SGGA NEWS

April 2020

NON-MEMBER VERSION

SGGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our new world

Hello fellow greenhouse growers and welcome to our new world. I don't need to tell any of you about the emotional roller coaster we have been on since turning the calendar in 2020… What's happening? Am I going to catch this virus? Is my family OK? Is my business going to be open? Should I plant normal? Yes that's what I'll do; I'll plant normal. Oh no maybe I should cut back… Morning is different, each night is different… This virus just isn't going away. Should I cancel everything or should I just cut back…?

I finally decided life goes on. The sun comes up every morning, spring is coming and everyone needs to eat, everyone needs to enjoy the beauty we provide physically and emotionally. How can our industry make sure the people of Saskatchewan have access to our products?

The wheel started turning, conversation started to happen with government departments and doors were opened. our managing director Guenette Bautz worked diligently conversing back-and-forth with government, first convincing them that we were an essential service to the province – people needed the vegetables that we produced in our greenhouses and they needed bedding plants for vegetable gardens and their patios. They needed the trees and fruit trees and also needed our products for their mental health.

The people of Saskatchewan need to be able to enjoy the beauty that we can bring. They may not be traveling far this year and therefore their yards and gardens will be more important than ever.

Policies were formed to maintain safety first and foremost for ourselves and our staff and also for our customers. A lot of thought and hard work went into this process; it's been a long few weeks but with so much success and now it's your turn to do your part. Follow the rules – details have been sent to you. A lot of work went into negotiations in good faith to create these documents. Please do your part to keep us all open for business. Keep our customers safe, keep our staff safe, keep yourself safe. Please follow the rules! Our new motto is #EmbraceYourSpace.

– Gail Medernach
President SGGA

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FOLLOW US ON twitter

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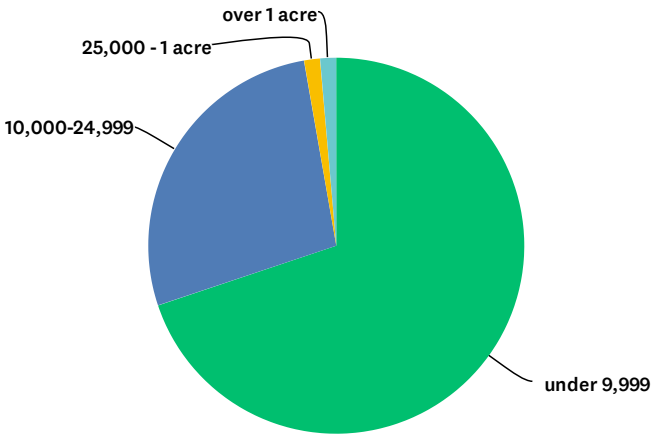
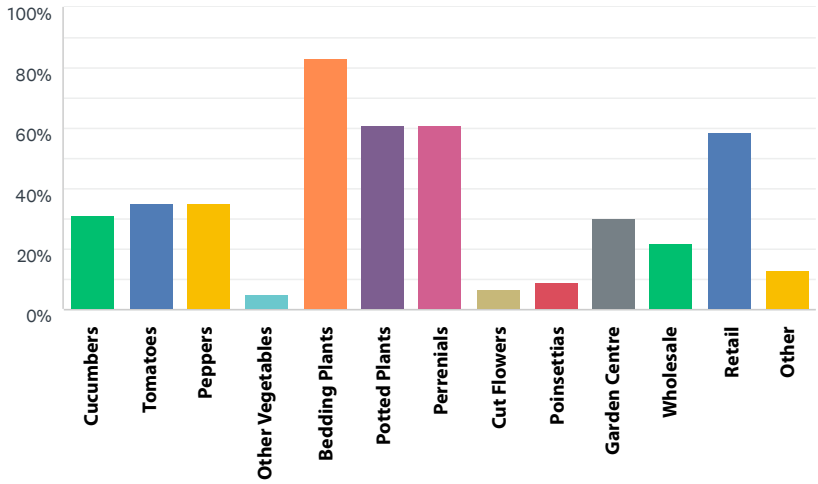
Statistics* of SGGA members

SIZE OF OPERATION



** Of the members who provided the information on the membership form, these are the results of our membership's operations*

TYPE OF PRODUCTION



2020 MEMBERSHIPS DUE JANUARY 1, 2020

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.

