



ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



February

May

August

November



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Growing Carrots

As we approach the upcoming gardening season, our thoughts turn towards what to plant and how much, what varieties are the best and where do we get the plants and seeds we want and need? Carrots are one of the most versatile vegetables in a small or large garden.

They can even be grown in containers or window boxes, and can be used in every course of your meal. Everyone can appreciate the sweet smell and taste of a fresh garden carrot, whether your choice is a traditional orange carrot or something more off the beaten path, such as yellow, purple or red. Yes these colors do exist, though they are not often seen in the local grocery stores.

Growing carrots in Alberta is a relatively easy thing to do. While some vegetable are very fussy about their growing conditions and care, the carrot is not. The carrot belongs to the umbelliferae family and is in the same company as fennel, parsley, cumin, celery and parsnips.

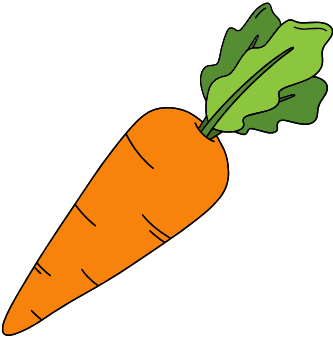
Carrots require a minimum soil temperature of 4 degrees C. to germinate. Warmer is better, with the optimum being between 23 - 26 degrees C. Don't expect your carrots to be up in two or three days - you need to be a little patient. Carrots should emerge in 12 - 15 days under the optimum growing conditions. Seed depth should be to the depth of your finger nail. Looking at soil PH - 6 - 6.5 is what you are looking for. Carrots are not transplanted so you will need to purchase a package a seeds.

The time to plant is usually between late April and late May. Staggering your planting time will ensure you always have a crop of baby carrots on hand. Fall planting may be an option but you will need to plant the seeds twice as deep and twice as thick. Carrots can withstand a few degrees of frost so don't be afraid to get started a little bit early.

Many of us plant carrots in a few single rows in the garden but the "meadow" method works well also. Seeds are scattered in a 1 foot band to create a meadow effect. Planting carrots in single rows 18 inches apart is the most common. If the rows are too close together you will have trouble weeding and harvesting your crop but too far apart and you will have given up some valuable planting space for weeds to grow. Seeds may be sprinkled carefully by hand, off the end of a trowel or with a larger garden a precision seeder.

The average germination rate of carrots is about 80% so sow fairly heavy as they can be eaten at a very early stage. Thinning the carrots is not an absolute requirement but it does give the remaining carrots a little more room as they mature.

-Karen Berglund



Affiliate clubs are encouraged to keep in touch with their district representative and club activities.

District reps are encouraged to attend the annual meeting and present a report on their district activities.

AHA NEWS

Show tags have been ordered and should be available at the 2023 A.H.A. Conference in Olds.

If you are not able to pick them up there, arrangements can be made for shipping through Ken Jensen.

A.H.A. Judges are encouraged to attend the conference update meeting. This time spent is an opportunity to reconnect after a year, discuss our judging experiences, and work on improving the program.

A reminder that if you are attending conference, please bring a reusable beverage container.



The District 2 affiliates are as follows:

- Irricana & District Ag Society
- Calgary Horticultural Society
- Carstairs Hort & Craft Show
- Millarville Hort Club
- Olds Garden Club
- Sundre
- Trochu

PROMOTE YOUR SOCIETY

The AHA website has a photo gallery to highlight your organization’s work in your community.

Do you have a plant sale, town clean-up, flowerbed planting, drive-in movie, garden seed give-away? Include a description and send some photos.

We’d like to see what is happening across the province.

ab.hort.association@gmail.com

Bench Show Judging

The bench show season is fast approaching. If you have not already requested judging assistance from the A.H.A. and would like to do so I encourage you to give me a call. (780 963 6575 or 780 919 5534) Just a reminder that judging assistance requires the affiliates to be paid members of the A.H.A.

If you are a judge and are available for the 2023 judging season I would love to hear from you. Judges are also required to have a 2023 membership in the A.H.A. There is a lot of activity already in regard to committees getting busy with Bench Shows and Fall Fairs.

