemone blanda.

-for moist areas Fritillarias, Camassia, Ornithogalum umbellatum and Leucojum vernum all do well in moist areas.

After Care: Remove spent flowers promptly to prevent seed prevention (except the minor bulbs). Leave foliage to ripen to allow bulbs to grow and buds for next year's blooms to develop. In subsequent years fertilize bulbs when their roots start to grow (in fall or spring depending on type) and allow (most) bulbs to dry in summer. Most bulbs are native to Mediterranean climates that are characterized by dry summers.

Things to consider when choosing and buying bulbs:

- bulb size:** size matter especially with Narcissus
- bulb condition:** intact bulbs without damage or disease are best
- characteristics of the variety:** height, colour, form, usage, bloom period and sequence, longevity (short-lived, perennial, or perennializers)
- timing of purchase:** when bulbs become available (catalogue, online or local) Daffodils must be planted early.
- where to purchase or order?** There are many online sources – many of which has catalogues as well - such as Phoenix Perennials, Coast Farms, and Vesey's. Many stores have them in the fall, but your best selection – and probably better bulbs - will be at good garden centers!
- how many bulbs will you need?** Don't skimp and **DO NOT PLANT SINGLE FILE!** Plant in groupings.
- are they critter-proof/resistant or will you need to purchase materials?**
- do you need fertilizer?** Bulb fertilizers have been shown to be more effective than Bone Meal.

Tulips: neither the bulbs nor the plants/flowers are NOT CRITTER-PROOF!

-The **BEST LONG-LIVED PERENNIAL/PERENNIALIZING** types are the Darwin and Darwin Hybrids. They have large blooms, are 50-60cm tall, come in a wide range of colours, including bicolours, bloom in mid-late spring, and are hardy to Zone 3. The Impression, Daydream, and Apeldoorn series are excellent, often performing well for 10 years or more. ('Yellow Wave' has variegated foliage.) These are the best tulips for mass planting!

-The **fashion plates** of the tulip world are the **Triumphs**. This series has the trendiest colours, the most bicolours and are often sold in colourful combinations. They bloom in mid-spring and are great for mass planting, but they are **NOT LONG LIVED** – usually only performing well for 1 to 3 years, after which they should be replaced. The varieties with the best reputations for staying for a while are Abu Hassan, Cassini, Don Quichotte, Golden Beauty, Kees Nelis, Merry Widow and Peerless Pink. Hardy to Zn. 3

-**Botanical (species) tulips** are tulips that have/still do grow in the wild or are one that have been developed from the original species. They bloom early to mid-spring, almost all naturalize well, are relatively long-lived, and most are less than 15cm tall. They work well at the front of the border, in rock gardens, and in lawns. They are hardy to Zone 3. A few to try: *T. clusiana* and *T. clusiana* 'Peppermint Stick', *T. batalinii*, *T. humilis*, *T. linifolia*, *T. tarda*, *T. praestens* especially 'Fusilier', *T. saxatilis*, and *T. acuminata*.

-**Tenacious tulips.** Of the rest of the tulips available, there are some that are known to be more perennial than others in their category.

T. kaufmanniana 'Guiseppe Verde', 'Heart's Delight', 'Shakespeare', 'Show winner', and 'Stresa'.

T. fosteriana 'Candela', 'Red Emperor', 'Orange Emperor', 'Princeps', and 'Purissima'.

T. greigii 'Plaisir', 'Red Riding Hood', 'Toronto', and 'Yellow Dawn'.

Single Early: 'Charles', 'Christmas Marvel', 'Couleur Cardinal', and 'Princess Irene

Double Early: 'Peach Blossom'*. Double Late: 'Angelique'

Single Late: 'Queen of the Night'. Parrot: 'Estelle Rijnveld'

Lily-flowered: 'Aladdin', 'Ballade', 'Maytime', 'Red Shine', 'White Triumphator'

Fringed: 'Arma' and 'Burgundy Lace'.

There are many types of tulips, and you can have fun exploring what is available. The 'best bang for your buck', however, will always be Darwin/Darwin Hybrid tulips and the Botanical/species tulips

CRITTER PROBLEMS AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM:

DEER: fencing at least 8 feet tall with a shorter line of wire/fishing line about 2 feet out and 3 ft high.

Predator Pee (coyote or fox – available online)

Taste deterrents (such as Bobbex)

Motion-activated sprinklers

Ultrasonic and light-based deterrents

Plant bulbs they like between Crown Imperial bulbs, which they do not.

