

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Issue 11

www.vimga.org September 2023



Editor's Letter

Fire Smart Gardening

The recent bout of prolonged heat and drought and the devastating forest fires throughout our province, have many gardeners rethinking what plants are best suited to survive our changing climate.

Nurseries that I visited this summer advertise the "Firesmart BC Landscaping Program" which has a great website designed to help gardeners. While no plant is fire-resistant (witness the labels which proclaim to be 'deer resistant'), there are some plants that are more wisely planted than others AND that we can tell folks about at our clinics. To learn more of this program go to: firesmartbc.ca

Your education committee has been busy planning the upcoming AGM on November 4th at Nanoose Place. Our key speaker will be Trevor Coey an arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts. Trevor will speak on "Tree Fundamentals" but we have also asked him to field concerns about trees in this time of climate change. Following will be a panel discussion of Master Gardeners on planting and caring for our trees.

Our members are certainly a busy group. Don't miss reading Beth Walrond's excellent article touting Vancouver Island Master Gardeners. Also included is information on Milner Gardens Soil Amendment Trial, VIRL virtual gardening series and the upcoming VIMGA Master Gardener Certificate Program, all which give testament to our on-going contributions to our communities. See you in November.

- Jan



Jan Thorsen

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President's Message

president@vimga.org

September 2023

Greetings Members,



Mike O'Neill

End of summer traditionally signals, for many, a time to get back to work, back to school, and back to real life. Of course that's only symbolic because I am "retired", (mostly). School is generally fond memories, and real life is no different than summer time where every day is "Saturday".

But I really do change my routine, as I get thinking more about the coming year and jumping back into the *swing of things* as the saying goes.

We have had our first board meeting after the break and are getting excited about celebrating our 9+ early graduating interns at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 4 in Nanoose. We will be reflecting on our year of service to our communities and socializing with members from other VIMGA areas. Committees are busy planning the celebration which promises to be a fun event with something for everyone. We will celebrate more graduations at our SED in the new year.

Before that we have our MGABC AGM on October 1st which will be on Zoom and hosted by Prince George. You will all have received some notification with more information in this newsletter. I hope to see many of you there on Zoom. Make sure to check out their new website at www.mgabc.org, redesigned and very user friendly.

Speaking of websites, we have initiated the process of speeding up our website and really digging in on development to make it the go to location for members and the public. Cameron Smith leads the way for upcoming changes you will notice for both content and access speed. Be sure to check it out at

www.vimga.org. We also have a new strategic plan developed by a hard working team which will be presented to members at the AGM. Thank you Pam, Ruth, Cathy, and Debora.

Coming up in the new year is our Advanced Gardening program at VIU and new interns. Our Lead Mentor, Dorothee Kieser, is looking for mentors for interns and plant ID's if you are interested, lead-mentor@vimga.org. A fun and rewarding experience!

So many things happening in VIMGA and you will get a feel for that in the newsletter and from our website. Board and committee members are doing wonderful work and members are enjoying the improvements and achievements that are developing. Consider joining in on administration to take part in our adventures, these are exciting times! Volunteer for your area of interest.

Of course I could go on but others need a chance to present exciting news and information for you so read on. One final note I very much enjoyed an article written in Island Farm and Garden, Fall 2023 issue (<https://issuu.com/islandfarmandgarden/docs/island-farm-and-garden-sept-nov-2023>)

Written by our very own Beth Walrond! So many of our members are involved in the community and this is just one fine example, of bringing the word about Master Gardeners to our communities.

Thank you all for your energy and good work. Wishing you the best,

-Mike

Area Updates

Qualicum/Parksville District Rep - Ruth Beilman

pqn-rep@vimga.org



Ruth Beilman

The Milner Gardens food garden group has concluded the amendment trial. They will give us a short summary in November at the AGM and a more comprehensive report at the Spring Education Day.

We are having a pot-luck graduation ceremony for our interns September 12. Congratulations to Deb, Diane, Jean, Norma and our northern intern Marion!!!!

Membership: CMG-5 Interns-4(sooon to be graduating); Alumnus-5; Lifetime-1; LOA-1



**PQN graduates,
Norma, Dane, Marion
from North island,
Jean and Deb. We
had a lovely lunch for
the graduates**



On July 18, I attended a zoom meeting with Master Gardeners across Canada for an introduction to Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulations.

The Coalition was started by 2 Master Gardeners in Ontario to reduce the sale and movement of invasive ornamental plants.