- Upcoming bench shows:
- June 19 - Wainwright Frontier Ex.
 - July 19 - Pivot Country Fair
 - July 20 - Camrose Rose and Lily Show
 - July 21 - Czar Ag. Society Bench Fair
 - July 29 - Wetaskiwin Hort. Society
 - August 4 - Irma Ag Society
 - August 8 - Vegreville Garden Club
 - August 9 - Dawson Creek - South Peace Garden Club
 - August 11 - Coronation Ag Society
 - August 15 - Round Hill & Dist. Ag Society
 - August 16 - Lougheed Ag Society (100th anniversary)
 - August 18 - Carstairs Horticultural & Craft Fair
 - August 18 - Wildwood Ag.Society
 - August 18 - Millarville Hort. Club
 - August 19 - Darwell Ag Society
 - August 26 - Spruce Grove Ag Society
 - August 30 - Rumsey Red Deer River Garden Club
 - September 1 - S.H.A.R.A. Ag. Society (Smith/Hondo)

-Karen Berglund, Judging Coordinator

Judging Workshop

The Judging Committee is looking forward to another busy season of judging. A two day judging workshop will be held in Camrose on **July 29 and 30**. Registration for this will be \$100/person. For more information, or to register, contact Karen Berglund. (Info below). If you are interested in becoming an A.H.A. judge and are not sure what that requires, feel free to give me a call. We are looking forward to hearing from you in regard to becoming a judge, a great opportunity to see other communities and meet like-minded people.

There has not been a judging workshop for a few years so we are excited to get this program up and running again.

-Karen Berglund (780 963 6575 or 780 919 5534)
Judging Coordinator



Book Review: The Way of the Gardener, Lost in the Weeds along the Camino de Santiago by Lyndon Penner

Five years ago, I wrote a review of one of Penner's 'Short Season Gardener' books. The Way of the Gardener, published in 2021 by the University of Regina Press, is a very different book. Penner describes himself as a gardener, an environmentalist, and a wanderer. This recent book follows his six-week, 772 km wander along the Camino de Santiago (The Way of Saint James). It was perhaps more a horticultural journey than a spiritual journey for Penner.

