



Operating Hours

UBC Botanical Garden
Daily 9:30 am - 4:30 pm by donation

Shop in the Garden
Daily 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Nitobe Memorial Garden
Weekdays 10 am - 2 pm by donation

Greenheart Canopy Walkway
Closed until Spring



Horticulture Training Program Information Session tonight January 11, 6 pm - 7 pm

Running from late summer to spring, this eight-month, full-time program is designed to give students the skills and experience necessary for entering the field of horticulture. Completion of 1100 hours of classroom and hands-on practical instruction and supervised practical work will lead to Levels 1 & 2 Apprenticeship technical training credit. Learn more [on our website](#).



Volunteering

Turn over a new leaf and come help us in our centennial year. Our volunteer options include special events, campus fairs and sharing your gardening knowledge as a Garden Guide for visitors. No green thumb required: we train and offer tours monthly. Contact us at garden.volunteer@ubc.ca for orientation registration.



About the Garden

Established in 1916, [UBC Botanical Garden](#) curates a collection of ca. 50,000 accessioned plants representing approximately 7,000 taxa from temperate regions around the world.

Follow us on [twitter](#), [facebook](#) and [instagram](#). Our handle is @ubcgarden.



Shop in the Garden & Garden Centre

The Shop in the Garden reopened today January 11 after our annual winter inventory. We begin 2016 with a 50% off clearance on a broad range of merchandise. **Our new winter hours are 9:30am to 4:30pm.**

The parking is free for 3 hours, just enter your plate at the ticket machine. Consider purchasing or gifting a membership to UBC Botanical Garden to enjoy unlimited visits and a 10% discount on all purchases year-round.

All profits from the Shop help support UBC Botanical Garden.



The Garden in January

The new year brings with it the promise of increasing daylight. My favourite formal greeting at this time of year is an ancient Latin salutation, *Sol Invictus* (the invincible Sun), which celebrates that very certainty (of increasing daylight, that is), but January also brings, statistically speaking, our coldest weather. It's not surprising that gardeners are often nervous about a potential deep freeze at this time of year. In general, however, the worst damage to plants by cold temperatures nearly always occurs in November or March, when plants are not so safely in a state of dormancy as they are now. And while I'm on the subject, I should add that "winter damage" is often a result of leafy plants drying out. If one is timid about such things, it's probably best to fill the garden with deciduous shrubs, herbaceous perennials and conifers. Not that there's anything wrong with that, but one then misses out on so much more. To wit: what would Vancouver look like without its broadleaved evergreens?

One of the most important broadleaved evergreen plant groups in the Botanical Garden is the Ericaceae (heather family). Rhododendrons are members, and arguably, one of the most important groups of garden plants, both here at UBC and throughout the temperate world (though it has to be said that not all rhododendrons are evergreen). Still, the family is rife with excellent evergreen plants. While the heathers are an obvious choice to write about in January—*Erica carnea* 'March Seedling' is flowering now in the Winter Garden, for example—there are other more unusual ericaceous delights to be found in the Garden.

After *Rhododendron*, the genus *Arctostaphylos* is probably my favourite. *Arctostaphylos* comprises about sixty species of shrubs to small trees with often superbly sculptural stems decorated with peeling or flaking bark. With a couple of exceptions, they are evergreen and known as manzanitas (*manzanita* is Spanish for "little apple," in reference to the shape of the fruits). The genus is closely related to *Arbutus*, with which it shares a number of features including urn-shape flowers in drooping panicles and peeling bark. The E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden has an excellent collection of many of the hardier species, and they are worth a look at any time of the year.

Our own native manzanita, *Arctostaphylos columbiana*, is known as the hairy manzanita because of its white-hairy stems and leaves. It typically blooms in April with clusters of pink or white flowers, and the species grows to form a rounded bush some 3 m tall. Hairy manzanita is normally a challenging plant to grow, but there are several thriving in the Garry Oak Meadow and Woodland Garden. The distribution of this species is primarily south of BC, particularly around the Columbia River in Oregon, and south into California. The range only includes southwestern BC near the ocean, but where it intersects with the range of the more common and hardier, prostrate-growing *A. uva-ursi* (kinnikinnick), they hybridize. The result is *Arctostaphylos* × *media*, which although variable, is generally intermediate in shape and size between the parents. The particular selection of *A.* × *media* we have is a reliable winter bloomer, and there is a magnificent specimen at the top of the North American section of the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden, and another, smaller one by the stairs overlooking the Food Garden on the south side of the Garden Pavilion. These are handsome plants even without flowers, but as long as the temperature doesn't plummet, the flowers are a constant feature through the winter.

Submitted by Douglas Justice, Associate Director, Horticulture and Collections

Thank you for supporting UBC Botanical Garden.



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA