



DRS EARTHWISE

"Cultivating Sustainable Communities"

MEDIA RELEASE

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Save Water and Time with Waterwise Gardens

Delta, BC – Springtime rain in the lower mainland drenches our gardens and keeps them lush and green, but by the time summer rolls around the backyard often transforms into a dry wasteland from the heat. Sidestep the yearly struggle to keep your garden green: the perfect solution to summer drought is to design your garden around the fluctuating availability of water throughout the year. Waterwise gardening, which is a great way to beat the heat and save time, includes principles such as creative water use and smart plant choices.

The key to a beautiful waterwise garden is planting a diverse variety of trees, shrubs and flowers that are drought tolerant. The new McKittrick Earthwise Garden contains many interesting and colourful plants that will thrive throughout the summer with minimal water.

Earthwise horticulturalist Diane Brown recommends plants that provide long season interest such as many of the ornamental grasses. "Blue Fescue and Blue Oat Grass are two of my favorite grasses," she notes. "They combine beautifully with lavender and stonecrop for season long colour and texture." These undemanding yet striking plants require very little supplemental water.

Another benefit of drought-tolerant plants is that they can be very unappealing to pests. Waterwise plants are often rough or dense, repelling pests who prefer to nibble on greenery that is more tender and penetrable.

Many people imagine dry gardens as a collection of cactus and yuccas, but this simply isn't true. On June 29, join DRS Earthwise horticulturalist Diane Brown for a presentation of 'Beautiful Plants for Dry Gardens' and discover the creative side of waterwise. Then tour the McKittrick Earthwise Garden to observe first-hand how you can have a beautiful and drought-tolerant garden at home.

The workshop will be held at the McKittrick Earthwise Garden, located at 80th Ave. and 111th St. in North Delta, from 7-9 pm. The cost is \$20. For more information or to register, please contact Jen Shragge at 604-946-9828.

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