SGGA NEWS

April 2019

SGGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Spring 2019

This is short and sweet. We want you around next year.

You have studied your plant list. Ordered your soil and supplies. Nurtured the little babies. Hired staff, trained the new employee. You have been frustrated over all the price increases everywhere. Paid the carbon tax. (Except on the natural gas, hopefully you got your forms filled out and sent in.)

You have increased your crop base. You have learned market trends. You have studied edibles and how to grow them successfully in containers so you can pass this knowledge on.

You have been busy not just growing but learning. You have improvements to make for 2020.

Now it's time to sell the inventory.

Don't sell yourself short. Know those costs. Pay yourself. You are worth your expertise, your personality, your time.

You need to make a profit.

The world is a better place because of the vegetables, herbs, shrubs and flowers that you grow.

Remember your value. Happy selling.

– Gail Medernach
President SGGA

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SASKATCHEWAN GREEN TRADES CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 7–9, 2019

Delta Hotels
405 20th St. East
Saskatoon

The Professional GARDENER CO. LTD. EST. 1927
WILLSIE EQUIPMENT SALES
Fruit and Vegetable Equipment
hjs wholesale

Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association
Box 68, Middle Lake, SK S0K 2X0
Phone: 306-367-2012 Fax: 306-367-2403
Email: saskgga@gmail.com Website: www.saskgreenhouses.com

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SGGA

FOLLOW US ON twitter

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2019 MEMBERSHIPS DUE JANUARY 1, 2019

Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association

Membership Benefits:

- Access to Tag Discount Program
- Access to Tray and Box Discount Program
- Subscription to SGGA's Quarterly Newsletter
- Scholarship Funding
- Copy of *Greenhouse Canada* magazine
- Industry support through other mentors and Board of Directors
- SGGA's website (members only section)
- Member Discount to Annual Conference and other association programs
- Industry Updates and Networking Opportunities
- Member on Facebook forum

On your behalf the SGGA is pleased to represent the greenhouse industry, addressing topics important to your business at the industry and government level. Your membership is important and entitles you to share your opinion and concerns with the board.

Box 68, Middle Lake, SK S0K 2X0
Fax: 306-367-2403 • Email: saskgga@gmail.com

306-367-2012

www.saskgreenhouses.com

See page 8 for the SGGA membership form

SGGA verified members will receive **SGGA member rates** on tag orders placed with:

Horta-Craft

Horta-Craft Limited https://horta-craft.ca

JVK

JVK Ltd. http://www.jvk.net/

Contact Horta-Craft Ltd. &/or JVK Ltd. directly to discuss your order

SGGA 2019 Newsletter Advertising

Advertising Option	Member Fee	Non-Member Fee
Full Page 7.25″ x 9.75″	$110.00	$165.00
Half Page 7.25″ x 4.8″ (horizontal) 3.5″ x 9.75″ (vertical)	$ 85.00	$127.00
Quarter Page 3.5″ x 4.8″	$ 60.00	$ 90.00
Business Card (1/8 Page) 3.5″ x 2.3″	$ 35.00	$ 52.00
Full Page Insert	$ 75.00 you print $ 125.00 we print	$ 125.00 you print $ 200.00 we print

2019 DISTRIBUTION DATES

Distribution Deadline	Content Deadline
January 15, 2019	January 4, 2019
April 15, 2019	April 5, 2019
July 15, 2019	July 5, 2019
October 1, 2019	September 20, 2019

Contact the SGGA OFFICE to book your advertising space!

Debunking Gardening Myths

By Jackie Bantle

The past few weeks have been busy with presenting talks and workshops to people who can't get enough information about gardening. There are many new gardeners out there looking for basic information as well as seasoned gardeners who always have questions. Some of those questions are a result of gardening advice that has been passed around for years but is based more on old wives tales rather than facts. As greenhouse growers who have direct contact with customers, you can be one of the most valuable sources of gardening information. Where are you getting your information and is it based on science and facts or on something that you read on a random person's blog on the internet? Following are some of the questions that I hear several times a year along with answers that are based on scientific facts. There are a lot of Gardening Myths out there, hopefully some of these myths can be dispelled during this year's growing season.