Their goal is:

- Development of a national risk assessment database that can be shared
- Bans on the sale and movement of high-risk invasive plant species
- Labelling to identify and educate the public about lower-risk invasive plants
- Public education including alternatives to invasive plants
- Adoption of the National Code of Conduct by the horticultural trades

It is a slow and very difficult journey as there is not one agency responsible for regulation. What can you do?

The CCIPR website states: "We are not asking for financial support, we are asking you to **endorse goal to protect our environment, economy, and public health from invasive plant species and our specific objectives to reduce the sale of ornamental invasive plants.** When we have achieved a critical mass of people and organizations, we go to policy-makers to show we have the backing of the public. We will send you periodic updates if you would like receive them."

Please visit <https://ccipr.ca> for further information.



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Area Updates con't

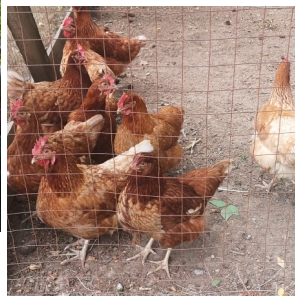
Nanaimo District Rep – Cameron Smith

nan-rep@vimga.org

On September 11 Dorothee hosted the Nanaimo group in her wonderful garden.



Chasing a bear cub!



Dorothee's chicks



Mike O'Neill, Jill Williams, CyAnne Bertola, Gail Hudson, Jan Thorsen, Chris Southwick and Dorothee Kieser (Beth Walrond was there too)



Radicchio variegata



Time to enter your 2023 Hours into our VIMGA System!

Recording **all of your hours in all categories** into the system demonstrates our clear commitment to our communities and those considering joining us and helps us in administration. There are other uses for these statistics that can benefit our members and VIMGA as a whole. So record them all.

VIMGA members spend many hours delivering advice to our community and continuing to improve our knowledge base. Some numbers for you: 63 members of VIMGA recorded over 1,300 hours of garden advice in their communities and spent more than 450 hours on continuing education in 2023.

There are plenty of tutorials on the web site but feel free to reach out if you need help getting it done! (Super HINT: Entering your hours after a project makes the task much easier than doing it all at one time which is time consuming).

Area Updates con't

North Island District Rep—Cathy Lund

ni-rep@vimga.org



Cathy Lund

VIMGA NI SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Wow it's been a very busy season for our group in the North Island District.

We are nearing the end of our volunteering events with 2 more Comox Valley Horticultural Society meetings where we offer an advice clinic at the beginning of the meeting. We have one last clinic at Gardenworks nursery in Courtenay.

We have held 23 advice clinics and 8 Garden Advice Parties. The events have covered our entire district and included several different types of venues from Seedy Saturdays, plant sales, garden club meetings and nurseries. That doesn't include the work some of our members have done in speaking or writing articles. We have a request for a speaker for the Campbell River Garden Club so we are establishing a relationship with that gardening group. We attended their plant sale earlier in the summer.

We have another social get together in the planning for October and then it's planning time again for the next year. We are lacking in photos so we will prioritize that going forward. Thank you to all of our members for your contributions.

Vancouver Island Virtual Gardening Series

Monday, October 2, 2023

Time: 6:30—8 pm

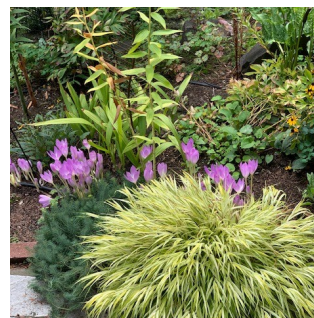
Ask a Master Gardener Anything for Fall and Winter



This is a FREE course that will take place virtually on Zoom. *Please [REGISTER here](#) to receive the link and event material & updates.

We have a panel of Master Gardeners who are going to answer YOUR Fall/Winter gardening questions! Presented in partnership with VIMGA.

Take a look at the great back catalogue of our [Virtual Gardening Series here](#).



Fall Blooms in Gail Hudson's Garden



This article first appeared in the Island Farm & Garden Magazine Fall Edition

By Beth Walrond

T0: Jamie Oliver

Essex, England

Dear Jamie:

Your cooking shows and cookbooks are a real inspiration. I love your ideas of using the freshest ingredients, and lots of fruits and vegetables. It is a real help to me and millions of others as we think about how to make the most of a meal. Your continued efforts to educate people about how to eat well is wonderful.

