

September 2023 Newsletter

Ladies ...

Summer is coming to a close but we still have some glorious weather ahead so enjoy!

Time to start the great yard clean-up for winter:

Clear Out, Tidy Up

- *Remove summer annuals
- *Put your leaves to work
- *Prune with caution
- *Pull those weeds

Plan for What's Ahead

- *Assess your garden
- *Plant spring bulbs

Set Things Right

- *Adjust irrigation
- *Tend to the lawn
- *Clean your tools

Give Fall the Floor

- *Spruce up your entry

But most of all enjoy!

OF INTEREST: 66 Percent of Americans say they aren't fully prepared for a natural disaster. September is National Preparedness Month. To make sure you're ready put together an emergency kit (including water, food, and batteries), make a meetup plan with your loved ones, and write out what to do in case of severe weather. Visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for more info and a full checklist.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

This will be the kick-off meeting for the 2023 - 2024 garden club year! WELCOME BACK! We are starting this year in the same location but a DIFFERENT START TIME. During the winter months this will get us on the road and heading home before it get dark.

Our Savior Lutheran Church is moving the Bible Study that takes place on Wednesday morning at 10:00AM to Thursday which is making it possible for IGC to meet earlier in the day.

Date: September 13

Time: 9:30 AM - Set-up

10:00 AM - Business Meeting

10:30 AM - Social Time (Snacks and Coffee)

11:00 AM - Speaker with time for questions and answers

12:15 - 12:45 PM - Clean-up

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front Street South

Issaquah, WA

September Program: TBD

Snack Committee:

Hostess: Dianne

Committee: Shadi, Gale, June Ann and Cathy

***** If you are a coffee or tea drinker please remember the **BRING YOUR OWN CUP**

NOTE: There will be no "Sale Table" at the September meeting so don't bring your items to sell.

Vaccination Requirement is Lifted:

After some discussion it was decided that we will lift the COVID vaccination requirement for now. As businesses and even healthcare facilities have stopped making masking and vaccinations a requirement for entry we felt that it would be challenging to enforce. Obviously, if anyone is feeling unwell they should stay home and not attend the IGC meeting ...

VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS:

All of you that ordered Vision of Beauty Calendars please come prepared to pay Gale Baullinger the \$8.50/calendar that you owe. If you won't be at the September meeting please mail a check to Gale at 16226 SE 24th Street, Bellevue 98008

SAVE THE DATES:

September 18, 2023 - General Membership Meeting (GMM)

Here are a few details:

Different location for this GMM only:

Brightwater Center

22505 State Route 9 SE

Woodinville 98072

Cost: \$10.00 payable at the door

9:30AM - Arrive and have coffee/tea

10:00 - 11:00AM - Horticulture Program - Scott Pringle, CPH, Paradise Lake

Nursery talking on "The Beauty of Hydrangeas"

11:00 - 12:30PM - Business Meeting and Lunch

12:30 - 1:30PM - Design Program - Shirley Hill will present Ikebana "East Meets West"

She is a well known instructor and you can view her

work at www.ikebanawithshirley.wordpress.com

1:45 - 3:15 - Tour of Water Treatment Facility - Kristin Covey, Education Coordinator will guide the informative tour. When you reserve your spot for the luncheon you need to include that you wish to attend the tour as it is limited to 25 participants.

September 22 - 24, 2023 - District flower Show "Fall in Love with Flowers" - Bellevue Botanical Gardens. More information was handed out at the Board meeting on August 21 and it will be available at the September 12 meeting and/or contact Lois if you're interested and need anything.

ATTENTION: June Ann needs volunteers for September 23 & 24 to be greeters/hostesses. The responsibility is to greet attendees at the door and assess those that are visiting a garden show for the first time and provide them with guidance and information. Sounds like fun! Contact June Ann if you can volunteer!

September 30, 2023 - Winterize Your Garden with Ciscoe Morris

Outdoor event at The Grange Supply in Issaquah

Time: 1:00PM

RSVP is required ... belma@grangesupply.com

Ciscoe will talk about:

- * Preparing your garden
- * Testing your soil
- * Harvesting before the first frost
- * What plants to bring indoors

October 20, 2023 - Bellevue Botanical Garden work day

Time: 9:30 - 11:00AM

For those that haven't done this before it's a fun time working in a designated area (chosen by BBG staff) along with staff. The staff are friendly, helpful, knowledgeable and grateful for the help we provide.

GOOD FUN! Sign-up with June Ann ...

EDUCATIONAL CORNER

5 deadheading mistakes you're making, and how to avoid them for a backyard that blooms better

Encourage new blooms and prevent disease with these deadheading tips from the experts who know what not to do

Deadheading spent flowers is one of the easier gardening jobs to do. It's generally quick and non-strenuous. For any new newbies, deadheading is the process of removing faded flowers, once they are past their best.

