

Lanark Orchid

Renals

Perth & District Horticultural Society

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District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association

June 2010 Newsletter

*I have a garden
of my own,
But so with roses
overgrown,
And lilies, that you
would it guess
To be a little
wilderness."*

Andrew Marvell, 1621-1678

President's Pen, June 2010

A funny thing happened at the cash at a local Nursery where I was making a substantial purchase (at this time of the year are there any other types of purchases at a Nursery?). My cart was full and like those around me, I was in my "Happy Place" surrounded by plants, fragrances and a visual feast for the eyes. As I approached the cash I thought, my Hort Card is going to save me a bundle. Waiting in line, I dug through my purse, which contained the requisite Kitchen Sink but no Hort Card.

I smiled brightly at the cashier and asked, "You give discounts to Hort Society members, correct?" "Yes," she said. "Can't find mine," I said, "Can you take my word for it?" "So sorry," she answered, "I must actually see the card."

Throwing caution to the wind, I asked "Would it make a difference if I told you I was the President?"

Without hesitation, she said, "I would be more apt to believe you if you said you were just a member rather than the President!"

We both broke up laughing and I continued chuckling all the way to my car, having of course paid full price.

See you in the garden, Lynda



Dessert Social

Lynda Haddon has bravely offered her place for the Dessert Social on Saturday, July 10. It will be held at Haddon Hall Farm, 1330 Barrie's Side Road off Con. 7, Drummond Township, formerly the home and garden of Evelyn and Gordon Bothwell, 2 - 4 p.m. Flower arranging demonstration by Cindy Zorgel begins at 2:30p.m.

Please bring a lawn chair each, cutlery, glasses sun hat, sun screen, bug spray and a dessert for the Sharing Table. Got questions? Please call Lynda at 613-267-6754.

Junior Gardeners

Another successful Junior Gardeners' program has come to an end. We had 80+ students participate from four schools in the area. The Stewart School, St. John's Elementary, Queen Elizabeth and Drummond Central.

We would like to thank Perth Home Hardware, for their donation of soil and seeds, and Canadian Tire for a gift certificate with which we purchased soil and seeds. Barnabe's Independent grocer for donating potatoes, Sylvia Van Oort, from Sylvia's Plant Place, R.R.#7 Perth, for allowing us to purchase flowers and foliage wholesale,

for the Mother's day arrangement the children made, and Lorena Warnock for supplying us with hens and chicks for our container gardens.

Last but not least, a big thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy to help run this program. Karen & Ed Roberts, St. John's, Hope Adams & Joan Battye, Queen Elizabeth, Kathy Allen & Linda Bartlett, The Stewart School and Pam Pratt, Barb Michie & Janet Cain at Drummond Central. And thank you to the members who brought in plant cuttings for our plant library

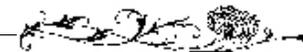
Without this ongoing support our program would not be able to continue so successfully. Thank you.

*Janet Cain
Junior Gardeners' Program Co-Ordinator*

Volunteers Recognized

A quick word of thanks to the small but mighty group of volunteers who carried out the work of another successful plant sale.

The Flag Garden and Cenotaph have now been planted by a group of willing hands. A good time was had by all. Thank you once again.



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August Flower Show

1. Rose, hybrid tea - 1 bloom
2. Rose, floribunda - 1 spray
3. Rose, miniature - 1 bloom
4. Rose, miniature - 1 spray
5. Rose, fragrant - 1 bloom in a bowl
6. Modern Shrub Rose (i.e. Austin, Explorer, Morden) - 1 spray
7. Gladiolus - 1 spike
8. Rudbeckia - 1 cultivar - 3 stems
9. Coneflower - 1 cultivar - 3 stems
10. "Mother Nature" - a design using wildflowers which may include driftwood, bark, moss, fungi and grasses.
11. A design in a tall vase.

"Tired" Potatoes

Got a tire just sitting around that you were thinking of taking to the dump? Why not grow some potatoes in it? It's easy and a great project to do with the kids or grandkids.

Potatoes thrive in the environment created by the tires' insulation. The black rubber heats up and warms the soil creating an ideal environment for a plentiful harvest. Early spring is the best time to plant this cool weather crop.

Things You'll Need:

- One or More Tires
- Soil or Outdoor Planting Mix
(add compost if possible)
- Location with Full Sun
- Seed Potatoes

Step 1: Fill the tire with outdoor planting mix and some compost. Then make three or four holes in the soil where you will place the seed potatoes.

Step 2: Place a potato in each hole with the buds ("eyes") facing up. Cover each potato with approximately 3" of the planting mix.

Step 3: Once the stem has grown to 6-8 inches, stack another tire on top and add more planting mix until only 2 inches of the stem are left above the dirt. This can be done an additional time once the stem grows again and with each layer you are adding potatoes to your harvest.

Step 4: If you only have one tire, just mound the dirt around the stem as much as is possible. Better yet, ask a neighbor if they have a tire they don't want. It'll make a great conversation piece and help your neighbor out at the same time.

Step 5: You'll want to water the seed potatoes about once a week moderately and consistently.

Step 6: When the plants flower you may harvest the small "new" potatoes or wait until the tops die back and harvest the full-grown potatoes.

Step 7: As the potatoes mature you can remove the top tire and remove the potatoes. You can leave each

remaining layer intact until you are ready for more potatoes. They can be stored this way as long as they are harvested before the ground freezes in fall.

Step 8: It is also necessary after harvesting to store the potatoes in a cool, dark place for a few days to dry them out before eating.

Step 9: Now enjoy those delicious home-grown potatoes and feel great that you are keeping those tires out of the landfill!

Homemade Floral Preservative

Following is a simple recipe for homemade floral preservative. Do not add more bleach than is called for, and make the recipe to its full volume, storing excess solution in a sealed labeled container in the refrigerator for up to ten days, using it as needed to replenish your vase or to maintain the water level in a container using floral foam.

INGREDIENTS

One 12-ounce can of nondiet lemon-lime clear soda
Three 12-ounce cans of water (use the soda can as a measure)

One tablespoon of chlorine bleach (no more)

Mix together and stir until the soda bubbles have dispersed.

Madeline Archer

Old Medicine, Modern Treatment

Korean scientists testing the antifungal properties of pumpkin rind – a common ingredient used in a variety of traditional medicines to treat everything from diabetes to microbial infections – found that folk wisdom is often rooted in truth. It turns out the the pumpkin-rind protein, Pr-2, is effective at suppressing the growth of fungi responsible for yeast infections in infants and adults, wine-grape blight, tomato and potato diseases, and fusarium wilt.

"The protein exhibits growth inhibition against 10 species of harmful pathogenic fung," said Kyng-soo Hahm, endowed professor of medicine at Chosun University.

The researchers see a strong potential for both the pharmaceutical and agricultural industries to produce new natural alternatives to chemical-based antifungal medicines and sprays. But, they caution, more research still needs to be done on exactly how to turn the protein into a viable commercial formulation. Until then, the field is wide open for enterprising lay researchers to see if a low-tech pumpkin product might work wonders on the home garden.

Organic Gardening, April/May 2010.

Just Ducky

A trip has been arranged to Funny Duck Farms in the Jasper area on June 28th. We will try to arrive there around 10 a.m. so we will meet behind the Bargain Store at the Independant Grocer Mall. We will send as few cars as possible but will need some to drive.

A list will be put out at the June meeting to sign up for the trip, and asking whether you could drive and take some people. If you need more info, e-mail me at claymargo@storm.ca or call 613-256-5474.

Margo Fulford

5 Key Elements To A Great Veggie Garden:

By Kelly Heath, Gemmell's Garden Centre Newsletter

The latest buzz in gardening began to reach its hype last season with many of us reading terms like 'sustainability,' 'eco,' '100 mile diet' everywhere we turned. All indications point to this trend continuing to grow as we all start to question where our food comes from and its impact on our health and the environment. Whether you are a die-hard foodie looking for the freshest tasting produce, an eco-conscious consumer who cares about the sustainability issues of trucking food halfway across the planet or a passionate gardener (veteran or beginner) who simply just wants to grow their own vegetables, you all share the same goal...a great veggie garden!

1. LOTS OF SUN

- ☛ Most edible plants require at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. Be sure to assess the light in your yard before digging up your veggie plot.
- ☛ Leafy veggies such as lettuce, kale & swiss chard can tolerate partial shade as well as some herbs.

2. GOOD DIRT

- ☛ Compost and manure (sheep or mushroom are the best!) should be added to your veggie garden every season.
- ☛ Good healthy loamy soil will increase your yields and grow good healthy plants.

3. WATER

- ☛ Watering on a regular basis helps reduce stress on veggie plants.
- ☛ Long deep soakings encourage deep strong roots versus light sporadic sprinklings of water. Invest in a good sprinkler or soaker hose rather than standing over your garden with a hose end sprayer.

4. BUGS BE GONE

- ☛ Invest in a good Insecticidal Soap which is an effective eco choice for most garden insects.
- ☛ Nothing worse than looking out in the morning to see your entire crop ravished by midnight snackers. So for all you country dwellers battling Bambi, Coyote Urine is an excellent repellent.

5. HEIRLOOM

☛ These tasty varieties are the vegetables your ancestors grew. They are often far more flavourful than the hybrids but often not as pretty. Heirloom tomatoes are some of the best tasting on the market right now.

*☛ Be sure to include a couple of heirloom vegetables in your garden, you will not regret it!

Soil Deficiency Symptoms And Treatments

Plants provide a number of clues to tip you off if the soil is deficient in nutrients.

If the leaves on the plants are turning yellow and the overall growth of the plant is stunted, the soil is lacking nitrogen and you should add manure or blood meal.

If the undersides of leaves, veins and stems of your plants are a reddish-purple colour, it means that the soil is deficient in phosphorus. You could add rock phosphate, bone meal or fish emulsion.

If the leaf margins are curling and/or drying and the overall growth of the plant is slow, this means the soil lacks potassium and you should add wood ashes or granite dust.

If there are yellow spots on upper leaves and curling of young leaf tips, it means that calcium is lacking and you should add limestone to the soil.

When there are spotted pale areas on new leaves or yellow leaf tips, it indicates an iron deficiency in the soil and you should add manure.

If there is yellowing of lower leaves and the stems are hard, it means that sulphur should be added to the soil.

When leaves are unusually long and narrow with yellowing and areas of dead tissue, it indicates a zinc deficiency and the soil should be amended with manure.

When overall plant growth is slow, add manure and compost to improve the lack of manganese in the soil.

Every plant will look lush and healthy if all the necessary nutrients are present in the soil.

Your gardening questions can be submitted and answered on the Lanark County Master Gardeners' website: www.lanarkmastergardeners.mgoi.ca.

Margaret Inwood, Lanark County Master Gardeners.

Know Your Enemy: Rose Chafers

Despite its common name, the rose chafer attacks the flowers, buds, foliage, and fruit of numerous plants including grape, rose, strawberry, peach, cherry, apple, raspberry, blackberry, clover, hollyhock,

corn, bean, beet, pepper, cabbage, peony, and many more plants, trees, and shrubs.

This fawn-coloured, long-legged beetle usually appears in late May or early June. Adults are about 10 mm in length and are covered with dull yellow hairs. They move sluggishly on the foliage and stems. There is one generation per year. Winters are spent in the larval or grub stage in light, sandy soil. These grubs will feed on the roots of roses and lawn grasses causing serious damage. In the spring, the larvae come to the surface and pupate. The pupal stage takes place in May and lasts about 2 weeks. Adults emerge and feed on flowers, buds, and foliage for 3-6 weeks. They have chewing mouthparts and damaged leaves appear skeletonized. After the feeding period, eggs are laid into the soil where they will hatch in late summer. Light infestations, which are more likely in the home garden, can be controlled by hand picking and destroying the beetles. Since much of the life cycle is spent at or below the surface of the soil, working the soil can prove effective in control. Cultivating in May will destroy pupae; in July, eggs will be killed; and in the fall, larvae will be destroyed.

This pest will not breed in moist soil or shaded

areas. Therefore, increasing the amount of shade or adding clover to grass will increase the moisture in the soil and reduce survival of larvae.

Laboratory Services Division, University of Guelph

Camera Buffs

Don't forget Perth's photo competition when you are taking pictures this summer. The details are in the year book but here is a list of the classes.

- Class 1: Winter Joy - A picture of your garden in the winter.
- Class 2: Up Close and Personal - A close-up of your favourite spring flower or flowers.
- Class 3: Garden View - A picture showing a summer garden landscape, either looking into or out of a garden.
- Class 4: Now you Sedum, Now you don't - Your favourite sedum in bloom.
- Class 5: Food for the Table - Vegetables or fruit growing in your garden, allotment or landshare site.
- Class 6: Wildlife in the Garden - A picture of insects, birds, or creatures found wild in the garden (this does not include domestic pets).

Deadline October 12, 2010

Plants For Indoor Low Light Conditions

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
Aglaonema spp.	Chinese evergreen	1-2'	Several species and many cultivars with green/silver variegated leaf patterns.
Aspidistra elatior	cast iron plant	1-2'	Tough in every way; also variegated.
Beaucarnea recurvata	ponytail palm	1-6'	Will grow in all light conditions, but grows very slowly.
Chamaedorea elegans 'Bella'	parlor palm	1'-2'	Can grow to 5 or 6'; best low light palm; prone to spider mites.
Dracaena deremensis 'Janet Craig'	Janet Craig dracaena	2-6'	Similar to cornstalk, but solid green foliage; 'Warneckii' is also popular.
Dracaena fragrans 'Massengeana'	cornstalk plant	2-6' or more	Intolerant of cold; yellow stripe on foliage.
Epipremnum aureum	pothos	1-4' or more	Vining plant that can trail or grow up supports.
Philodendron scandens oxycardium	heart-leafed philodendron	1-3' or more	
Philodendron selloum	selloum philodendron	1-4'	Also called lacy tree philodendron.
Sansevieria spp.	snake plant	6"-4'	Succulent, leathery leaves.
Spathyphyllum spp.	peace lily	1-3'	Also called spathe flower; blooms best in east light.
Syngonium spp.	arrowhead vine	1-3'	Grows best on support, or cut back often to prevent rank growth.
Zamioculcas zamiifolia	zz plant	1-3'	Succulent leaves; rots easily when overwatered; prefers east-facing window.

Low light is not the same as no light. You should be able to read a book by the natural light or see a shadow if your hand passes over the area. Artificial light is ok if your desire is for plant maintenance, not growth.

Compiled by Jean Back, Douglas County Master Gardener. Jean has been a MG since 2005, and along with other Master Gardeners, teaches and works at a variety of Douglas County community projects, including Let's Get Growing, Community Ed Classes, and Terrace Learning Garden.