VOLES AND POCKET GOPHERS: soak soil with castor oil (available online)

Baited Snap traps (use peanut butter or Tomcat bait)

Soak bulbs before planting in:

Scent deterrents such as Scented dryer beads or essential peppermint oil

Taste deterrent that contains Denatonium benzoate (extremely bitter)

Plant bulbs surrounded by chicken grit (oyster shell)

Plant bulbs in bulb pans or wire mesh

CHIPMUNKS AND SQUIRRELS: cover planted area with leaves, so it looks undisturbed

Spray planted area with scent deterrent (like Fox Pee)

Sprinkle area with used coffee grounds as a scent deterrent.

RODENT RESISTANT BULBS: Eranthis (Winter aconite)

Leucojum (Summer snowflake)

*Crocus tommasinianus ('Tommies' - taste bad)

Ornithogalum (Star of Bethlehem)

Camassia (Camas, Quamash, Indian hyacinth)

Chionodoxa (Glory of the Snow)

*Eremurus (Foxtail lily, Desert Candle)

Fritillaria (particularly the *Crown Imperial)

Galanthus (Snowdrops)

Hyacinthoides hispanica (Spanish bluebell)

*Narcissus (Daffodil)

*Hyacinthus (Hyacinth)

*Muscari (Grape Hyacinth)

*Alliums (Ornamental onion)

Scilla (particularly *S. siberica*, *S. litardierei*, and *S. campanulata*)

*The most resistant in my experience.

NARCISSUS (DAFFODIL) PLANTING AND AFTERCARE:

-bulbs contain alkaloids that make them CRITTER PROOF! Bulb size matters: bigger=more blooms

-Plant early to allow lots of time for bulbs to develop roots and establish.

-Fertilize at planting time and again each fall as roots go into active growth.

-Deadhead spent blooms but allow foliage to ripen. **DO NOT CUT OFF, BRAID, or TIE UP FOLIAGE** because it needs 6-8 weeks of sunlight to produce nutrients required for bulb and bud growth.

-Watch for Narcissus Bulb Fly and treat as necessary.

Best Naturalizing Narcissus

Early: Rijnveld's Early Sensation, Barrett Browning, Ice Follies, Tete a Tete

Mid-Season: King Alfred types, Dutch Master, Carleton, Yellow River, Mount Hood, Thalia, Geranium

Late: Actaea, Cheerfulness

HYACINTHUS; CRITTER PROOF! Long-lasting blooms from early to mid-Spring. Long-lived. FRAGRANT.

FALL-BLOOMING CROCUS & COLCHICUMS: *C. sativus* (Saffron), *C. zonatus*, and *C. speciosus* (easiest)

Colchicum autumnale and *Colchicum 'Waterlily'* are CRITTER PROOF (Send up large leaves in spring but have no leaves in autumn)

UNUSUAL BULBS:

FRITILLARIA IMPERIALIS (CROWN IMPERIAL) – Hollow dish on side of bulbs so plant on side. Bulbs, plant and blooms smell like skunk! Critter deterrent.

EREMURUS (FOXTAIL LILY) – Actually an 'octopus-like' perennial root but sold with fall bulbs. Stately tall blooms to 6 feet tall but shorter varieties also available. Foliage often starts to yellow before or during bloom period and can be removed.

ALLIUM GLOBEMASTER (GIANT GLOBE ORNAMENTAL) Largest allium available: blooms up to 8-10 inches in diameter and stems 3-4 feet tall. Foliage often yellows before or during bloom and can be removed. Only hardy to Zone 5. Sterile.

CAMASSIA (Camas, Quamish, Indian hyacinth) West NA native. Naturalizes well and will grow in moist soil

DRACUNCULUS VULGARIS (Voodoo lily, Corpse Flower) Usually only available mail-order. Striking, large, spathe blooms are dark purple and STINK LIKE ROTTING FLESH for the first couple of days the flowers are open! Place accordingly. It blooms late spring. Zone 5

CYCLAMEN EUROPEUM (syn. PURPUREUM) (Hardy cyclamen) This is the hardiest cyclamen - one zone hardier than either *C. coum* or *C. hederifolium*. Beautiful, marbled foliage and delicate 'shooting star' blooms in August through October, unlike the others that bloom in early spring. Zone 4

LILIUM MARTAGON (Martagon lilies) It used to be that you could only get lilies bulbs in fall but now most are available in spring or as potted perennials. The Martagon Lily is only ever available in fall and is worth searching out (usually online sources). This is a spectacular and long-lived bulb but may take several years to establish before blooming. Stems growing 2-4 feet tall (occasionally to 6 feet) bear a multitude of down-facing, reflexed hanging lilies that grow best in part shade to shaded areas. They are slightly fragrant but unfortunately are NOT critter-proof.

NECTASCORDIUM (Sicilian Honey Garlic) Unusual bell-like clusters of blooms on tall stems. Good cut flower. Good in shaded areas.