What gardeners have been told: "Plants will not grow under spruce trees because the fallen needles make the soil too acidic." It is true that it is very difficult to grow plants under spruce trees but it is not due to the acidic soil. Plants do not grow under spruce trees because it is too dry, there is a lack of sunlight and usually the soil has been depleted of nutrients and organic matter. The large spruce tree has relatively shallow roots and these roots can also be a problem for growing other plants. Spruce needles are acidic however, it would take a very large amount of needles to change the soil pH. The pH of the soil under a spruce tree will not be much different than the neighboring soil. Avoid planting under spruce trees and leave the lower branches intact to cover the spruce trunk right to the ground. If customers insist on planting under spruce trees, choose plants that survive in dry shade or grow shade plants in above ground pots and be prepared to water regularly.

What gardeners have been told: "If you have a heavy clay soil, add sand to make the clay soil easier to work." Adding sand to prairie soils is not recommended. The danger of adding sand, especially in small amounts, is that large sand particles mixed with tiny clay particles will result in a concrete-like mixture. Research has shown that it takes an addition of 50% total soil volume to significantly change the texture of clay soils. A small garden patch would require a truckload of sand to change the soil texture. Clay soil can be amended over time by adding organic mulch or compost on top of the soil year after year. After 15 years of adding well-composted manure and straw on the heavy clay soils at the U of S Horticulture research plots, we are finally seeing a significant difference in our soil structure.

What gardeners have been told: "Put a layer of gravel or other coarse materials in the bottom of containers to improve drainage." Containers should always have drainage holes in the bottom to remove excess water. It seems sensible to add some gravel in the bottom of the container to improve drainage however, water does not move easily between fine textured material (potting media) and coarsely textured material. Because of this, water tends to saturate the soil just above the gravel inside containers, making it a poor area for roots to grow. Simply fill containers with the potting media right to the bottom and add your plants. Never use soil from the ground for your containers as the soil does not drain properly in a container. Containers should be filled with a potting mix of peat moss, vermiculite, perlite and topped off with several centimeters of compost.

What gardeners have been told: "Add Sulphur or lime to change the pH of your soil." On the prairies, pH is rarely a problem in our gardening soils. Large scale pH adjustments to our soil are unnecessary, difficult, expensive and not recommended. Prairie garden soils are usually rich in nutri-

ents and organic matter: both of which tend to have a more "basic" pH or slightly alkaline. Because of the free lime in our soils and the buffering capacity of our soil (i.e. the soil's ability to resist change), if you try to change the pH, it will not move much at first but once you exceed the buffering capacity, it will suddenly begin to change dramatically with little effort. It is very easy to damage your soil permanently if you exceed your soil's buffering capacity. Large scale changes to soil pH are not necessary and not recommended on the Prairies. Some plants like azaleas, rhododendrons and blueberries must grow in acidic soils. You can temporarily change the pH of an individual planting hole by adding a large amount of peat and incorporating elemental Sulphur before planting. Test the pH frequently and apply the acidifier as needed to maintain pH. These acid-loving plants can also be grown in a container of soilless potting mix (containing peat moss) but the containers must be buried in the ground during the winter or brought inside a heated garage (just below 0°C) to survive the winter.

What gardeners have been told: "Apply Epsom salts and/or egg shells as fertilizer for tomatoes to add magnesium and calcium to the soil thereby preventing blossom end rot." Very rarely is a Prairie soil deficient in calcium or magnesium. If growing tomatoes in a container, there may be a lack of nutrients in general however,

