

Weed all About Us

Your Kamloops Garden Club Newsletter

Nov, 2025

Next meeting: Wednesday Nov. 26, 2025

Parkview Community center

500 McDonald Ave.

Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Our Presentation this month

Speaker: No speaker, instead, a short meeting, then a wreath workshop, so please bring some greenery, tools, picks, décor items and a frame for your project if needed. Note: the 7 pm meeting will be held at Parkview Community center 500 McDonald Ave, as the parking lot is being used by the winter craft fair at Heritage House.

Roni Sue Coulter

Nov. Agenda:

Welcome from vice president

Secretary Report, Cheri

Treasurer Report, Lorna

Old Business:

-please keep taking photos of your gardens for Shauna to put in the February potluck Slideshow

- when signing in for the meeting to collect your NEW membership name tag and to please sign the NEW membership information cards for Lorna and Judy

New Business:

-If you have an idea for a guest speaker please email Carol W.

We now take E-Transfer for memberships to thekamloopsgardenclub@gmail.com; or cash, cheques, and interac at meetings.

Now is the time to be sending your beautiful garden pictures to Shauna for the February Pot Luck Dinner slideshow. Please email to shaunapezzot@hotmail.com

Xmas potluck dinner : Sunday Dec 7 at Heritage House 5:30 pm. Sign up sheet will be passed around at the meeting, if not attending call Sally Oerlemans 250-573-4400 to choose a dish, and tell her if you are bringing a significant other or guest who must also bring a dish.

Parking Passes: please see Myles Huble for 2025 free parking passes which you put on your dash, and park in the front row of Heritage House.

Memberships are due every Jan \$20/person, \$25/couple and paid to treasurer Lorna McMillan Cash, checks or e-transfers.

Article from internet AI overview:

Burlap is a widely recommended material for protecting plants in winter because it is **breathable, traps heat, and blocks harsh winds and sun**. However, its effectiveness has limits; it may be **insufficient for tropical plants in freezing temperatures or in extreme cold conditions**.

When Burlap Is Effective

Burlap works well for:

- J **Protection from winter burn/sunscald:** Burlap shields evergreen foliage from harsh winter sunlight and wind, which can cause moisture loss (desiccation) when the ground is frozen.
- J **Moderate frosts:** It provides insulation and can protect plants from light to moderate frosts (temperatures between 30°F and 39°F).
- J **Young or sensitive shrubs/trees:** Newly planted specimens often benefit from a few winters of protection before they are fully established.
- J **Creating windbreaks:** By using stakes to create a barrier around a plant, burlap effectively blocks damaging winds while allowing air circulation.

Limitations of Burlap

Burlap alone may be insufficient:

- J **For tender tropical plants:** Tropical perennials, fuchsias, and lemon trees generally will not survive below-freezing temperatures outdoors, regardless of burlap protection; they should be moved indoors.
- J **In extreme, prolonged cold:** While it helps regulate temperature, its protective results diminish significantly with prolonged exposure to temperatures of 28°F and below.
- J **If it touches wet foliage:** If the burlap becomes wet and freezes against the plant's foliage, it can damage the plant, though this is less of a concern than with non-breathable plastic.
- J **Against heavy snow loads:** For areas with heavy snowfall, a simple burlap wrap might collapse under the weight. Building a sturdy frame or "teepee" with stakes or plywood first provides better structural support.

Best Practices for Using Burlap

To maximize effectiveness:

- J **Use stakes to create a frame:** Drive three or four wooden stakes around the plant and drape a double layer of burlap over them, ensuring a few inches of space between the fabric and the foliage.
- J **Secure properly:** Use strong twine or staples to secure the burlap to the stakes or around the plant, ensuring it reaches the ground to prevent wind from blowing underneath.
- J **Add extra insulation:** For potted plants or very cold areas, you can add dry leaves inside the burlap enclosure around the base of the plant for extra insulation of the roots.
- J **Water beforehand:** Water plants thoroughly before a cold snap. Well-hydrated plants are more resilient to cold damage.

I worked at Hospice Gardens with Lisa Neilson who was head gardener at TRU, she said they always wrapped Dwarf Alberta Spruce there, but they always got winter burn anyway. I have some zone 6 plants in my zone 4, I set up cages early before frost, and watch the weather channel, if they predict below 15 C, I wrap with cheap upholstery fabric. Only plants I lost were Chamaecyparis . (false cypress) J. V.



**The garden club is a scent and
smoke free zone**



**November snacks will be
brought by Roberta Marshal &
Lois Greenwood**

FROM LAIDBACK GARDENER

Gardeners in cold regions have a difficult decision to make. Should they wrap their shrubs for the winter or not? Personally, I think these wrappings are ridiculous: why plant “four-season plants”—plants that stand out in the snow, such as trees, shrubs, and conifers—and then wrap them up like mummies for five months? All you have to do is plant varieties that can withstand our winters and don’t need any protection, that’s all. But what can you do when the plant you really want to grow can’t grow any other way?



