January in the Garden

One never knows what winter will bring in terms of Vancouver’s weather. Rain? Well, duh. Snow? Surely. Wet snow in abundance like we had last winter? Please, not again. A long and penetrating deep freeze? Possible, but let’s hope not. Such are the vagaries of the jetstream, the Arctic vortex and the La Niña/El Niño currents as they interact with the geography of the southwest coast and the micro-geography of the Botanical Garden. Our weather is always full of surprises. Which is, I suppose, why people talk about the weather.

Related to these phenomena are patterns of flowering (the timing of flowering or other developmental events as they relate to weather is called phenology), but the correlation between flowering and weather is not as direct as some would imagine.