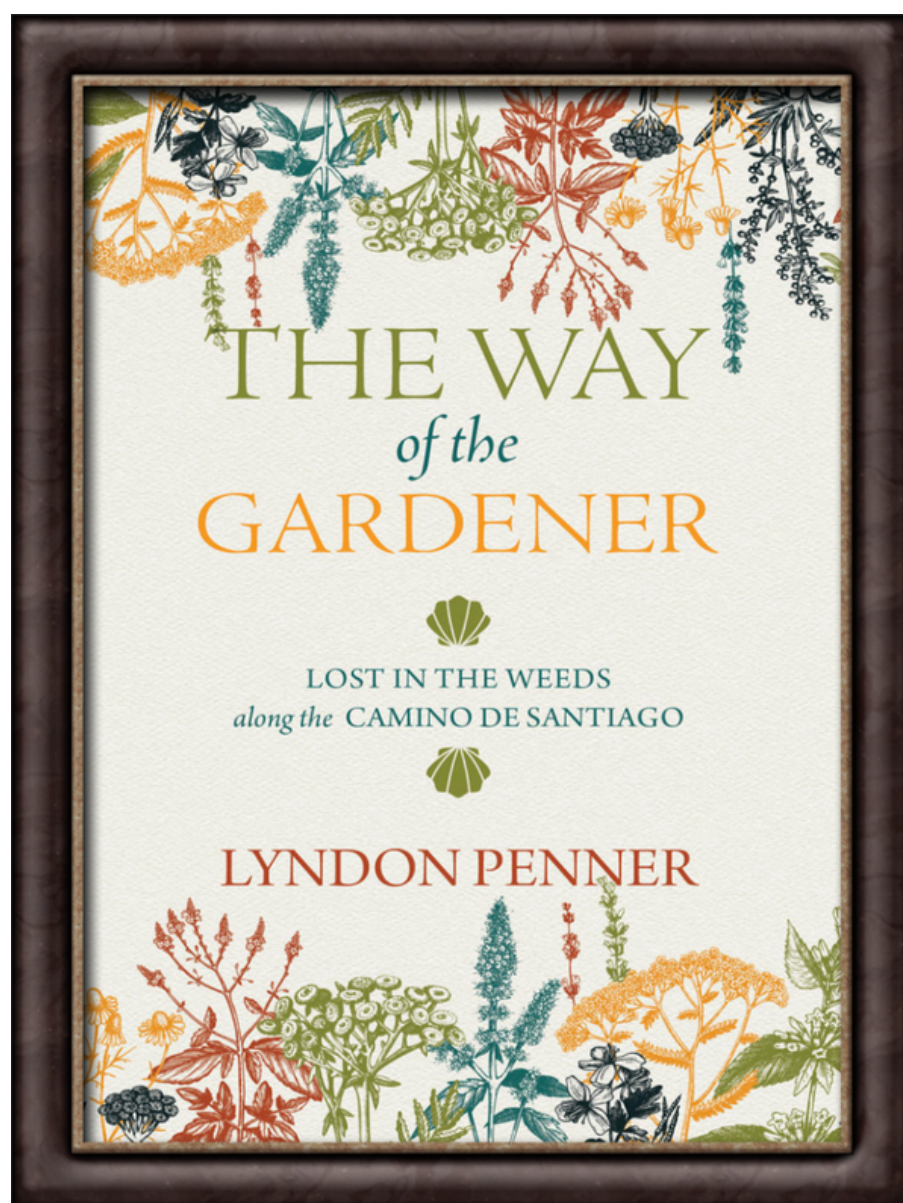
He writes, "Every step of the way I was observing and interpreting the plants I was seeing." His observations resulted in sketches throughout the compact volume, 16 large illustrations (with credits), and 15 pages listing the plants he encountered by common and botanical names. I was enthralled by the additional information that he supplied for the horse chestnut, oak, ivy, autumn crocus, chicory, figs, olives, gourds, grapes, blackberries, zinnias, and more.

He also wrote extensively about the animals, birds, and insects he encountered along the way. With just 160 pages, this softcover was a convenient size for me to take on my recent journey to the American Rose Garden in Shreveport, Louisiana for their annual Convention and Rose Show. As I read it, I realized that all my journeys end up being horticultural journeys. I may not remember my way around a particular airport terminal, but I will clearly remember their outside landscaping and their living wall.

The decisions made at a meeting may fade with time but the vision of a blossoming crabapple outside the window remains clear. A repetitive long drive becomes more enjoyable when I identify the field crops being grown and the surrounding trees and observe their seasonal growth. Even a memorial service is more memorable to me when there are floral arrangements to identify and appreciate.

As we enter this post-pandemic summer season, I hope that everyone will have the opportunity to travel horticulturally, as Lyndon Penner did. It need not be as far away as Spain or as long as Penner's six-week journey. However, I hope that we will all have the opportunity to observe and interpret the surrounding plants.

-Lorna McIlroy



District 1 Update

There are 2 affiliates in District 1 – the south zone.

South Country Pivot Fair has just joined this year. They have started planning their bench show and are very enthusiastic about doing a quality show. The show will be held **July 18-20** in the Bow Island Servus Community Arena.

Medicine Hat & District Horticulture Association has been busy even though we are still in need of a president and secretary.

We have had some amazing speakers coming to our monthly meetings. Roxanne Doerksen from TRADwormindustries is growing several million earthworms to produce vermicompost to improve soil fertility and also improve our food.

Brent Smith is a professor at the college teaching permaculture and sustainability (among other things). He is also practicing permaculture in his own yard using water conservation techniques, layered plantings, composting etc.

Mr. Coddington spoke to us about “Prairie Gleaners” a local non-profit organization that is dehydrating locally donated vegetables. Almost all the work is done by volunteers. All the veggies, along with locally grown dried beans and lentils are packaged and shipped around the world wherever there is a need. They have fed millions.

