



# DRS EARTHWISE

*"Cultivating Sustainable Communities"*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Small Garden? Try Planting a tree!**

**Delta, BC** – Do you love trees, but worry that the dainty little sapling you've had your eye on will become a monster and totally engulf your yard? Homeowners with small gardens often have difficulty finding the right trees to suit their space, becoming frustrated with trees that eventually become much too large. But don't get discouraged—there are lots of solutions, and DRS Earthwise Society can show them to you!

Trees serve many purposes in an urban setting. They create privacy, offer cooling shade in the summer heat, provide shelter and food for wildlife and contribute to your home's esthetic appeal. Not all trees, however, work in an urban setting.

"Many trees can become very large, very quickly," says Chris Cummings, community programs developer at DRS Earthwise. "That tiny Douglas Fir you pop in the soil will become a 300 foot giant one day. Our smaller urban yards are simply not able to accommodate these stately beauties."

An example of a tree that is perfect for the urban garden is the Sitka Mountain Ash (*sorbus sitchensis*). Covered in clusters of tiny white flowers in spring and followed by red berries in late summer, with feathery green leaves that turn red in the fall, this small tree has plenty to offer throughout the year. At a maximum height of 4 metres, the Mountain Ash can nestle into the corner of any yard and never outgrow its space.

For more ideas, join Patricia Fleming on September 17 from 10 am to 12 pm for 'Great Trees for Small Gardens' at the McKittrick Earthwise Garden, located at 80<sup>th</sup> Ave and 111<sup>th</sup> St. Fleming, a landscape architect and designer of the Earthwise Garden, will explore appropriate and beautiful trees for home landscapes. This workshop launches Earthwise's fall tree series, which will culminate in an all-day tree celebration on October 22. Join Earthwise as we celebrate trees and all they provide for us! Other workshops include 'The TLC's of Trees' on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 'The Urban Forest' on October 15. Each workshop costs \$20 (or 3 for \$50) and registration is required. For more information, call 604-946-9828.

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