As you are concerned about education relating to good food, I want you to know about VIMGA. No, it's not a car, it's an organization here, where I live on an island off the West Coast of Canada.

"The Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association provides education to the public using current, science-based horticultural knowledge and integrated pest management practices to ensure the advice we offer exemplifies environmentally responsible practices and stewardship."

www.vimga.org/about-us.

BTW, Integrated Pest

Management means we deal with the destructive bugs without using harmful chemicals.

I know you love talking to people who inspire you. Let me tell you about one of the leaders in our community who inspires, helps, supports and serves in many ways. Dorothee Keiser has a 29-acre farm. She and her husband work 5 acres and grow a lot of vegetables. They also have chickens and a small orchard. She is always

trying out new methods to improve production, like using an espalier for tomato plants. In addition to this very active life in home garden, she serves on the board of VIMGA, currently as Past President and is the Lead Mentor for the Master Gardener Certificate Program which is offered through our local university, the Vancouver Island University.

Dorothee is involved in 5 other organizations which educate and support the gardening efforts of people locally. I recently met with her and asked her what inspires her to do so much. Dorothee told me she enjoys the contact with people and enjoys gardening.

Involvement in VIMGA certainly gives contact with people, because a lot of the activities of VIMGA are out in



the community. For example, Advice clinics are held at nurseries, garden centres, plant sales, farmer's markets, garden shows and garden tours. This is where Master Gardeners volunteer their time to answer questions and help people find those solutions needed which are environmentally responsible.

One of the most relaxing and enjoyable ways to meet with people is a Garden Advice Party. A host will invite friends and neighbors in to their garden, two Master Gardeners attend and give advice, answer questions about the hosts gardens. It is a great to be in the garden to do this kind of question-and-answer exchange. Everyone learns and has fun. And of course, there is always a few refreshments. I can just see you coming through the gate and saying, "Let's crack on." After greeting everyone, naturally.

Of course, like you, we all had to adapt to making more online presentations because of Covid. Another leader in our organization, Jo Canning, partnered with our local library and organized online presentations on garden-

ing. There is a long list on Vancouver Island Regional Library which features our members and experts from around the world. See www.virl.bc.ca. click on Events, then Virtual



Gardening series. This is accessible by the general public and is useful to our members because those of us who are Certified Master Gardeners must do 10 hours of continuing education each year as well as 15 hours of advice clinics. It was a real help during Covid to be able to keep up the education component during lock down. These online clinics increased the participation from 50 in person, to 1300 attending workshops online.

There is quite a network here of people and organizations that work to help gardeners learn more. Another partnership is with Milner Gardens, that is up island a bit from Nanaimo. It's a grand old house and fabulous woodland garden with 100-year-old rhododendrons. There is a strong British connection here, but that is another whole story. Master Gardeners from VIMGA operate a Garden Advice Line at Milner Gardens which is an email-based advice service. Send in a question and research will be done and an answer sent. Email: GardeningAdvice.MilnerGardens@shaw.ca. Dorothee was key in getting this established with a number of other volunteers and staff from Milner Gardens.

Our members also write articles for magazines, newsletters and newspapers. Those activities count towards our

ongoing hours which maintains our certification. VIMGA has four districts: Cowichan, Nanaimo, PQN (Parksville, Qualicum, Nanoose) and North Island. Together that makes up the VIMGA chapter. The 63 members of this chapter put in 1,209 advice hours in 2023. This is all done free to the public. And we are one chapter in a provincial umbrella organization Master Gardeners of British Columbia. So, you can see this is a lot of people working to help others learn about gardening.

Dorothee has lived on her farm since 1976 and so she has a lot of gardening experience to share. I asked her what inspires her to garden. She said, "There is some magic in watching things grow. I don't have a 100-mile diet it's more like 100 steps. And of course, helping nature."

Dorothee enjoys teaching and giving library talks. I have taken a number of workshops from her and found she has wonderful straight forward, organized approach that makes the information very accessible. As do you in your cooking shows, Jamie.

Dorothee is well experienced working the land and volunteering with our various community organizations that support gardening. I wanted to also talk to someone

who is a new VIMGA member. Dorothee kindly suggested I talk to Marion Woloschuk.

