

WILDFLOWER NEWS

Growing Nature's Garden



July 2024



Nisku Prairie in early July, with *Drymocallis arguta* (tall cinquefoil) in the foreground. 2024-07-05. Photo: M. Parseyan.

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From your editorial team and our gardens:

Well, summer is well and truly here, and it's a summer of plant largesse. The earlier, cool, moist conditions have encouraged tall, luxuriant plant growth with an abundance of flowers, not to mention grasses. As we move into heat and/or drought, growing conditions may not be so good, but they should foster fruit ripening and a plentiful harvest. So, here's to making the most of the great outdoors and our gardens because, in the words of the bard: "Summer's lease hath all too short a date."

Please note: In the accompanying articles, all scientific names of plants should be italicized as per international protocol, but we aren't able to do it in all cases with the software we are using, e.g., in photo captions. We are working on a solution, and hope to have that in place by our next issue.

Events

Native Plant Garden Tour August 10, 2024 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Alberta Native Plant Council and the Edmonton Native Plant Society are organizing a guided tour for August 10, to highlight native plant gardens in the Edmonton area. The ENPS demonstration beds at the Muttart Conservatory will be included, as will some yards belonging to various society members. This is a great opportunity to gain inspiration and information from people who garden with native plants on a regular basis. Space is limited and advance registration is required.



Chamaenerion angustifolium (fireweed) makes a splendid display in Patrick Kyle's native plant garden. This plant is very versatile and will even grow under spruce trees. 2024-07-10. Photo: P. Kyle.

To register for the tour, please go to the EventBrite link here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/edmonton-native-plant-garden-tour-tickets-952826538827?aff=ebdsshoother&utm_share_source=listing_android

Invasive Weed Pulls Around Edmonton

July Weed Pull Events 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 City Edmt Carlton 10:00 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:30	22	23 Thistle Patrol Millcreek Rav 19:00 – 20:30	24	25	26	27 City Edmt Hermitage Pk 10:00 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:30
28	29	30 Thistle Patrol Millcreek Rav 19:00 – 20:30	31 EALT Lu Carbyn Ntr Sanctuary 10:00 – 15:00			

Wanting to do your part to help conserve and protect habitat for native plants? Here's a compilation of all the opportunities this month, in the Edmonton area, to remove invasive weeds. Please go to the links given below to register for an event. (Events highlighted in yellow on the calendar indicate that there are two or more different events happening on the same day.)s

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 City Edmt Terwillegar 10:00 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:30	6 Thistle Patrol Millcreek Rav 19:00 – 20:30	7	8	9 City Edmt Riverdale 10:00 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:30	9 NCC Golden Ranches 9:00 – 14:00
11	12	13 Thistle Patrol Millcreek Rav 19:00 – 20:30	14 NCC Golden Ranches 9:00 – 13:00	15	16	17 City Edmt Ritchie 10:00 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:30

Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT):
<https://www.ealt.ca/get-involved/events>

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC):
<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/what-you-can-do/conservation-volunteers/events/#ab>

City of Edmonton (City Edmt):
https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/pests/weed-pulls

Thistle Patrol:
 Send an email to volunteer@enps.ca to be added to the list of people who are notified of the exact location of this event each week.

City of Edmonton Naturalization Survey

For more than 25 years, Edmonton has been reverting sections of City green spaces to a more ecological state through naturalization. Naturalization is a process that transforms a manicured landscape into one reflective of the natural ecoregion. Responsible parkland care means sustainable practices that contribute to a healthy, climate-resilient, livable City for generations to come. Naturalization helps preserve and celebrate the natural plant and animal species found in our region.

Naturalization is occurring throughout the city - along roadways, stormwater ponds, park spaces, and in new development communities. It may even be happening in a grassy area near you! The areas being targeted for naturalization are those that are not part of the regular mowing cycle, and may eventually be planted with trees, shrubs or wildflowers.

The goal of the City’s survey is to understand residents’ awareness of, and perspectives regarding, the ongoing naturalization efforts. The survey is currently open to all city residents and will close on October 20, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.

For more information, and to take the survey, please go to the following link:

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/environmental_stewardship/naturalization

Advocacy



The Problem of “Wildflower” Seed Mixes

By Patsy Cotterill

Gardening season is in full swing, and once again the problem of wildflower seed mixes has surfaced.

[Read more...](#)

On display in a local grocery chain store in June.
Native perennials, sure, but native to where?
Certainly not Canada!

Articles

Our Local Anemones

By Patsy Cotterill

We have four common Anemone species in the Parkland area, if you include two that were formerly in the genus *Anemone*: prairie crocus (formerly *Anemone patens*, now included in the genus *Pulsatilla* as *Pulsatilla nuttalliana*) and *Anemonastrum canadense* (formerly and still, according to *Flora of North America*, *Anemone canadensis*).

[Read more...](#)



Flower of *Anemone cylindrica*, garden, 2022-07-01.
Photo: P. Cotterill.

Nature's Guardians

By Patsy Cotterill

A hats-off to two people who have adopted local natural areas and are doing a great job of monitoring and communicating about them for the benefit of others.



Northern wild comfrey (*Andersonglossum boreale*) in flower in Bunchberry Meadows, 2024-07-06. Photo: S. Panteluk

[Read more...](#)

The Muttart Demonstration Bed

*By Liz Deleeuw,
Coordinator*

In 2012, the Edmonton Native Plant Society acquired the use of a bed by the parking lot at the Muttart Conservatory.

[Read more...](#)



Volunteers at work on the Muttart demonstration bed. 2024-06-26. Photo: L. DeLeeuw.

Plant Profile

Wolf Willow, American Silver-berry (*Elaeagnus commutata*)

By Patsy Cotterill

The flowers on my wolf willow shrubs have been so profuse and so divinely sweet-smelling in June this year that I'm happy to have this plant in my garden, even though it tends to send up shoots (from stolons) in the vicinity.

[Read more...](#)



Wolf willow flowers and leaves in Bunchberry Meadows, 2021-07-11. Photo: P. Cotterill.

Photo Essays

Summer Fruits

Many spring- and early summer-flowering plants are producing ripe fruits in July.

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Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), Bunchberry Meadows, 2024-07-06. Photo: S. Panteluk.



Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*), Bunchberry Meadows, 2024-07-07. Photo: S. Panteluk.



Sprengel's sedge (*Carex sprengei*), Whitemud Creek, 2013-07-17. Sprengel's sedge is quite common along the trail in Whitemud Creek Park South. Photo: J. Teare.

Picture Perfect – Images of Nisku Prairie in Early July

A visit to Nisku Prairie on the 5th of July revealed a grassland flourishing from the spring rains earlier this year.

[Read more...](#)



Three-flowered avens (*Geum triflorum*) showing wispy, pink seed heads which have given it the alternative name of “prairie smoke.” 2024-07-05. Photo: M. Parseyan.

Wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) stands out amidst the greenery. 2024-07-05. Photo: M. Parseyan.

Flower of heart-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus cardiophyllus*). Note the glossy petals, numerous stamens and head of green achenes characteristic of the buttercup genus. 2024-07-05. Photo: M. Parseyan.

Lifetime ENPS Membership

You can now become an Edmonton Native Plant Society member for life. Memberships are \$20. Purchase by email: membership@enps.ca or visit one of our booths at plant events in your area. ENPS members are also eligible for a free Lifetime Membership with Nature Alberta.

Aims of the Edmonton Native Plant Society

- Promote knowledge of the Edmonton area native plants
- Conserve our native plant species and their habitat
- Preserve native plant species and habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations
- Educate individuals, businesses, and local governments about native plants

Please send compliments, concerns and questions to info@enps.ca
To unsubscribe or subscribe, email info@enps.ca

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