CALOCHORTUS (Mariposa lily) NA native. *C. macrocarpus* grows in drier areas of the Okanagan/Shuswap. Single leaf withers by bloom time. MUST have GOOD DRAINAGE during dormancy. Excellent choice for xeriscape gardens. Zone 5

ERYTHRONIUM (Dog-tooth violet, Fawn Lily) The yellow-blooming cultivar 'Pagoda' is very easy to grow but there are many more good cultivars of different flower colours. The *Erythronium grandiflorum* is our NATIVE yellow Glacier Lily.

ANEMONE BLANDA (Grecian Windflower) There are many anemones (corms and perennials) available, but this is charming and one of the easiest to perennialize. The short daisy-like blooms bloom in early-mid-spring and will multiply quickly in woodland and part shade settings as well as in a lawn. It is typically not bothered by deer or rabbits, but voles will devour the corms if food is scarce. Available in blue, pink, and white cultivars as well as in mixes.

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
MINUTES for TUESDAY, September 2, 2025, 6:30 PM
St. James Anglican Church Hall, ARMSTRONG

Attendees: 20 members, 1 speaker – Harriet Hanna
and 1 guest

1. Call to Order - President Heather Hayes called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda – Aviva (1st) and Janice (2nd)
3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Carolyn moved to approve the minutes of June 2025 as circulated.

Seconded by Sue W.

CARRIED

4. Correspondence

The Club received a reply from the City of Armstrong stating that they have added our letter to the next Council Agenda.

5. Treasurer's Report

Paul noted that we have a healthy bank balance and that we have paid this year's meeting room rent. Move to receive the Finance report by Rea, seconded by Sue R.

CARRIED.

6. Old Business

No report.

7. New Business

a. Recreation Fair – Saturday, September 13, 2025, 9 am to 2 pm

Set up at 9 am – Heather H.

Volunteers from 10 am to noon: Heather and Yvonne

Volunteers from noon to 2 pm: Donna R. and Dianne L.

Event at the Curling Club.

Items to take: banner, bookmarks, photo books, membership forms, etc.

b. Community Donations

The executive put forward the following proposal for Community Donations:

\$ 1,000 for the Armstrong Food Bank

\$ 1,000 for the Starfish Program, payable to Kalamalka Starfish Society

\$ 500 to Pleasant Valley Manor for pots, soil, etc.

\$ 500 for student bursary

\$ 500 for the Good Food Box

\$ 250 for Communities in Bloom

\$ 250 for Community Gardens

Carolyn motioned to accept the proposals as presented. Seconded by Sue R.

CARRIED

c. Garden Tour Feedback

There was good feedback on the garden tours held this year. We hope to have more tours next spring and summer.

d. Garden Speakers

There were several good suggestions for garden speakers. One was for harvesting seeds. There may be a garden member in Enderby who knows of a speaker.

Another topic could be cold stratification of flowers i.e. suggestions for flowers that thrive in the late fall and early spring.

e. September Social

Sue R. has kindly agreed to host this year's social on Tuesday September 23 from 5 to 7 pm. Members are asked to bring a dish that feeds 6, their own beverage, cutlery, plates and a chair. Spouses are welcome.

8. Adjourn – Heather adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.



Pleasant Valley Boulevard Planters 2025

Planted and cared for by members of ADGC

GARDENING INFORMATION

PREPARING THE GARDEN FOR WINTER

In the fall clean up leaves from roses and stems or leaves from plants that are showing disease such as mildew. Put them in the garbage not compost.

Ground cover:

- Stems and leaves from vegetables can be left on the ground over winter or shredded and composted.
- Leaves and stems chopped with a lawnmower or chipper are a good source of winter cover.
- Hay can also be used to spread over the garden as cover and compost.
- Fall rye can be planted as cover crop and turned under in spring before garden planting.

Fall is a good time to:

- rehabilitate a lawn by fertilizing and sowing grass seed in bare patches.
- plant garlic
- sow spinach seed for spring crop
- plant bulbs for spring blooming
- clean tools before storing

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Club Social: September 23, 2025 5 pm to 7 pm
 Sue Rooks house 2265 Keevil Road

Next meeting: 6:30 pm October 7, 2025

 St James Anglican Church Hall

Members of the Armstrong & District Garden Club receive discounts at a number of local garden centres:

Shepherd's Home Hardware Outdoor Living in Armstrong: 15% Discount on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants

Blue Mountain Nursery in Armstrong: 10% Discount on all products

Swan Lake Market and Garden in Spallumcheen: 10% Discount on plant material
2 - 3% on other store material (except meat and dairy)

*Members must be registered with the store

Nicholas Alexander Nursery in Vernon: 10%-15% Discount on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants

Show your membership card at the till before the cashier rings up the total and kindly request your member discount.