Marion is also a very experienced gardener, as she started "helping her father at age 5". Her mother and grandmother did the canning and preserving of what her dad grew. Marion has years of experience gardening and also does a lot of volunteer work in Coombs and Bowser where she lives. (Up island from Nanaimo). Coombs is a village in a farming district with a great market, which has grass and goats on the roof. You might like to see that.

With all the gardening experience that Marion has, I asked her why she took the Master Gardening Certificate Program. Marion says she thought it would be a good idea to take the course, which she did during lockdown from Covid. "It would keep me busy and in contact with other people.

And it sounded like it would be very interesting. Marion has completed her course work and volunteer hours. She will receive her certificate at our next AGM.

For those interested in pursuing this: it's a two-part program. One is the course



work, four months of Saturdays with a mix of online and in person lessons. The second part is the certification work which is two years apprenticing with other CMG's doing advice clinics and ongoing education workshops. This second part is organized by VIMGA Marion said, "It is challenging, takes some time and effort, but its very rewarding. You get lots of support from your mentors and other CMGs." The online teaching is another Covid adjustment that is better for everyone, especially when our highways are snowy in the winter months.

The volunteer work Marion does as a Master Gardener is in addition to other volunteer work. I also asked her what inspires her to do this. She said, "It's important to give back to the community." Regarding the volunteer work with VIMGA specifically she said, "If I can help someone avoid making a mistake or improve on something, then that might encourage them to keep on gardening. I think it's important to educate ourselves, so others can learn from us and then further pass on what they've learned. We know that gardeners and their gardens are not perfect, but we need to remember to enjoy what we're doing."

I also asked "Has the Master Gardening training helped you in the other organizations that you belong to that

also have to do with gardening and farming? Is there a cross fertilization of ideas? In what ways?

Marion answered "Of course. Master Gardeners happily pass on their expertise and enthusiasm at the garden clubs I belong to – the BSGC (Baynes Sound Garden Club) has had CMGs as speakers at our meetings and also at our annual plant sale. And there are many areas that overlap in the gardening/farming



world. Here on Vancouver Island most farms are quite small ("community agriculture" vs "commodity agriculture") and anything that applies on a backyard gardening scale pretty much translates to the needs of a small farm. We grow crops in our backyards, on small-plot holdings or on larger acreages, but the requirements to successfully grow those crops remain constant. Part of the training to become a MG involves learning how to learn, and that applies across the board."

Gardeners love the land, as you love to cook. Farming and gardening in an environmentally responsible way embraces the philosophy of stewardship of the land. Master Gardeners led the way

by science-based teaching, sharing and continually learning.

There are many wonderful big gardens on Vancouver Island that you have to pay money to see, and they are beautiful, but the really important ones are those in the backyards of homes and in small farms which provide fresh food to families. Through the efforts of organizations like the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners people have opportunities to learn how to deal the many challenges that can come up when gardening. VIMGA is one of many organizations that help in this way. We are an Island with strong support networks.

You have visited many Islands and countries, perhaps in the future you could come to Vancouver Island and visit some of the wonderful gardens, farms, and farmers markets here on Vancouver Island. And meet the inspiring people who work the land and grow wonderful food.

Kindest regards,

Beth Walrond



Beth Walrond

Are you an
**experienced
home gardener**
interested in advancing
your skills?



Introducing the

Master Gardener

Certificate Program

at Vancouver Island University

Master Gardener

Certificate Program

A partnership between **Vancouver Island University** and **Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association (VIMGA)**

This course is based on the original Master Gardener program from Washington State University, established in 1973.

Designed for the experienced home gardener, this is an intensive training program providing up-to-date information on all gardening basics.

- Promote sustainable solutions to gardening problems
- Fill gaps in your gardening knowledge
- Meet other gardeners in an atmosphere of sharing and exploration
- Give back to your community and share your joy of gardening through volunteering.

Please visit
pdt.viu.ca/master-gardener-program
for more information.



Associated with Master Gardeners Association of BC



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY**

Next Advanced Gardening Class starting !

The next joint VIMGA-VIU Advanced Gardening Course will start in early January 2024 and we hope that you will tell all your friends, neighbors and fellow gardeners about it. All the necessary information is given in the brochure. A zoom information session will be held on the evening of October 17. Registration is required for this zoom session (see bottom of brochure for link).

Also: All you keen VIMGA members: more volunteers for the AGC are need: Continuing Mentors and Plant ID mentors in particular. If you are interested and want volunteer hours, please contact Dorothee Kieser, our Lead Mentor at LeadMentor@VIMGA.org .