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NEW SGGA Facebook Page

The SGGA has created a NEW Facebook page for backyard enthusiasts that love to garden or beautify their outdoor space with flowers or grown vegetables.

JOIN OUR PAGE:
Flowers & Gardens - Sask Connection for Backyard Enthusiasts
@SaskGreenhousesandGardens

Here we will provide backyard enthusiasts the opportunity to connect, gain tips on gardening, flowers and trees / shrubs and more… we will inspire them with images, DIY projects and showcase the beautiful plants grown by our local greenhouse members across Saskatchewan!

SGGA 2020 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

2020 DISTRIBUTION DATES

Distribution Deadline	Content Deadline
January 15, 2020	January 4, 2020
April 15, 2020	April 5, 2020
July 15, 2020	July 5, 2020
October 1, 2020	September 20, 2020

Contact the SGGA OFFICE to book your advertising space!

Growing Vegetables in Containers

By Jackie Bantle

As greenhouse growers, you have role to play in making your immediate community and province more food secure. The spring and summer of 2020 is a perfect time to promote vegetable gardening for everyone. Many people, especially urban dwellers, believe that they lack the expertise, space or proper environment to grow a successful vegetable garden. Just because someone lives in an apartment or condo; has poor soil: a tiny backyard or a shady yard, that doesn't mean you can't grow your own food. Growing vegetables in containers can provide the best growing environment possible for your garden veggies without you having to relocate, amend the soil or cut down beautiful shade trees. Setting up a vegetable garden for a small space can result in surprising yields and success. Any vegetable can be successfully grown in a container as long as adequate water, fertility, soil, sunlight and growing conditions are provided.

Advantages to growing vegetables in pots or containers:

- Small areas that are paved or grassed-in as well as decks, balconies and walls can all be used to grow vegetables in containers.
- Containers can be moved throughout the day to take full advantage of the sun.
- The vegetable growing season can start earlier and end later in the season if containers are moved to warmer areas early in spring and late in the fall.

Tomatoes growing in containers

- Container vegetable gardening is very efficient. It is estimated that 1m^2 can produce 20kgs of fresh produce.

Choosing the right pot:

- Any container that can hold moist media/soil and provide drainage for excess water is a possibility.
- Containers must be free of contaminants and be food safe.
- Depending on your budget, containers can be imported colorful clay pots or as simple as the old wooden apple crate grandma has in her shed. Plastic or burlap bags filled with growing media have even been good containers for a potato plant: at the end of the season, simply dump out the bag and harvest potatoes. Other ideas for containers include hanging baskets, plastic pots, barrels, milk containers, cement blocks, drainpipes, bushel baskets lined with plastic and punched with drainage holes.
- The key to growing vegetables in pots is to provide a large enough pot for the vegetable being grown. A bunch of radishes can be seeded into a 15cm diameter dish that is only 5-8cm deep. However, this same dish would never sustain a larger plant like a tomato or zucchini or a root plant like a carrot.

… continued …

Consider recommended in-row and between-row plant spacings as well as **mature plant size** when choosing your container. Plants with larger plant spacing requirements should be planted in bigger containers: plants that grower close together like spinach and leaf lettuce will survive and thrive in smaller containers whereas 6-8 litre (1.5-2 gallon) containers are recommended for large plants like tomatoes, zucchini, cabbage, broccoli or corn.

- The pot must have adequate drainage (holes in the bottom). The pot should be placed on gravel or raised off the ground with wood slats or bricks to ensure that excess water can drain freely.

What vegetables can be grown in pots?

- Any annual vegetable that can be grown in a garden can also be grown in a pot.
- Perennial vegetables like rhubarb, horseradish and Jerusalem artichokes will not overwinter in pots unless they are buried up to the pot rim in the ground or stored in a heated garage over the winter.

GROWING TIPS

Light

- Vegetables prefer a minimum of 8 hours of sunlight daily. If that amount of light isn't available, then consider growing leafy vegetables that will tolerate low light conditions: lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, herbs, mustard greens and beets.

