

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***



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### **Canada is the First Country to Celebrate Year of the Garden**

Canadians will celebrate the influence gardening and gardens have on our health, environment and quality of life

**OTTAWA** —The Canadian Garden Council (CGC) has proclaimed 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden, making it the first of its kind.

Supported by a House of Commons Declaration, the Year of the Garden 2022 is dedicated to honouring Canada's rich garden heritage and celebrating our vibrant garden culture and the centennial of the Canadian ornamental horticulture sector, marked by the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association.

The Year of the Garden invites Canadians to 'Live the Garden Life' – a new sentiment for many – discover the numerous positive benefits of gardening and gardens and how they contribute to maintaining the health of Canadians, our cities and the environment.

As Canada begins to recover and approach a post-pandemic life, it's hard to ignore the positive influence gardening has had over the past two years. Research shows a significant increase in gardening interest among Canadians in 2020 and 2021 and reveals that 80 per cent of Canadians are in favour of proclaiming 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden.

"The Canadian garden culture is transforming itself," says Michel Gauthier, Executive Director of the Canadian Garden Council. "Our landscape and weather allows for some of the most unique gardens in the world. Recently we've seen a rise in Canadians rekindling their relationship with plants through edible gardens, indoor gardens, indigenous gardens and more."

With more people inspired by gardening than ever before, Canada's Year of the Garden 2022 has gained momentum across the country. In three months, municipalities, spanning every province have proclaimed 2022 as the Year of the Garden. The Year of the Garden 2022 has also established a growing community of passionate garden organizations committed to celebrating Canadian garden culture and sharing their knowledge.

The Year of the Garden 2022 is being embraced in ways that could not have been imagined.

"The support we've received has been overwhelming," says Alexander Reford, President of the CGC and Director of the Reford Gardens. "In the coming weeks and months, Canadians will have opportunities to celebrate our unique garden culture. Our first garden invitation is to Plant Red in honour of front-of-the-line workers, an opportunity to remember those who lost their lives during the pandemic and show our garden pride."

With the Year of the Garden 2022 officially in action, the Canadian Garden Council will continue to invite and help Canadians connect with plants, their communities, and even themselves, one garden at a time.

To learn more about the launch of the Year of the Garden 2022 and invitations to get involved, visit: [www.yearofthegarden.ca/](http://www.yearofthegarden.ca/)

Follow the Year of the Garden 2022 on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **About Year of the Garden 2022**

The Year of the Garden 2022, a Centennial Celebration of our horticulture sector, commemorates Canada's rich garden heritage, celebrates today's vibrant garden culture, and creates legacies for a sustainable future. The Year of the Garden 2022 invites Canadians to 'Live the Garden Life' and will permit members of Canada's Garden-Family to make them aware of the products, services, and experiences available to them to enhance their passion, their love, their engagement and their contribution to Canada's garden culture. To date, this initiative has received broad support from all branches of the Garden-Family and the corporate community. The Canadian Garden Council is working to facilitate the participation of all Garden-Family members and of every Canadian, no matter where they are. The Year of the Garden 2022 is supported by its Founding Partners: Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Québec Vert, Garden Centres Canada, Communities in Bloom, Les Fleurons du Québec and Founding Sponsors Scotts Canada, Premier Tech, Proven Winners.

### **About Canadian Garden Council**

Founded in April 2014, the Canadian Garden Council is a not-for-profit corporation that fosters awareness and development of Canada's garden culture. Council membership reflects partnerships among all sectors of the horticulture, public garden, gardening, tourism and associated industries on a municipal, provincial, territorial and national basis, enabling the Council to address the full range of issues facing the garden experience sector. Our Vision is to champion the garden experience sector's contributions to the well-being of Canadians, the sustainability of our communities and to promote the joys and benefits of gardens, gardening, urban and municipal landscapes and living green infrastructure.

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