Milner Gardens Fall Plant Sale

September 23 - 24 from 11am - 4pm

Milner Members early access from 10am - 11am on Saturday, September 23.

Join MABRRI on a guided tour to learn more about their Plant Phenology Project on site! Saturday, September 23 from 11:15am - 12:45pm starting at the Welcome Centre.

Vancouver Island Master Gardeners will be on site to answer all of your gardening inquiries. (Saturday and Sunday)

The VIU Horticulture Technician Foundation Program will be on site to talk about the benefits of their program. (Saturday only)

Foragers Galley Mushrooms will be promoting their Grow-At-Home Mushroom Kits (Saturday only) available for purchase in the Pool House Gift Shop.

The Camellia Tea Room will be open for walk-in service from 12pm - 3pm on Saturday, September 23, and **Closed** on Sunday, September 24 for our monthly specialty High Tea event.





MGABC Annual General Meeting **Sunday, October 1, 2023**

Art in the Garden

***Art is the celebration of the senses;
what more sensual place do you inhabit than your garden?***

Featuring....

Maureen Faulkner: 'The Garden as Art'

A retired educator, Maureen has traveled extensively and has a Master's degree in Art. She teaches at the local art gallery and gardens on her one-acre canvas, designing and planting with the help of her husband, who does the hard landscaping.

Nigel Saunders: 'Bonsai – a 2000-year-old Art Form in a Pot'

Nigel is a bonsai enthusiast and has been growing miniaturized trees as a hobby for over 30 years. His YouTube channel 'The Bonsai Zone' has over 200,000 subscribers. Nigel currently cares for over 270 of his own trees.

Nancy Moore: 'The Role of Art in the Garden'

Nancy's love of plants and gardens started on her family's small hobby farm in the Fraser Valley. She has run her own landscape design/consulting business and taught landscaping design, installation and horticultural techniques at the University of the Fraser Valley. Nancy has also had the pleasure of teaching the Vancouver Master Gardeners for over 20 years.

Annual General Meeting

President's and Financial Reports

Golden Trowel Award

Election of Officers for 2023-2024

Creative Presentations by the MGABC chapters

Great door prizes!!



2023 VIMGA Annual General Meeting

“About Those Trees”



Date: **Saturday, November 4th**
Location: **Nanoose Place**
2925 NW Bay Rd. Nanoose Bay
Time: **9:30 AM to 2:30PM**

9:00AM – 9:30 AM	Doors open—coffee/tea/meet and greet
9:30AM – 10:30 AM	Welcome and VIMGA business
10:30—11:15	Break (Flower Pot Exchange—Donations to VIMGA)
	Public will be invited in at 1045 AM (by donation at door)
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Presenter, Trevor Coey “Tree Fundamentals” <i>Trevor is a Bartlett Tree expert specializing in preventive health care for trees and shrubs including insect and disease management, fertilization and soil care.</i>
12:15 PM– 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Milner Soil Amendment Trial Update
1:30PM – 2:30 PM	VIMGA Master Gardener Panel <i>“Everything we know about Trees (and more)”</i>
2:30 PM	Closing Remarks

Flower Pot Exchange

Bring your decorative pots you no longer use or get some new ones. Donations to VIMGA



Saving and Storing Tropicals for Next Year

By Ray Novitske, Fairfax Master Gardener
—reprinted with permission from Fairfax Master Gardeners.

Us cheap gardeners hate to spend a lot of money on plants and hate to throw any away. Like a well-worn pair of comfortable sneakers, I hold on to plants as long as possible, getting the most use out of them. This is especially true of summer tropical—especially those that form bulbs that can be stored in the winter without any care on my part.

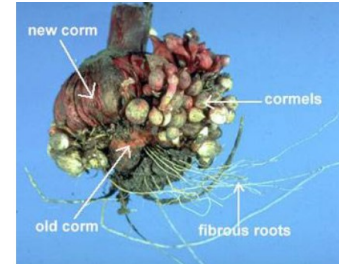
We can try to keep tropical plants growing indoors, but many don't like the shorter days, low light levels and dry air. There's also the insects hitchhiking on the plants when you bring them indoors. And, some naturally prefer a dormant stage. To enjoy the tropical next year, we can spend time moving them indoors and nursing them along through the winter and bring them back to life again in the spring.