Growing media

- The growing media must be capable of holding water as well as draining. Garden soil does not drain well in pots and is not recommended for pot grown vegetables. Commercial media containing peat moss or coir, vermiculite, perlite and some micronutrients are recommended. There are special soilless mixes that contain water absorbing polymers. These polymers help to attract water to the media and prevent the media from drying out. Be aware that some consumers are wary about the safety of these water absorbing polymers in media that is used to grow vegetables. There have been no scientific studies to support the theory that these water absorbing polymers are unsafe for vegetable production.

Fertility

- Fertility management of the growing media is especially important in vegetable container gardening since it is considered very intense gardening: big harvest from a small area. Adding compost or well rotted manure annually is a good idea for pot grown vegetables. This will help provide a base line of nutrients as well as increased organic matter: the organic matter will help hold soil moisture and nutrients. Replace at least ¼ of the container soil every year with compost.
- Mix 15 ml (3 tsp) of 10-10-10 granular fertilizer into the soil for every 4 litres (1ft3) of soil PRIOR to planting. Slow release fertilizer (14-14-14) can also be added to the container prior to planting as a late season fertility buffer. Mix according to label directions. Soil and granular fertilizer should be thoroughly mixed and moistened prior to planting. Water in transplants with 10-52-10 soluble fertilizer. Mix according to label directions. For containers without any compost or granular fertilizer, provide a bi-weekly soluble fertilizer treatment of 20-20-20. Mix according to label directions.
- Nitrogen encourages shoot growth; phosphorous encourages root growth and flowering. Too much nitrogen (N) will result in too much green growth: roots will be compromised, and flowering/fruiting will be delayed. Too little N results in chlorotic (yellowing) plants that lack vigour. Too little phosphorous (P) results in purpling leaves, poor root systems, poor flower and fruit production.

Watering

- The most challenging issue with growing vegetables in pots is maintaining adequate water and fertility management. The general rule for water requirements when growing vegetables in the field is 2.5cm (1 inch) of water per week. This amount of water increases if vegetables are being grown in pots, containers or raised beds due to higher evaporation rates from the media.
- Water pots slowly and thoroughly, until water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Keep soil

moist but not waterlogged. If weather is hot and plants are reaching maturity, expect to water your pots every day. Monitoring water and nutrients is an essential daily task.

- To minimize water evaporation from pots, consider covering the surface of the potting media with an organic mulch (ex. wood chips or flax straw).
- Lining wooden or clay pots with plastic is another method to reduce water loss, but ALWAYS make sure that there are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot (and the plastic) to allow excess water to drain out.
- Some gardeners have found that putting clean baby diapers in the bottom of a pot can help hold moisture in the pot (acting as a reservoir for water). Commercially produced 'Soil Moist Mats' are sold especially for placing in hanging baskets, planters and containers. The mat is placed in the bottom of the container where it will hold extra water. This extra water becomes available to the plant as the media above the mat dries out.
- "Self Watering" pots can also be purchased. These pots hold a reservoir in the bottom of the pot so that watering can be ignored for a day or two.
- Pot location is also important. Locate pots in a sunny, warm location but remember that a hot, windy, dry location will require much more management than a sheltered location.

Scarlet Runner Beans in pots supported by a trellis

Some general watering guidelines:

- Never allow vegetables to completely dry out. On the other hand, too much water can lead to root rot diseases.
- Consistent, even watering is VERY important in reducing diseases and deformities. ex. Blossom end rot in tomatoes is a problem in tomatoes that are allowed to dry out and then are overwatered, Russet Burbank potatoes become knobby and/or hollow if the water supply is irregular during the growing season.
- Water gardens, pots, containers and raised beds thoroughly. It is better to water less frequently and more deeply than to provide frequent, shallow irrigation.
- Daily watering of small pots and containers will be necessary. Setting up an automatic irrigation system with drip tape, emitters or soaker hoses can alleviate this daily burden. Drip irrigation also prevents the foliage from becoming wet: tightly spaced plants with wet foliage encourages disease.