Presently the club is working with the Medicine Hat Public Library for Seedy- Sunday, April 23 2-4 pm.

We are also part of a Plant Exchange/ Info afternoon on April 29 1:30-3:30 pm.

Some of our members will also be helping the Root Cellar (local food bank) plant their amazing back garden throughout May.

We are in the planning stages for our popular yearly Plant Sale to be held May 27, 10-3 in the back garden of the Ewart Duggan House.

Our Annual Garden Tour organizing is also underway. The date is set for the afternoon of Sunday, July 16.

Our website is www.medhathort.ca. The club is also on Facebook and twitter.

Hopefully spring is here to stay!

-Marilyn Kusler, District 1 Rep

AHA Board of Directors

- President** – Ken Jensen
ambbowl@shaw.ca
- Vice-President** – Lorraine Taylor
lorrainetaylor543@gmail.com
- Treasurer** – Judy Bortink
jabortnik2003@yahoo.ca
- Secretary** – Marie Wenger
mawenger@telus.net
- District 1** – Marilyn Kusler
mrkusler@hotmail.com
- District 2** – Paul Rishaug
duckinthermuck@hotmail.com
- District 3** – Doreen Broska
doreen.broska@gmail.com
- District 4** – Sherry Cote
jrsic@shaw.ca
- District 5** – Karen Berglund
bbank@telus.net
- District 6** – Sandra Murray
sandramurray9@yahoo.ca

- Judging Coordinator** – Karen Berglund
- Education Program** – Contact District Rep.
- Newsletter Editor** – Emily Neis
neis.emily@gmail.com



REGISTRATION

\$60 Registration Fee

Make cheques payable to:
Alberta Horticultural Association

Mail cheques and registration forms to:
Sarah Badry
2821 Maple Way NW
Edmonton AB, T6T 0Z7

Payment must be received
by June 16

Registration forms to be sent out with
the May AHA Newsletter

VENUE

Olds College
(Land Sciences Building)

4500 50 Street
Olds, Alberta T4H 1R6



OLDS COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY



"Learn, Enjoy, Explore"

MORE INFORMATION

Website

www.abhorta.ca

Facebook

www.facebook.com/AlbertaHortAssoc

2023 A.H.A. CONFERENCE

Olds College
Land Sciences Building

June 24, 2023

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kim Wickwire

Kim Wickwire recently retired from the Horticulture program at Olds College.

During her 30 years of teaching floral design and production horticulture courses, she had the amazing opportunity to work alongside Buck Godwin in his cut flower fields for a number of seasons. She is looking forward to sharing what she learned while working and growing ornamental plants in Central Alberta.

Kim will be doing a presentation on "The Cutting Garden", with some plant material also available for demo.



ITINERARY

- 8:30am - 9:45am: Judges meeting
- 8:15am - 9:45am: Registration
- 10:00am - 11:00am: Kim Wickwire Presentation
- 11:00am - 12:30pm: AGM start
- 12:30pm - 1:15pm: Lunch. Affiliates meet with district reps. Silent Auction.
- 1:15pm - 2:00pm: Finish AGM
- 2:00pm -3:30pm: Guided tours of greenhouse, botanic gardens. Trial gardens/time for walk on own of wetlands.

ITEMS OF NOTE

- Coffee, tea, and muffins will be available from 8:15am - 9:00am.
- Please note any dietary restrictions on the registration form.
- Guests are strongly encouraged to bring reusable beverage containers to the conference.

SILENT AUCTION

- Attendees are encouraged to bring an item for the silent auction.
- Proceeds of the silent auction will go back to the AHA to help make conferences like this possible.



Learn, Enjoy, Explore



PAYMENT MUST BE
RECEIVED BY JUNE 16

ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION 2023 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Name (for name tag):

Affiliate Name:

Address:

City/Town:

Province/Postal Code:

Phone Number:

Email:

Special Diet/Concerns:

REGISTRATION FEE: \$60 (Full Registration)

Please make cheques payable to:

Alberta Horticultural Association

Mail cheques and registration form to:

Sarah Badry

2821 Maple Way NW

Edmonton, AB T6T 0Z7