Blossom End Rot on tomato

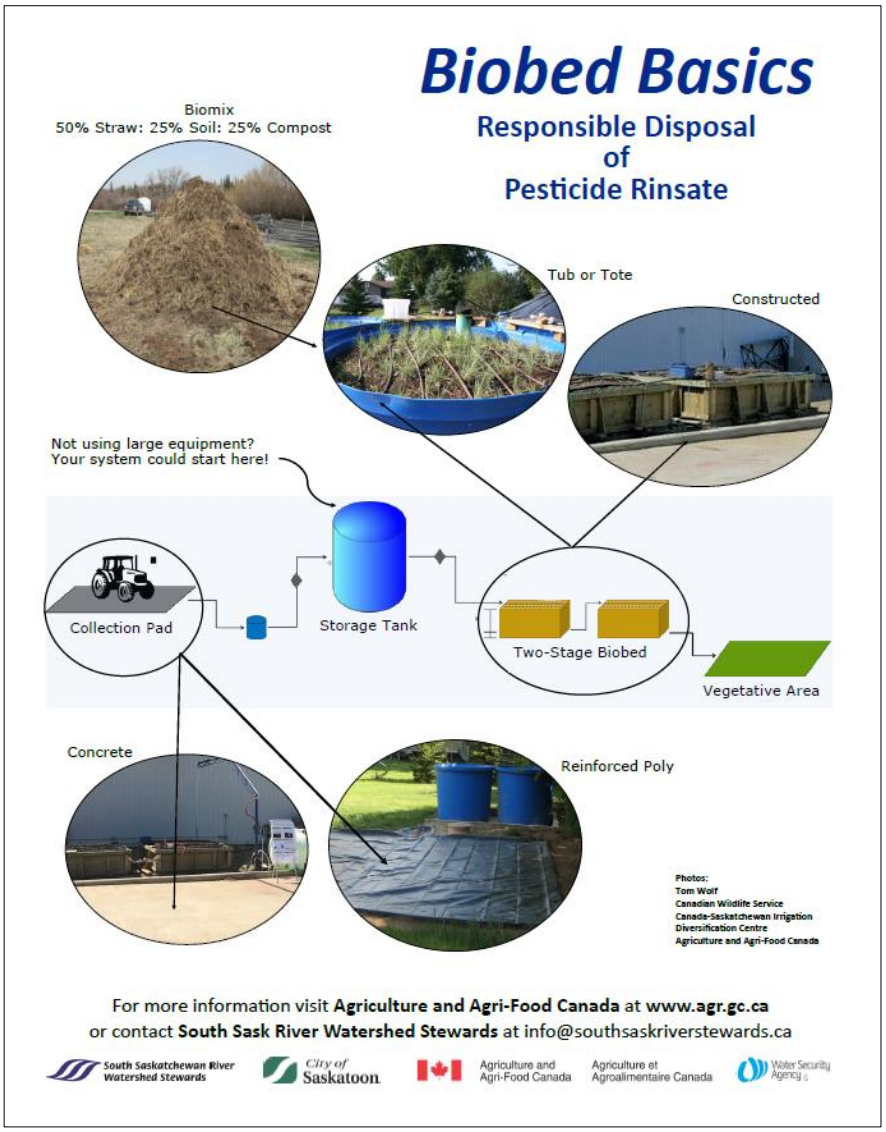
some compost or a balanced fertilizer containing both macro and micro-nutrients is recommended for container growing. Epsom salts contain magnesium but they also contain salt. Applying salt to your soil or growing media is not a good practice. Blossom end rot of tomatoes is more often caused by the lack of available calcium to the plant due to uneven watering. Calcium and magnesium may be abundant in the soil or media but water is needed to move the nutrients up into the plant. If the plant suffers drought conditions, nutrients are not being supplied to the plant. At a time when tomato fruit is forming, a lack of calcium and/or magnesium will kill developing tissues, eventually resulting in blossom end rot. Water your plants regularly and deeply to prevent blossom end rot and apply compost or a well-balanced fertilizer prior to planting.

During the last year, the Department of Plant Sciences Horticulture staff have been working hard to improve local gardening information available to the public through an expanded website and Facebook page. 'Gardenline' has been offered over the summer at the University of Saskatchewan for several decades. (Phone: 306-966-5865 or email: gardening@usask.ca). For many updated articles and current gardening questions, check out the U of S Gardening Facebook page (Gardening at USask) and the U of S gardening website: https://gardening.usask.ca. Good luck in your greenhouse sales!

Biobeds: Responsible Disposal of Pesticide Rinsate

Meewasin Site

Herbicide and herbicide rinsate can contaminate soil, wetlands, holding ponds, waterways or wells which can pose a danger to citizens, livestock and nature. Biobeds speed up the herbicide natural breakdown processes. They provide an ideal habitat for microbes which breakdown herbicides to the point where they pose no further threat to the environment (Ag Canada and Agri-Food Canada 2015). A biobed consists of one or two containers; totes or tubs. The containers are filled with a mixture of topsoil, compost and straw. The rinsate is slowly released into the biomix from a storage tank through a perforated hose. This two-container system allows for greater adsorption/ breakdown of pesticides. Plants can be grown on the tops of these containers to help with moisture control in the biobed.