… continued …

Seeding and Planting

Follow the same guidelines for seeding and planting vegetables in pots as you would with seeding vegetables in the garden. Seeding depths and spacings do not change.

To speed up seed germination, place a sheet of clear plastic on top of and over the rim of the pot to help warm up the soil. Remove the plastic as soon as seedlings have emerged to avoid overheating seedlings. Clear plastic pop bottles with the ends cut off can serve as mini-greenhouses for individual plants in pots.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR LIMITED SPACE

Plant Earlier

Because pots are above ground and the media in these pots tends to warm up faster than soil at ground level, pots can be seeded a little earlier than your ground garden. Remember that early emerging plants will need to be protected from spring frosts (temperatures at or below 0˚C) by moving pots indoors or covering with blankets.

Find innovative ways to have plants grow vertically rather than horizontally

Expect to grow plants vertically; using cages, posts, trellises, wires or whatever will provide vertical space.

- Provide a structure for climbing and sprawling plants. Something as simple as a bamboo stake or pruned tree branches can provide support for pea, pole bean or cucumber plants.
- Cages or stakes for tomato plants are essential.
- A cucumber pot braced up against a sunny trellised wall could provide ample cucumbers for a family of four for the season.
- Cantaloupe and smaller watermelon can be grown vertically as long as developing fruit are supported by a 'sling' made from expandable material such as women's hosiery.

Intercropping, Companion planting and Succession planting

Intercropping is a method of planting a smaller, fast-growing crop using the space between slower-growing larger vegetables. The quick crop matures just as the slower crop begins to need more space. Possible combinations include lettuce grown around cabbage or broccoli, radishes and green onions grown between carrots, or spinach growing around tomato.

Companion planting refers to growing two different plants together that will provide benefits to one or both species of plants. Flowers and/or herbs alongside vegetables in pots can be a good combination. Companion flowers will attract pollinating insects which will also visit your bean, pea, tomato, pepper, zucchini or eggplant flowers.

Some companion plants discourage certain pests. For example, marigolds have a distinct odor that tends to repel some aphid species. Herbs like savory and thyme grown around faba beans or peas will deter black aphid infestations. Chives or garlic alongside carrots will deter root maggot flies.

Succession planting refers to a several planting methods that increase crop availability throughout the season. As soon as one crop is harvested, another crop is planted. Several examples include; i) planting a short crop of radishes which are harvested early, followed by a heat loving bean crop, ii) planting lettuce at wider spacings in a pot and then planting a second planting of lettuce in that same pot about 3 weeks later between the rows of lettuce that were planted earlier and planting another set of lettuce after the first planting is harvested. In succession planting, there is never empty space in a pot throughout the summer.

Be creative when growing vegetables in containers and small spaces. If you can imagine it, it is most likely possible. Don't be afraid to experiment and … have fun!

Unprecedented times for the greenhouse industry

By Glen Sweetman, P.Ag.

In the last article I discussed the value of the SGGA conference to the industry and I would like to start by acknowledging the importance of the SGGA to the industry. The work that SGGA does in support of growers contributes to the thriving industry we have here in Saskatchewan.

In the midst of COVID-19, the greenhouse industry is facing unprecedented times. I considered making this the focus for this article, but there is already a lot of information available. I encourage you to adhere to the guidelines laid out by the government and the information available on Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19. If you need additional help please call me. In a conversation with a producer I found the inspiration for this article. We were talking about cropping time lines and worries around being able to sell the crop. We talked about supply chains and the sooner one knows what the regulations are the less risk there is in making cropping decisions. There are many aspects that influence what is or is not allowed to operate and that is evolving over time.

A comment was made during that supply chain conversation that hit home for me: "as you know better than most." I have been a grower and planned for turning bench space over as many times as possible. I have faced the issues caused when that schedule is disrupted. Over the years I have seen so many cropping issues arise from overcrowding caused by a disruption in that process.

In the first week of April, would you benefit if you knew there was going to be a blizzard on the May long weekend? It can happen and without warning. So, if you know early sales are going to be limited, can you plan for that storm and have a later opening?