Houx. Source : theoriginalgarden.com

This is the case with holly (*Ilex*). Two features make them stand out from the crowd: their evergreen, dark green, thick, shiny foliage with sharp edges, and their red berries that remain throughout the winter. It is the ultimate Christmas plant!

Unfortunately, evergreen holly is not very hardy. It tends to freeze in winter. So in November, you see people wrapping it in burlap, geotextile, or various wooden structures to protect it from the cold (or rather from the drying winds, which are often even more damaging). But this is nonsense! Read any book on the subject and you'll be told, "Hawthorns are mainly planted for their beautiful winter effect." Why even plant hawthorns if you have to cover them for the winter and miss out on the best part?

But there are solutions for growing hawthorns that will be perfectly visible in winter without suffering from the cold. Here's how to do it:

Blue Holly

Blue holly (*Ilex* × *meserveae*) is a hybrid between *I. rugosa*, an extremely hardy holly with a prostrate habit, and *I. aquifolium*, a large tree with beautiful leaves but low hardiness. This results in a medium-sized shrubby holly, approximately 1–1.2 m × 1–1.5 m. They bear names such as 'Blue Princess', 'Blue Maid' and 'Blue Girl' for females and 'Blue Prince', 'Blue Stallion' and 'Blue Boy' for males (to get fruit, you must always plant at least one male holly for every 7 to 8 females). These holly trees are commonly available in nurseries, but lack a little hardiness: they are zone 5b (4b in a very wind-protected location).



Houx bleu 'Blue Princess'. Photo: Jardin2m

But you can grow blue holly successfully without protection by following a few rules. First, avoid windy locations. You should also avoid full sun, as the repeated freezing and thawing of sunny sites is just as harmful to them as the wind. Ideally, you should plant them in partial shade or on the east side, with conifers or shrubs to the north and west to block the wind. Also, mulch the soil generously in November (10 to 15 cm, 4 to 6 inches, of shredded dead leaves will do), as well-mulched soil freezes less deeply and allows the evergreen leaves of the holly to drink even in winter.

Chinese Holly

But there are holly trees that are even hardier than blue holly. *Ilex* 'China Girl' (female) and 'China Boy' (male) are the result of crossing *I. rugosa* (zone 4) with *I. cornuta* (zone 5). This produces a holly that is perfectly hardy in zone 4b. It is still wise to avoid very windy locations and to shelter them during their first winter, but otherwise, success is guaranteed.

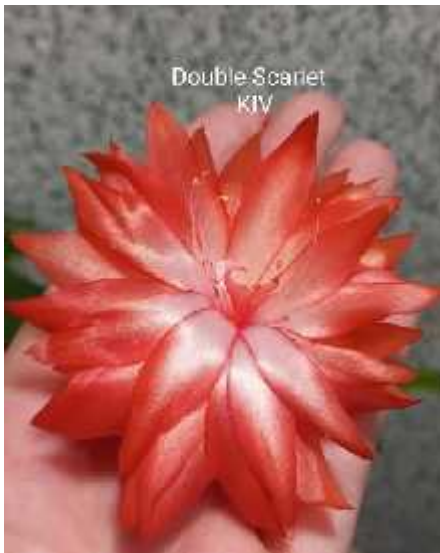
Ilex 'China Girl'. Source: Home Depot

The only catch? These two extra-hardy holly varieties are rarely available at local nurseries!

My suggestion? Ask your favorite nursery to order some 'China' holly for next spring. That way, in two or three years, your yard will be beautifully colored all winter long!

[How to Care for a Christmas Cactus](#) hold ctrl and press enter to read the excellent article from The Spruce .com how to care and propagate these.

Rare Christmas Cactus Schlumbergera "Double Scarlett" –



Common cactus

Taken from facebook where there was no person's name.

I wanted to share this Candy Dish Bird Feeder I just made using thrift store glassware! I used a pretty candy dish, a bowl with a fluted edge for the roof, and little candlestick holders for the center. All glued together with epoxy. I love upcycling glass from thrift stores and making something pretty to gift to friends and family :)



Remember to check out the Kamloops Garden Club Facebook page for lots of information, thanks to Kiera McLellan.

Any members who have anything to contribute to the monthly newsletter please email me at judyricher@shaw.ca we have a wealth of plant knowledge in this club and would love to hear from you.

For speakers please email Carol at cwozencroft@gmail.com: or 250-319-5451 with your suggestions. and tell anyone who might like to speak at our meetings that we pay them \$100 for a ½ to ¾ hour presentation. We can provide a laptop & projector if necessary.

Executive

President:	Carol Wozencroft (250-319-5451)
◆ Vice President:	Roni Sue Coulter
Secretary:	Cheri Witwiky
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Director of Membership/Newsletter	Judy Villeneuve 250-374-4181
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