

KAMLOOPS GARDEN CLUB
September 2026

WEED ALL ABOUT US

Your Kamloops Garden Club Newsletter
September 2026

Next meeting: Wednesday Sept 23, 2026



Heritage House (Upper level)
100 Lorne St Kamloops (Riverside Park)
Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:00 pm



Welcome BACK!

Follow. Like, Share and Contribute your ideas and pictures and knowledge here:

Kamloops Garden **Club Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/KamloopsGardenClub>

Kamloops Garden Club **GROUP Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2602102930005297>

Kamloops Garden Club **Website** <https://kamloopsgardenclub.com/>

Our Email: thekamloopsgardenclub@gmail.com

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Remember to read up on the **Website!** We've had some great **articles** so far:

- * Drought Resistant Plants for Kamloops
- * Rock Gardens
- * Update on the Japanese Beetle in Kamloops
- * August in the Garden
- * Deadheading Basics- Why it matters and when to do it
- * Lifting and Dividing Irises, and more!

Recipes, Access to previous **Newsletters**, comments, **Gardening Tips**, and the newest addition to the Website; **Garden News and Views** (check it out).



Hope you all had a great summer! The Seasonal wind-down is beginning and there is always a to-do list to think about. Fall clean up, take downs, prepping for next year!

But, now is a great time to plant perennials, move them to new homes, and plant **GARLIC:**

Hardneck vs Softneck Garlic: Quick Answer

(<https://www.groworganic.com/blogs/articles/growing-garlic-whats-the-difference-between-softneck-and-hardneck-varieties> Aug 24 2026)

If you're comparing softneck vs hardneck garlic, the right choice depends on your climate, storage preferences, and desired garlic flavor. Also known as hard stem garlic, hardneck varieties are valued for their robust taste, larger cloves that are often considered easy to peel garlic, and their suitability for colder climates.

Plan your planting: [Shop hardneck seed garlic](#) or [Shop softneck seed garlic](#) for the varieties or crops discussed in this article.

Ready to choose a variety? [Shop available seed garlic](#), including hardneck, softneck, elephant and certified organic options for fall planting.

Softneck garlic is known for producing more cloves per large bulb, storing longer, and growing well in warmer regions, making both types excellent options for home gardens. This guide to garlic softneck vs hardneck will help you decide which variety best fits your needs.

- Choose hardneck garlic if you want scapes, fewer but larger cloves, and rich flavor, especially in colder regions.
- Choose softneck garlic if you want many cloves per bulb, typically longer storage than hardneck types, and flexible stems for braids.

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Hardneck vs Softneck Garlic:
At-a-Glance Comparison

Feature	Hardneck Garlic	Softneck Garlic
Stalk / scapes	Produces a stiff central stalk and edible scapes.	Typically no scapes; stems stay flexible for braiding (climate can influence this).
Cloves per bulb	Fewer cloves, usually larger and often easier to peel.	More cloves, often smaller and layered.
Flavor	Bold, complex, “gourmet” style flavor.	Often milder, with great versatility for everyday cooking.
Storage life	Shorter storage life.	Typically stores longer than hardneck types when both are properly cured; actual duration varies by variety and conditions.
Best climate fit	Generally best for colder winters.	Generally best for milder winters and warmer regions.
Braiding	Not ideal—stalk dries stiff.	Excellent—flexible stems braid easily.

Understanding **the Difference** Between Hardneck and Softneck Garlic

Hardneck Garlic (*Allium sativum* ssp. *ophioscorodon*)

Hardneck garlic forms a stiff central flower stem and grows well in colder climates. It produces fewer, but larger, cloves arranged neatly around the stalk. Varieties like [Siberian Garlic](#) and [German Extra Hardy](#) are prized for their bold, spicy flavor.

Hardneck types also send up edible flower stalks called scapes. These are tender and delicious when sautéed or grilled. Removing scapes can also help redirect energy into bulb sizing.

Softneck Garlic (*Allium sativum* ssp. *sativum*)

Softneck garlic has flexible stems, tightly packed cloves, and is the type most commonly braided or sold in stores. It excels in warmer climates and offers longer storage when properly cured.

Top choices include [California Early White](#), [California Late White](#), and [Inchelium Red](#). Note: Softneck garlic typically does not produce a scape, but growing conditions can sometimes cause a variety to form a flowering stalk. If you ever see a stalk forming, treat it like a scape and harvest it while tender..

Popular Garlic Varieties

Hardneck Garlic Varieties

Hardneck garlic is often grouped into types such as Purple Stripe, Rocambole, and Porcelain. Here are a few favorites:

- [Chesnok Red](#) – A purple stripe variety known for sweet, rich flavor when roasted.
- [German Extra Hardy](#) – Porcelain type with robust flavor and big cloves.
- Purple Stripe garlics – Vibrant skins, complex flavor, excellent for roasting.
- [Purple Glazer](#) – Mild, smooth taste, easy to peel.