I have been asked "should I produce a crop they might not be able to sell?" That is the risk that you as producers face every year. We cannot predict when things will start to return to normal or what that will look like. Yet a late start will mean that larger plants will be helpful in a shortened planting season. Small, over-grown plants lead to increase disease pressure in the crop. Consider pruning, reducing fertilizer rates and larger pots as tools to help with this.

With many consumers following distancing recommendations and taking "staycations," there may be an increased demand for more vegetables. Vegetables in larger containers and planters are likely something people will be interested in. I know as business owners and good people you will consider the wellbeing of your family, staff and customers this upcoming season. It is more important than ever to adhere to government guidelines and prioritize safety.

Stay safe and if you need help please reach out.

SAVE THE DATE

new Blooms

for canadian nurseries and retailers

JULY 23, 2020

Misty Gardens, Humboldt

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SASKATCHEWAN GREENHOUSES AND LANDSCAPING RETAILERS

COVID-19 REGULATIONS

APRIL 9, 2020

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY
However, the public is only allowed in your greenhouse **after** these policies have been implemented.

The Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association and Landscape Saskatchewan, along with the Saskatchewan Government have collaboratively identified regulations that deem Saskatchewan greenhouses and landscaping retailers an allowable business to operate - if the operation is following the mandatory regulations and exercising good judgement for the safety of all Saskatchewan residents.

Mandatory Conditions for Operation:

Saskatchewan greenhouses and landscaping retailers can be considered an allowable business in the following instances:

- They operate with delivery or curbside pick-up only.

  OR / AND

- They allow a maximum of one customer per 1,000 square feet of retail space in the facility at a time and proper social distancing (e.g., a maximum of 10 customers at a time) is maintained and the following criteria must be met:
  - Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes must be available on site so that any common surfaces can be wiped between customers (e.g., carts, debit machines, door handles, counters, etc.) and so customers can have access to hand sanitizer upon entry and exit of the facility.
  - Proper social distancing, i.e., a two-metre separation between individuals can be maintained.
  - Flow control is implemented, i.e., one-way routes with social distancing measures.
  - Employees have access to hand sanitizer, gloves and sanitizing wipes.
  - Employees are required to stay home it they are unwell or symptomatic.
  - Food and beverage service is suspended, except for curbside pick-up or delivery.
  - Washrooms are closed to the public.
  - A sign is posted on the door with general cautions regarding COVID-19.
  - External queues and line must be managed in compliance with social distancing criteria.

Clarification: Operations with multiple greenhouses or clearly separate facility spaces may allow a maximum of 10 people per facility / building / segregated area at the 1:1000 sq ft ratio, however these operations will have to ensure flow control measures are in place to prevent congestion that exceeds the ratio.

Operators are required to adhere the conditions above or they will be considered non-compliant with the public health order and may be subject to fines, prosecution or closure.

We are pleased to share the details of the mandatory conditions under which greenhouses and landscaping retailers are permitted to operate. However, the SGGA and LS would like to emphasize the importance of owners acknowledging that it is the responsibility of all greenhouse and landscaping owners / operators to follow the mandatory practices (at the very minimum). This is the time for the industry to come together to support and protect each other's business. Therefore we are reminding operators to ensure you are following the guidelines to avoid risking a change in our regulations due to a lack of compliance, that may have an impact on the overall industry. PLEASE do your part to be responsible and follow the guidelines that the SGGA and LA have worked with the Government of Saskatchewan – Covid-19 Business Response Team to develop to support your operation this season. If you know of a greenhouse that is not implementing the regulations, please let the SGGA or LS know, so we can reach out to them and work with them to rectify their practices.

Thank You and Acknowledgements

It is times like these that we are reminded of the importance of not-for-profit organizations, volunteers and staff that represent the industries in times of a crisis, challenges and successes. It takes a unified team to come together to work through challenges and make an industry stronger, through trials. We are looking to all our producers to come together to implement the regulations, meeting at minimum the Mandatory Conditions for Operation! If everyone follows the regulations and implements best practices, the greenhouse industry will surge through this spring of Covid-19, servicing the backyard enthusiasts of Saskatchewan.

