



DRS EARTHWISE

"Cultivating Sustainable Communities"

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 17, 2005

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Native Plants Make Great Natural Habitats

Delta, BC – Delta is lucky to be home to one of the largest bird habitats in Canada, supporting over 300 species. Many bird species live in Delta's upland forest habitats, including common garden visitors like the chickadee and other songbirds, whose insect-eating habits help keep their environment free of pests. These upland areas, an integral component of the Fraser Basin Ecosystem, are under constant threat from residential and industrial expansion. This special area needs protection.

Providing a home for birds and other animals is simple and can be done in our own backyards through the use of native plants. Native plants are not only a colourful and beautiful addition to any garden, but they also contribute to a sustainable environment by providing food and a much-needed natural habitat for species of birds, insects and amphibians. Taken for granted or dismissed as weeds, many of our native plant species offer glorious displays of colour, texture and seasonal variety.

Local native plant species thrive in our unique West Coast climate by adapting to the drenching rain during the winter and spring, while reducing their need for water in hot summer weather. Once established in your garden, they are easy to care for and can tolerate drought. They are also pest resistant, so harmful pesticides and chemicals can be eliminated.

On June 22, DRS Earthwise horticulturist Diane Brown will present 'Native Plants for Natural Gardens'. The workshop will show you how to incorporate native plants into your existing landscape design and how to choose plants that are adapted to your garden conditions.

The workshop will be held at the new 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 Jennifer Shragge at 604-946-9828.

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