Browse all [hardneck seed garlic](#).

Softneck Garlic Varieties

Softneck garlic includes types such as Artichoke and Silverskin, often chosen for high yields and long storage. Popular picks include:

- [California Early White](#) – Mild, early harvest, great for braiding.
- [California Late White](#) – Often selected for warmer climates, with storage life that depends on curing and conditions.
- [Organic Purple Italian](#) – Full flavor, perfect for roasting.
- [Inchelium Red](#) – A favorite softneck with mild, nutty flavor.

Shop all [softneck seed garlic](#).

What About Elephant Garlic (and “Russian Garlic”)?

******* [Elephant garlic](#) isn't true garlic—it's a leek relative. Its giant bulbs are mild and slightly onion-like, making them fun for roasting whole.

Some gardeners (and older references) use “Russian garlic” to mean Elephant garlic. If you see the term used that way, just know it's not the same as true hardneck or softneck garlic.

Growing Garlic: Planting to Harvest

Planting Garlic

Garlic is usually planted in the fall. In warmer climates, some softneck varieties can also be planted in early spring. Follow these steps for strong, uniform bulbs:

1. **Loosen soil 8–10 inches deep and enrich with compost.**

2. Separate the garlic head into individual cloves, keeping papery skins intact.
3. Plant cloves 2 inches deep, root side down, spacing them 4–6 inches apart.
4. Mulch with straw or leaves for insulation and weed control.

For more details, see our [Garlic Growing Guide](#), [How to Grow Garlic](#), and [9 Steps for Big Garlic](#).

Garlic Care

- Water regularly but avoid soggy soil.
- Use [soaker hoses](#) to water deeply at the roots.
- Remove scapes from hardneck types to send energy back to the garlic bulb.
- Weed often and keep mulch in place.

For seasonal care, see [how to care for garlic over the winter](#).

Harvesting Garlic

Knowing when to harvest is key:

- Hardneck garlic: Harvest when about half the leaves are brown.
- Softneck garlic: Harvest when bottom leaves are brown but upper leaves are still green.

Use a fork to gently lift each garlic bulb. Avoid tugging, which can damage the bulb wrappers. See our [harvesting garlic guide](#).

Storing Garlic

After harvest, cure garlic for 2–3 weeks in a dry, shaded, well-ventilated area. Trim roots and stalks after curing.

- Store cured bulbs in a dry, dark, well-ventilated place; recommended temperature and humidity depend on the intended storage period and local conditions.
- Use [mesh tubing](#) or paper bags for airflow.
- For accuracy, monitor conditions with a [thermometer/hygrometer](#).



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A FEW CLUB REMINDERS:

- ★ For everyone's comfort the meetings and events are Scent-free, thank you.
- ★ Treasurer Reports, Meeting Reports, Garden Tours and other club business is emailed to members
- ★ Please park and display your pink parking pass even if the Heritage House parking area is full
- ★ Please bring your own coffee/tea cup.

★ **For speakers: Let us know your interests- What do you want to learn about? What would you want to see more of from guests?**

If you have someone in mind who would like to share their passion, knowledge, expertise...Please email Carol, at cwozencroft@gmail.com or 250-319-5451. Please 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.

★ We have had many 2026 **Garden Tours!** I show a few pictures in next month's newsletter of some of the great places we got to visit!

★ Roni Sue has been working hard to beg- borrow- steal & repeat, and solicit where ever she can to visit garden filled yard this summer! We had some that came to us from these cards dropped at some lovely yards:

Let Roni Sue know at
thekamloopsgardenclub@gmail.com!

Tours are usually about an hour, we ask nothing from the homeowner except to let us enjoy, and **are usually a Thursday evening, beginning at 7 pm**, but we can accommodate changes.

If you know of a garden and would like an ice-breaker card, we have these cards available:



Watch your email inbox for times, and addresses for changes to garden tours.

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Another couple of pictures of the planter At Overlander Long Term Care Home, put together and cared for by Dawn House and the residents:



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Vendors in Kamloops that support our club!

These preferred companies have offered us a discount for Members. Your Membership Card must be shown to access the discount. Some products or services may be excluded, such as sale items.

Agri Supply 10% 782 D Tagish St Kamloops Lyons Garden Centre 20% <i>Garden centre only, no seeds or services</i> 11271 Salish Rd Kamloops	Ollek Nurseries 10% 2530 Knutsford Hills Dr Knutsford Purity Feed 15% <i>Plant material & decor</i> 471 Okanagan Way Kamloops
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Board of Director Opportunities

Volunteer Spots / Committees

President	Carol Wozencroft	Flower Show and Tea	Carol & Roni Sue Volunteers
Vice Pres	Roni-Sue Coulter	Annual Plant Sale	2027: Volunteers
Secretary	Cheri-Dawn Witwiky	Garden Tours	Roni Sue C
Treasurer	Lorna McMillan	Sign in Desk	Annie T & Joyce R
Membership	Myles Huble	Door Greeter	Ruth L
Facilities Liaison	Dianne Smith	Wreath Workshop	Jude Kneale
Social Media	Kiera McLellan	Coffee and Snacks	Coffee& Tea at Break: Donna Mattice and Shirley Bryant! Snacks: Lorna M /SEPT Gail A /OCT Roz & Chris H /NOV
Member at Large	Carol Allen	Potluck Dinner Food Planning	Sally O
Website	Dianne Smith	Potluck Dinner Set Up	Volunteers
Speakers	Carol W	Newsletter	Kiera M

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MEMBERSHIP

Thank you and welcome to all the new members! We are about 75 members now, and that's fantastic!

We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding as we work to maintain the quality of our club's programming. Fees are \$20 per person/year for membership.

Becoming a member of the **Kamloops Garden Club** gives you:

- **A supportive community** of gardeners who enjoy sharing knowledge, plants, and inspiration
- **Summer garden tours** throughout the city
- **Participation in club activities**, including garden tours, workshops, special events, hands-on learning opportunities, wreath-making, and our annual potluck Christmas dinner
- **Monthly meetings** with engaging speakers and practical gardening topics, held on the **4th Wednesday of the month** (no meetings in July, August, or December)
- **The *Weed All About Us* newsletter**, emailed monthly before the monthly meeting to current members with club news, event updates, and seasonal gardening tips
- **Garden centre discounts** at participating local retailers when you show your membership card
- **Voting rights** on initiatives that shape club projects and goals
- **Opportunities to get involved**, including joining the Executive Team by running for a Director position

Whether you're new to gardening or have years of experience, you'll find a warm, welcoming group of people who share your enthusiasm for growing, learning, and connecting.

Annual membership: \$20 per person **Non-member meeting drop-in:** \$5

Membership runs on a **calendar year, January to December, and**

*** RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF THE NEW YEAR.**

To keep our records current and accurate, **a membership form must be completed each year** along with your annual fee.

HELPFUL AND INFORMATIVE SITES

Public emergency preparation and recovery:

1. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc>
2. **Creating a Kamloops Xeriscape:**
<https://www.kamloops.ca/sites/default/files/brochure-createxeriscape.pdf>
3. **Kamloops Noxious weeds & Invasive plants:** <https://www.kamloops.ca/our-community/environment-sustainability/healthy-landscapes/integrated-pest-management/noxious>
4. **BC INVASIVES:** <https://bcinvasives.ca/take-action/identify/>
5. **FIRESMART For your home and property:**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prepare/firesmart> and
<https://firesmartbc.ca/>
6. **KAMLOOPS FIRE ZONE Prohibitions and Restrictions:**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-bans-and-restrictions/kamloops-fire-centre-bans>
7. **Mount Paul Community Food Center:** For gardening programs, seniors services, food access, vouchers for the Farmers Market (Low Income) and the SEED BANK!
<https://www.mountpaulcommunityfoodcentre.com/service>
8. **BC Council of Garden Clubs:** <https://bcgardenclubs.com/>

Should I add any others?

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GARDEN SUPPLIERS AND NURSERIES AND
GARDEN CENTRES IN THE REGION

• Okanoganxeriscape.org • sagebrushnursery.com Oliver • wildbloomnursery.com Kelowna • https://www.countrygardenherbs.ca/ Monte Lake • Boleangardens.com • https://ollek.ca/ Knusford • https://artknappkamloops.ca Kamloops • https://www.lyonslandscaping.com/ Kamloops • https://www.agrisupplykamloops.ca/ farm supply Kamloops • https://metroreload.com/topsoil/ Kamloops • http://www.bluemountainnursery.ca/ Armstrong	• https://www.thepondcountrymarket.com/ Barnhartvale • https://www.tru.ca/conferencecentre/facilities-venues/horticulture-gardens.html • https://www.horselakegardencentre.com/ Lone Bute • https://psnursery.com/ Armstrong • https://www.meadowbrae.ca/ Salmon Arm • https://www.nicosnurseryland.com/ Blind Bay • Sorrento Nurseries Ltd • https://www.nicosnurseryland.com/ Salmon Arm • https://purityfeed.ca/ Kamloops
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**Share your pictures on any of our media (FB,
Website, newsletter) or by email, for Shauna, and
show us your plantmanship!**