Remember, if producers do not follow best management practices, you could jeopardize the entire industry, calling to action changes to our current policies to operate. Do your part to keep your doors open and the doors of your fellow producers.

THANK YOU

The Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers Association would like to acknowledge and thank …

… the SGGA Managing Director, Guenette Bautz, who has been working diligently and aggressively to ensure greenhouse growers have policies they can implement with regulations that allow customers in the door of greenhouses, and for working to provide all the tools and resources operators will need to access to help implement the requirements quickly

… graphic designer Karen Kolkman, SGGA team member, for providing artwork and services promptly

… the SGGA President, Gail Medernach who has worked closely with the MD through the process

… the SGGA COVID-19 committee (Gail Medernach, Heather Drysdale, Jackie Bantle, Brad Bartko, Louise Filarczuk, Tammy Lauringer) who have given much time to this important task at a time when their operations demand much of their energy

… Rick vanDuyvendyk from Dutch Growers for his external support to the organization with recommendations

… Joel Beatson, Executive Director, Landscape Saskatchewan for the collaboration

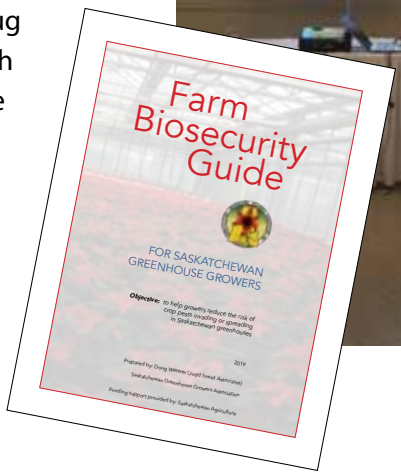
… the Government of Saskatchewan, specifically Richelle Bourgoin from the COVID-19 Business Response Team.

In addition, the SGGA would like to acknowledge and thank all SGGA board members for their role in supporting the committee and staff to get the work done efficiently and quickly… Gail Medernach, Heather Drysdale, Jackie Bantle, Brad Bartko, Louise Filarczuk, Tammy Lauringer, Spencer Mah, Glen Sweetman and Tom Wright.

2020 SGGA Workshops

BIOSECURITY WORKSHOP

The SGGA held a biosecurity workshop in Saskatoon on January 8th … the SGGA will be offering the BioSecurity training again this year; stay tuned for details. THANK YOU to Doug Waterer for working with the SGGA to build the training module to advance the industry and help producers understand and implement best practices.



WATER WORKSHOP

On February 8 the SGGA held a workshop with Dr. Moyyuddin Mirza. Participants gained practical knowledge to prepare them for the season.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR COURSES

Saskatchewan Polytechnic held Pesticide Applicator Course Sessions in Saskatoon and Regina this winter. Congratulations to the producers who completed the course. If you are interested in learning more about this course, visit https://saskpolytech.ca/programs-and-courses/part-time-studies/pesticide.aspx

Urban Healing Garden and Humboldt Broncos Memorial: We need your help!

Landscape Alberta & Landscape Saskatchewan have partnered with the City of Humboldt, the Humboldt Hospital Foundation and Communities in Bloom to build a "Healing Garden" at the Humboldt Regional Hospital. This garden will not only serve as a place of relaxation and tranquility for those receiving treat-ment and care at the hospital, but as a memorial for lives lost in the Humboldt Bronco's tragedy.

Construction of the Healing Garden project is planned to begin in late spring/early summer 2020. We cur-rently working on the project coordination and timeline for the different construction phases and events.

The design for the project has been finalized and we are now looking to secure product, labour, equipment and cash donations to complete the project. Companies who donate will also receive recognition in the garden.

At this time, we have no concrete construction days, only a general timeline, hoping to begin mid to late May. As we get closer to spring and begin to secure donations, we will be able to adjust our schedule and give a more concrete timeline for the build.

If you are able to help with this amazing project in any way possible, please let me know. Cash donations will be accepted online. Link to donate coming soon!

We thank you so much for consideration and generosity. Working together as an industry we can all give a little and make a huge difference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kyla (kyla.hardon@landscape-alberta.com)

Landscape Alberta
on behalf of the Humboldt Healing Garden Committee