Biobeds can be as large and elaborate as necessary for your operation. A biobed was constructed in Saskatoon on Mewwasin Valley Authority property for use by the MVA and city staff. This was built for a very low cost. The amount of rinsate that will go through the system is relatively small, so the containers could be small. As well, Meewasin was able to use a lot of materials that they had around their facility. If a greenhouse is interested in seeing this small "urban" use biobed they can contact the South Sask River Watershed Stewards at 306-460-4987 and a visit can be arranged. The SSRWSI will help explore funding opportunities to build a biobed. There is a detailed manual on-line at www.agr.gc.ca.

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CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

Cost-Shared Funding for Greenhouses
under the
Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)

The **Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program** (FRWIP) provides a cost-shared rebate for dugout, pipeline and well projects that meet program criteria.
All applicants must demonstrate an agricultural use for the water.
Agricultural use includes greenhouse production.
$50,000 in gross farm income needs to be demonstrated.

Agri-Environmental Technical Services across the province provide assistance, at no cost to the producer, with applications for the ***Farm Stewardship Program*** and the ***Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program***

Agri-Environmental Technical Services (AETS) Area Boundaries

Carrot River– 306-752-1270
Beaver River– 306-841-8263
Eagle Creek–306-831-6009
North Saskatchewan River– 306-441-4066
South Saskatchewan River– 306-291-7499
Wascana Upper Qu'Appelle– 306-946-6533
Assiniboine River– 306-783-1693
Lower Qu'Appelle River– 306-745-9774
Lower Souris River– 306-452-7953
Upper Souris River– 306-421-6574
Moose Jaw River– 306-691-3399
Old Wives Lake– 306-648-3220
Swift Current Creek– 306-770-4606
Milk River/SODCAP– 306-671-7656

If you do not fall within one of the listed watersheds, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards
Government of Saskatchewan
Canada

High Greenhouses

Oh No..
I forgot to order Calibrachoa and Bacopa, what am I going to do?

Don't worry, check out High Q Greenhouses.

They have an Availability List with an amazing selection of items that are still available.

Contact them at 780-939-7490, or send an email to contact@highqgreenhouses.com

55431—Range Road 262 Sturgeon County, AB T8R 0W7
780-939-7490
www.highqgreenhouses.com

2019 SGGA MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SUBMIT IT, ALONG WITH PAYMENT, TO THE SGGA OFFICE

2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR Company Name: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/Town: _____

Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Business Telephone #: _____ Alt Phone #: _____

Fax Number: _____ E-mail: _____

May the SGGA use your Business Name for promotional purposes? _____Yes _____ No

I give SGGA permission to share my contact info with other growers and suppliers. _____
SIGNATURE

Active Membership Information (check all that apply)

Greenhouse Vegetable

☐ Cucumbers ☐ Tomatoes ☐ Peppers ☐ Other(s):_____

☐ Bedding Plants ☐ Potted Plants ☐ Perennials ☐ Cut Flowers ☐ Poinsetttias ☐ Garden Center
☐ Wholesale ☐ Retail
☐ Other(s): _____

Please select your size* of operation to help the SGGA identify programs and benefits that fit our member's needs:

☐ Small – under 9,999 ☐ Moderate – 10,000 – 24,999 ☐ Medium – 25,000 – 1 acre ☐ Large – over 1 acre

** Size is determined by the square footage you have that is covered by a structure and you have the capacity to control the heating & / or cooling environment.*

I would like to receive my Greenhouse Canada subscription

☐ electronically ☐ printed copy in the mail

***IMPORTANT:** Would you prefer to receive communications by: ☐ Mail ☐ E-mail

The SGGA newsletter will be shared with you via the preference indicated.

