

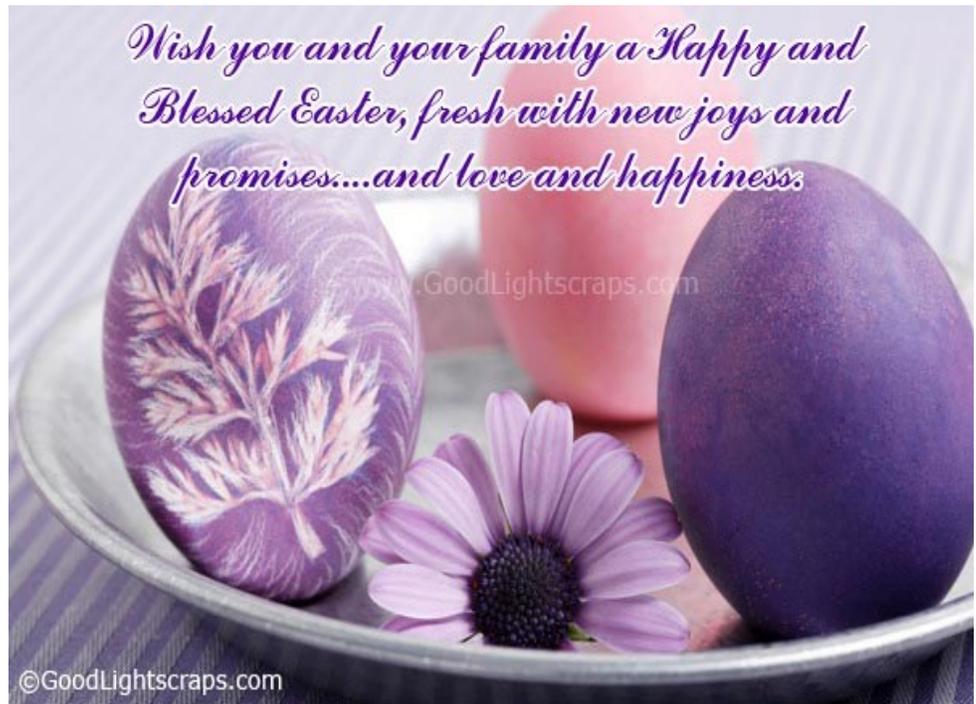
Editor: Shannon Brichon

# The Brandon Garden Club Newsletter

APRIL 16, 2014

*May and June. Soft syllables, gentle names for the two best months in the garden year: cool, misty mornings gently burned away with a warming sun, followed by breezy afternoons and chilly nights.*

*The discussion of philosophy is over; it's time for work to begin.*



## **TONIGHT** **Growing a Garden** **from the Ground** **Up—Kelley Liezeit**

Kelley Liezeit started gardening from the ground up. When she and her husband purchased their Whyte Ridge home in the mid-'80s, they asked that the developer not put in a back lawn. Instead they constructed pathways, trellises and garden beds.

Kelley knew little about gardening except that she liked pretty flowers. The important factors of light conditions, soil, and moisture levels were trumped by seductive blooms and offers at the garden centres. So she read armloads of gardening books and eventually took a Naturescape course at Fort Whyte Alive. There, she learned about planting to entice wildlife. She enhanced her garden with native species of flowering plants, shrubs and

trees. It paid off. Milkweed enticed monarch butterflies; pearly everlasting asters brought in the painted lady butterflies; and golden Alexander, the Swallowtails. As long as each butterfly had a host plant on which to lay eggs and a nectar plant from which to feed, they thrived in Kelley's garden. The birds were equally pleased. These days the pie-shaped garden is a welcoming floral delight

## MAY and JUNE hands on:

**May 14 6:00**  
**Green spot**

Hanging Basket hands on workshop including samples of What's New at the Green spot

for 2014!  
**May 21 6:00**  
**Patmore**

Container Gardening hands on workshop including samples of

**June 4 6:00**  
**Alternative Landscaping**

Succulent Containers hands on workshop including samples of What's New at



### **What are Seed Tapes and How Can I Use Them? By NGB**

They are a pre-sown product of single or multiple species of seeds that are already spaced between tissue layers at the correct distance for growing. As well as the simple, linear tape, there is a wide range of other shapes and sizes, such as discs, mats and carpets. Many flower, vegetable or herb seeds can be purchased already incorporated into these products.

Advantages include:

1. Even seed spacing prevents oversowing, especially with crops like lettuce, greens, carrots, wildflowers, etc. This also eliminates the need for thinning the young seedlings.
2. The lightweight tape prevents birds from eating freshly sown seeds
3. The tape, when covered with additional soil, won't wash away in a sudden spring downpour, ruining evenly spaced and sown rows.
4. Almost all seed tapes are biodegradable to protect wildlife and have no damaging impact on garden ecosystems.
5. For gardeners experiencing arthritis or other mobility issues, a seed tape is a quick and easy way to sow tiny seeds.

## Other events:



Download from  
 Dreamstime.com

### Types of Seedtapes:

**Seed tapes:** Come in various lengths, single track or multiple tracks, both available with the option of one seed variety or a multiple of seeds - suitable for salad, mixed vegetable and flower collections.

**Seed discs:** Small discs, from 8-12cm diameter are for standard flowerpots – perfect for the indoor herb garden. Larger discs, from 14-30cm diameter are often used for sowing container gardens.

**Seed mats:** Ideal for sowing seeds in window boxes, bedding borders and big planters. Sizes vary from as small as a business card up to 3' in length.

**Seed carpets:** Usually for larger areas where a 'mini garden' is desired, these are great for wildflowers, mixed veggies and salads.

### *Leap Into Spring'annual garden day.*

Hartney Centennial Centre

May 3, 2014

Speakers include: Rena Nerbas - Nora Tolmie - and Gwen Beam - Registration: \$20 includes presentations and lunch. Registration at the door after 9am.

Remember the plant sale on May 24th.

We need your extra plants and vegetables to make it a successful day.



Mark your calendars  
 Sunday  
 July 6  
 Members garden tour and BBQ



### Plant to enter

### THE BRANDON GARDEN CLUB'S

### FLOWER, FRUIT & VEGETABLE SHOW

All are welcome to come & enjoy beautiful displays and have afternoon tea 1-4 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014

Info: T: 204-727-8912

E: [thebrandongardenclub@mymts.net](mailto:thebrandongardenclub@mymts.net)

W: [thebrandongardenclub.weebly.com](http://thebrandongardenclub.weebly.com)

Where to use seed tapes:

Seed tapes and pre-sown associated products are suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, whether you are looking for a small window box or have a larger corner of the garden to fill – there is a size and shape product for everyone.

Suitable for children's gardens These eco-friendly tapes, discs, mats and carpets are ideal for children of all ages and abilities. They are a quick, easy and fun way to sow and grow your vegetables, herbs or flowers in a variety of environments and conditions. Children learn first-hand how simple, fun and satisfying it is to grow vegetables and herbs from seed. As we all know, children that grow vegetables and herbs are also more likely to eat them.

There is no need to worry about even spacing, handling, thinning or waste – these easy to use seed products are the ultimate work saver for all gardeners.

How-To

Prepare soil as for any planting. Place seed tapes, discs or mats on the soil and cover with the recommended top layer of soil. The products are well-suited for large empty garden plots as well as fill-ins in tighter locations. They are also ideal for container plantings.

## *Hort Couture*

*Time to take your vegetables out!*



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## CLUB INFORMATION

The Brandon Garden Club meets at 7PM on the third Wednesday of each month except July and August at the Park Avenue Activity Center, 311 Park Avenue East, Brandon. New members always welcome. Annual membership is \$20 single / \$30 couple. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings to take advantage of the Club's horticulture programme at a cost of \$5.00 per meeting. For more information on club affairs contact the club secretary, Nancy Lytle at 727-8912 or e-mail [thebrandongardenclub@mymts.net](mailto:thebrandongardenclub@mymts.net). The club newsletter is published free for members and is distributed at monthly meetings. Contact the editor, Shannon Brichon at 727-3581 for e-mail or postal delivery. Members are urged to submit material or ideas for publication.