Not all tropical plants produce the bulbs that can be stored. The term 'bulbs' used here is a generic term for the underground parts we can overwinter. Some of these parts are scientifically classified as bulbs, but others are actually corms, rhizomes or tubers.

Bulbs are storage organs but considered as fully complete plants' they contain cells for all parts of the plant—roots, leaves, stems, flowers. Rhizomes are actually underground stems that send out shoots and roots. Corms are underground stems but are also storage devices to keep nutrients for when the plant will need it. And finally, tubers are not stems but underground organs for storing energy and nutrients. Here are some of the more common tropical plants that we can lift and take indoors.

Gladiolus and tuberous begonias

Gladiolus can be left in the garden well after frost and removed as late as October or November. First, dig up the corms. After letting them dry out for a week or two, brush off the dried soil. Remove the older shriveled portions, leaving the new corms that formed during the summer. Place in a paper or mesh bag—I have used a cardboard box. Do not place in plastic bags, as moisture will build up and promote rot during the winter. Store in a cool, dry and dark place until ready for planting again in the spring when danger of frost has passed.



Dahlias

Dig up dahlia tubers just after the frost when the leaves have turned black. Cut off the stems and rinse tubers in water to remove the loose soil from around each and allow to sit in a warm dry place for a week or two. Dahlias should be stored in a slightly moist environment or they will shrivel and dry out before the end of winter. Store in very lightly damp peat moss, sawdust or vermiculite, making sure it is not wet. I usually check on them once a month or so during the winter to be sure that are not wet or rotting. In spring, take them out, wet the tubers and plant in the ground after frost danger has passed. I plant them indoors about three weeks before planting outdoors to give them a chance to sprout and begin growing.

Canna

Once foliage has died back because of frost and cold, trim the plants to just above the soil line. Then with a spade or fork. Carefully loosen the soil and dig up the

Rhizomes that have multiplied during the summer months and begun spreading outward. Be careful not to damage or cut the underground rhizomes since this would expose the interior material to infection. Store on paper for a few days to let the soil still attached dry out. Like dahlias, they should be stored in a slightly moist material like peat moss, sand or sawdust, but in a cool dark location.

When I first started storing canna rhizomes over winter, I stored them in a dry paper bag. Many did not make it through the winter due to excessive dryness and rot progressing through them. I have recently had better success in keeping them dry and not in peat moss. I give them a bath of water about once every three weeks, allowing them to dry off completely in the open before placing back into storage. In the spring, I take them out and pot them about a month before going into the garden. I peel away all older leaves and stems taking care not to cut them off and introducing a cut to allow fungus to enter. Sometimes with a mild winter, those that I forget to dig up in the fall will survive and spring back to life in the spring.

Elephant ears (colocasia and alocasia)



After the tops have been hit by cold weather or a light frost, carefully dig up the bulbs and let dry out for about two to three weeks. Cut off the tops to about 7.5 centimetres from the bulb, shake off the soil and store in a cool dry place. Of all the overwintering bulbs, I find these the least problematic. In the spring, pot them indoors about a month before the last frost and then transfer to the garden after the soil warms. Again, as with the cannas, some bulbs I have left outside during the winter grew back the next year.

Caladium

Caladiums are a little more sensitive to cold temperatures, so the tubers should be lifted in the fall when temperatures begin to fall under 10 degrees C. Use a garden fork or spade to dig them out, taking care not to damage the tubers and store them in a dry place for about two to three weeks. Remove the dead leaves, brush off the soil and place in dry peat moss, vermiculite, sand or sawdust for the winter.

General tips for storing tropical bulbs

- Prevent any damage to the bulbs, corms or tubers when digging up. Simple nicks, scraps or cuts can allow pathogens to enter the bulb and cause rot while in storage. Rot is the single most problem in winter storage. Do not store in plastic which can hold in moisture and promote fungus.
- I will light dust my bulbs with a fungicide before place them in storage to help prevent rot from spreading during the winter.
- Some of our heated basement are too warm for storage. Consider an attached garage, unheated basement or unheated porch.
- Check on the condition through the winter and discard any bulbs that appear to be going soft or showing signs of rot. Bad bulbs can easily spread the condition to healthy ones.
- Pot bulbs in early spring indoors to wake them up from their sleep and give them a head start. Do not be too eager to plant them outdoors until the soil and temperatures have warmed to a least 18 to 20 degrees C.

With proper care, you too can grown the same tropical year after year. Be sure to call yourself a frugal gardener—not a cheap one.