Membership Type

☐ Active Member / Grower – Basic Membership $125.00 $_____

☐ Add $0.01 per square foot over 10,000 to a maximum of $325.00
# of square feet _____ x $0.01 = $_____

☐ Associate Member / Trade Membership $175.00 $_____
includes listing in suppliers list on website

☐ Educator / Government Membership $125.00 $_____

☐ Student Membership $ 25.00 $_____

Subtotal = $_____

GST 5% = $_____

Total Enclosed = $_____

FAX OR MAIL THIS FORM TO:
Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association
BOX 68, MIDDLE LAKE, SK S0K 2X0 FAX: 306-367-2403 Telephone: 306-367-2012 Email: saskgga@gmail.com

Payment Method

*Please submit payment payable to the
Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association

Amount Submitted / Authorized: $_____

☐ Cheque - Cheque Number: _____

☐ Credit Card (Visa / Mastercard)

Cardholder's Name: _____

_____

Credit Card Number:

_____/_____/_____/_____

Expiry Date: _____/_____

Cardholder's Signature:

_____

Did you buy more than just a seed potato?

Clubroot is a soil-borne disease that can be transported with seed potatoes.

Clubroot is not just a disease of canola. The disease has the potential to significantly reduce yields of all brassicas, including vegetables such as cabbage, broccoli, rutabaga, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, radishes and kale. Weeds such as wild mustard, shepherds purse and stinkweed can also serve as hosts to the disease.

Clubroot inhibits the plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients. This leads to stunting, yellowing and premature death of the crop.

Best management practices for clubroot prevention and management include:

1. **Do not source seed potatoes from areas where clubroot is known to exist.**
2. Minimize the movement of soil from field to field by cleaning off equipment and creating an exit separate from the field entrance.
3. Practice a three-year rotation at a minimum, with brassicas planted only once in three years.
4. Control volunteer canola and brassica weeds throughout the crop rotation.
5. Scout fields for disease, paying special attention to field entrances, low areas, and areas where stunting and yellowing might be occurring.

Clubroot has been confirmed in areas across the northern agricultural region in Saskatchewan, as well as in neighbouring provinces. For more information on this disease, please visit clubroot.ca, search "Clubroot Management Plan" on saskatchewan.ca/crops, call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll free at 1-866-457-2377 or email aginfo@gov.sk.ca.

GREENHOUSE SERVICES

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Laboratory analysis plays a crucial role in greenhouse management. Whether balancing nutrients in water/solution, identifying deficiencies in plant tissue, or monitoring potential plant pathogens; SGS Guelph can assist greenhouse growers by providing the measurements necessary for management decisions.

OUR SERVICES

MEDIA ANALYSIS

Analysis of growing media is a critical first step in developing a fertility program for the crop it will support.

WATER/NUTRIENT SOLUTION ANALYSIS

Water analysis allows the producer to develop an A/B tank mix; whereas nutrient solution analysis provides confirmation of the mix.

Utilizing our on-line reporting system, growers can access our A/B Tank Mix Calculator, customizable by crop with editable ingredients.

PLANT TISSUE ANALYSIS

Plant tissue analysis is a useful supplement to water and media testing, especially for phosphorous, potassium, magnesium, and manganese. For micronutrients such as boron and copper, it is the most accurate analysis in determining deficiencies.

DNA MULTISCAN

A rapid and accurate test to determine the presence of plant pathogens. Early diagnosis of pathogens, and at what levels, leads to good greenhouse management. DNA multiscan can be performed on media, water, roots and leaf tissue.

WHY SGS

- Complete Agricultural Analytical Services
- ISO 17025 and OMAFRA accredited
- Online report access 24/7
- Quality Results in a Timely Manner
- Inter-Laboratory Check Sample Program Participant
  - Magruder
  - AAFCO
  - NAPT

OUR PACKAGES

OUR PACKAGES		
GREENHOUSE MEDIA	**BASIC**	**COMPLETE**
	pH, EC, NO3, P, K, Ca, Mg, S04, Na, Cl	Basic plus: NH4, Fe, Zn, Mn, Cu, B, Mo, Al
GREENHOUSE WATER/SOLUTION	**COMPLETE WATER**	**COMPLETE SOLUTION**
	pH, EC, NO3-N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, Cl, SO4, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe, B, Si, Total Hardness, Bicarbonate, Total Dissolved Solids	pH, EC, NO3-N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, Cl, SO4, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe, B, Si, NH4, Bicarbonate
PLANT TISSUE	**BASIC**	**COMPLETE**
	N, P, K, Mg, Ca	Basic plus: S, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe, B

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Web: www.sgs.ca

SGS IS THE WORLD'S LEADING INSPECTION, VERIFICATION, TESTING AND CERTIFICATION COMPANY

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE