

Healthy Gardens

Our gardens do not only provide a function of beauty but also serve to feed organisms that work as part of the infrastructure in nature. This infrastructure is the support mechanism that scrubs the air, cleans our water, disposes of our waste and provides the food that feed the insects and animals we depend on higher in the food chain. Everything **IS** interconnected! The choices you make on a day to day basis do not end with the one activity but trigger a long line of effects. Diversity is the key to a healthy garden. The greater the population of insects, animals and plants the better your garden is protected against disease, pests and stress. Using this knowledge as the fundamental base for your gardening strategy will lead to a healthier environment and a safer place for you and those you love. Take our test in the [Healthy Gardens](#) section of our website.

Recommended reading;
Gardens For Life
By Diana Beresford Kroeger

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE BUG LADY'S GARDEN?

Vermicomposting! What better way to teach children about the microcosm of our planet than to get their hands dirty by playing in the compost.



GARDEN PARTNERS™ Collector Cards have arrived!



It took some time but they are finally here. A quick and easy resource for you to take into the garden for simple identification of those insects you are finding. The set includes 25 unique cards with colour photo's of all stages of insect development along with a poem to help you remember their roles. On the back of each card is a brief description of the habits, lifecycle, food source, location and host plants. We have divided the bugs into five categories of Pests, Pollinators, Predators, Processors and Parasites and colour coded each group for easy referral. No longer must you lug your entire library to the garden to identify what you have found. Just reach into your back pocket for your **GARDEN PARTNERS™** **\$10.00 per set**

"When we kill off the natural enemies of a pest, we inherit their work."


Carl Huffaker

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Good Riddance to Pesticides

Making the change to Earth friendly gardening practices requires a fresh start to pest control. However, getting rid of the poisonous pesticides requires responsible disposal. Synthetic compounds will harm our watersheds and ground water as the properties that make pesticides work are the properties that kill. These properties include high water solubility, slow adsorption (the ability of a pesticide to remain in the soil), and high persistence (how long it takes for the chemical to degrade).

Getting rid of the pesticide bottles left lingering in the back corner of the garage is as easy as driving to a Product Care ["Paint Plus" Depot](#) location available to all BC residents. Product Care is a non-government response to stewardship regulations demanded of "brand owners". There is no charge to drop off leftovers that are accepted by the program. To find the Depot close to you check out <http://www.productcare.org>. Consumer products accepted by Product Care must have both the poisonous (skull & cross

bones) symbol  and Pest Control Product (PCP) number. Maximum container size is 10 Litres.

Upcoming Events

February 2 2006
Gabriola Garden Club
Workshop "Managing pests naturally"
February 4 2006
Qualicum Seedy Saturday
February 8 2006
Duncan Garden Club
Workshop "Companion Planting"
February 11 2006
Milner Gardens
Seminar – "Chemical Free Gardening"
February 18 2006
Victoria Seedy Saturday
February 22-27 2006
BC Home and Garden Show
bugme@thebuglady.ca
(250)951-1973