



Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener at Great Dixter, England

Succession Planting

Description:

Fergus will talk about the principles of long season gardening. He will touch on long season plants, shape, texture, underplanting and interplanting with bulbs and other plants which are happy to share the same space, as well as the use of self sowers and temporary fillers to prolong the seasons.

The main part of the talk will concentrate on how you use bulbs and woodland plants to provide another layer in your perennial and mixed borders. From snowdrops through to alliums, these play a vital role in filling the gaps and giving you colour for many months.

Prolonging the season in a colder climate than the UK is still possible. In fact, in many ways it is easier to achieve a seamless transition from spring through to autumn. Infrastructure of hardy shrubs and long season plants is critical to fill the gaps through the winter months.

Biography:

Fergus Garrett trained in horticulture at Wye College, London University. He worked in Kent for Rosemary Alexander of the English Gardening School, for Beth Chatto at the Unusual Plants Nursery in Essex and then for the Sackler family at Cap d'Antibes and Gstaad. In 1992, he became head gardener at Great Dixter, working closely with Christopher Lloyd until Christopher's death in 2006. Since then he has become Chief Executive of the Great Dixter Charitable Trust. Fergus works full-time, hands-on in the garden, as well as writing and lecturing extensively across the world.

Dr. Elizabeth Elle, Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University

Ecological Gardening: supporting the biodiversity that works for you

Description:

Urban and suburban gardens can be important reservoirs for biodiversity, contributing to conservation efforts. But did you know that maintaining biodiversity in your yard also makes gardening easier? Beneficial organisms create healthy soils, and provide pollination and pest control. A lighter touch (dare I say, lazy gardening?) and other small tweaks to your practices can lead to a more resilient, productive, and thriving space.

Biography:

Elizabeth Elle is a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University. Elizabeth and her students have been studying pollinators and pollination in farms, natural areas, habitat restorations, and gardens of BC for 25 years. She is currently focused on translating the science of conservation to assist the public and land managers in biodiversity-supporting gardening and restoration practices.

Egan Davis, Manager, Parks Operations, City of Richmond

Urban Forestry in the 21st Century: Innovating for Resilient Green Spaces

Description:

In an era marked by climate change, economic challenges, and limited resources, the role of the urban forester has never been more critical. This session will explore the dynamic relationship between trees and urban environments, highlighting innovative strategies for selecting and caring for trees that thrive amidst these changing conditions. Attendees will gain insights into resilient tree species, sustainable care practices, and forward-thinking approaches to planting trees in their gardens. Join Egan to discover how we can transform our gardens into resilient, thriving green spaces that stand the test of time.

Biography:

Egan Davis has a lifelong passion for horticulture. He has taught at both UBC Botanical Garden and VanDusen Botanical Garden. As a horticulture practitioner, Egan has held leadership roles in both the private and public sectors. He is very active in the industry, serving on various committees and boards, and participating in both local and international projects. Egan currently serves as the Parks Operations Manager for the City of Richmond.

Christina Chung, Horticulture Educator and Local Author

Edible Gardens, the way nature intended—in layers

Description:

By intentionally including edible plants from 8 different layers (trees, sub-canopy trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous perennials, annuals, ground covers, and edible roots) in your home garden, you'll be building an edible garden that will produce food for years to come and require less work and fewer resources.

Biography:

With a focus on perennial edibles, Chris Chung, a Vancouver-based horticulture educator and author who trained at UBC Botanical Garden, explores how "multi-purpose" plantings can be practical, beautiful, productive, and supportive of nature in both edible and ornamental landscapes. Chris shares her gardening insights through her online and consulting work as Fluent Garden.

Links:

<https://www.fluent.garden>

Saba Farmand, Landscape Architect

Urban Gardens of the Future: A Community Building & Environmental Education Movement Centred on Boulevard Gardens

Description:

What began as a personal Instagram account to document boulevard gardens, that his neighbours voluntarily installed quickly, grew into a vibrant community project. With a dedicated following, it inspired an annual Earth Day Walking Tour that now attracts hundreds of attendees and raises thousands of dollars for a local non-profit. This project's incredible reception illustrates the tremendous power that boulevard gardens have to create positive change. In addition to hearing inspiring stories of building community through gardening, you'll learn actionable tips for starting or maintaining your own boulevard garden. Join Saba as he shares the inspirational story behind this truly unique project.

Biography:

Saba is a landscape architect and the curator of [East Van Boulevard Gardens](#). He utilizes Instagram as a framework for environmental education, urban literacy, and community building. His tours have earned him local and [national](#) media attention, including a cover-story in *The Globe & Mail*.

Links:

<https://youtu.be/YPCYgbgXk4I>