Cleared of browned blooms your [backyard](#) beds, borders and container gardens look neater and plants can put their energy into new growth. Deadheading perennials, such as zinnias and cosmos, will encourage repeat blooms throughout the season.

Not every flowering plant needs to have its spent blooms removed though. There are benefits to leaving some flower heads alone. There are also some deadheading mistakes that are easy to fall into - yet simple to avoid, according to our experts.

5 deadheading mistakes to avoid

1. Leaving it too late

Leaving dead blooms on a plant can attract pests, mildew and disease. So it pays to be on the ball in noticing spent blooms and taking action to remove them swiftly, along with dead leaves.

'It's always sad to see gorgeous blooms begin to fade, so enjoy them while you can,' says Charlotte, plant expert at [Nature Hills Nursery](#). 'With herbaceous perennials, such as peonies, once the plants are done blooming, it's time to snip branch tips that flowered.'

'Despite it being a heartbreaking moment to see those pretty petals drop, it is well worth your while to deadhead the old flower heads. This keeps the strength generated by the leaves going into the roots where they store the energy for those glorious blooms next year

'Removing the old flower heads really cleans up the plant's appearance and makes them a nice green backbone in the perennial or shrub border for the remainder of the season too.'

2. Trimming in the wrong place

Rows of stalks without flower heads will look a little bare, so take care to remove deadheads in the right place. This can vary from plant to plant.

'Deadhead roses by cutting the stem back to the first set of five leaves and do it regularly to maintain a continuous bloom,' says [Mary Irish](#), author of *Deserts of Arizona*, *Month-by-Month Gardening*.

'Make a clean cut at a slight angle. Keep your tools sharp and clean, so they make a smooth cut and do not spread disease from one plant to another.

'To deadhead a perennial, cut the flowering stalk back to the first leaves,' continues Mary. 'This will encourage another set of flower buds to form, giving a longer blooming season.

'In some perennials, especially salvias, there may be a group of flowering stalks at the end of the branches.

Deadheading these plants is the removal of only the stalk that has finished flowering, leaving the rest to complete their bloom.

'With warm-season annuals, deadhead regularly, as soon as the flowers are spent. This will encourage repeat blooming. Cut back flowering stalks to the first junction with a leaf-forming bud.'

'Clean up all debris, including old leaves, from around the plant to discourage the spread of insects or disease.'

3. Not cleaning tools between snips

Some flower heads, like pelargoniums, are delicate enough to be simply pinched off with your thumb and forefinger. However, others with woody stems, such as roses will need snipping with garden scissors or secateurs.

'A really good pair of garden snips or dedicated scissors will work just fine for most flowers,' says [Jessica Hall](#), co-founder, Harmony Harvest Farm. 'The bigger thing to keep in mind is to use alcohol wipes to clean them from plant to plant.'

'More developed plants that already have spent blooms are more likely to have diseases that you can't see. Deadheading with the same snips could spread diseases to other plants. It's important to develop a habit of always wiping the blades with alcohol wipes before hopping from plant to plant.'

An alcohol dipped cloth will work well too, if you're avoiding single-use plastics and throwaway wipes.

'To keep all pruning tools sharp and rust-free, clean them thoroughly after each use,' says Mary Irish. 'Dry out the tool, then apply motor oil, machine oil, or another oily product that will keep the metal parts from rusting.'

'One handy method for oiling tools is to prepare a bucket of sand mixed with oil. Plunge the metal parts of the tool into the bucket after each use. The sand will scour off particles of dirt and grime, and the oil will protect it from rust.'

4. Forgetting to collect seeds and not leaving some for wildlife

Nature is self-perpetuating and faded flowers produce free seeds that can either be collected to be grown elsewhere, or left to self-sow. Some, such as sunflowers, have huge seed heads, which provide food for birds and beneficial bugs. Others, like hydrangeas, look beautiful as they age and can be used for seed collection or in dried arrangements.

These can be left alone when you're deadheading, particularly if you prefer the trend for a wilder, more natural-looking backyard, rather than a manicured garden.

'If you want a self-seeding garden, to collect seeds, or create a more native habitat for wildlife, leaving some

spent heads is beneficial,' says Jessica at [Harmony Harvest Farm](#).

'Spent heads turn into seed heads, and while they don't look as pretty, there is a lot of beauty in the value of letting them provide for wildlife. If you remove all the spent blooms, then you remove food for wildlife.

'That said, removing spent blooms does promote more growth. There can be a balance, where you remove some spent flower heads to keep the blooms coming, while leaving some for a more native habitat or for seed collection.'

5. Deadheading flowers unnecessarily

'Plants like a lily that are growing from a bulb, tend to not produce outside of that single bloom,' says Jessica Hall. 'Therefore, if you deadhead that and cut it back too hard, you can actually compromise next year's blooms. Lillies are the perfect example of flowers that can be left alone when you're deadheading.'