

Lanark Orchid Renals

Perth & District Horticultural Society

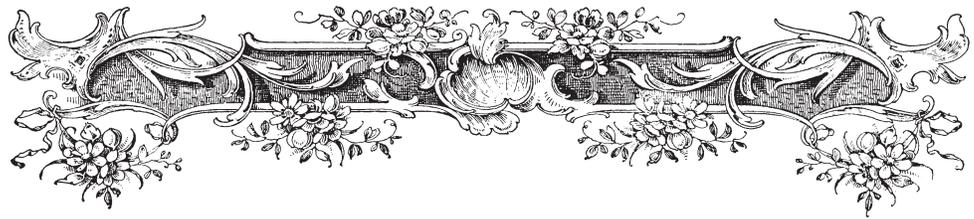
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District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association

SEPTEMBER 2009 Newsletter

A garden
is never
so good
as it will be
next year.

Thomas Cooper



Upcoming Speaker

October 13th - Judy Dempsey -
Celebration of Local Harvest

Weed Alert

Giant hogweed was introduced from Europe, presumably as an ornamental, and has escaped along roadsides, streambanks and waste areas in scattered localities in southern Ontario.

Distinguishing Features

It is distinguished by its huge size, its very large, compound leaf blades, its tall, thick, hollow, often sharply roughened stems, and its large flat-topped compound inflorescence with white flowers and large, flat fruits with prominent dark-coloured oil tubes. Flowering inflorescences are often heavily infested by aphids.

Toxicity

It has been implicated as a cause of severe dermatitis in susceptible individuals.

If you have been exposed to this plant, it is often suggested that you wash affected area immediately, avoid direct exposure to sunlight and seek medical advice.

Giant hogweed can be a serious health hazard for humans. Its watery, clear sap contains photosensitizing compounds (furanocoumarins), which, when in contact with human skin and in combination with UV radiation, can cause burning. Content varies depending on plant part, but contact should be avoided at all times. The reaction of the

skin depends on individual sensitivity. After 24hrs, reddening and swelling of the skin can be noticed, which is followed by an inflammatory reaction after 3 days. Depending on individual sensitivity, effects can last for months and skin can remain sensitive to UV light for years. Research has also shown that furanocoumarins in general may be carcinogenic and teratogenic.

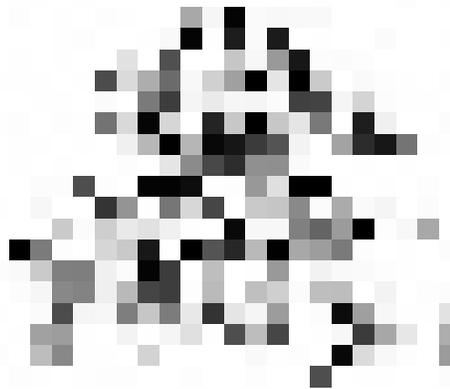
Nielsen, C., Ravn, HP, Nentwig, W., Wade, M. (2005) *The Giant hogweed best practice manual: guidelines for the management and control of an invasive weed in Europe. Forest & Landscape Denmark, Forest & Landscape Denmark, Hoersholm.*

Often Mistaken For

Giant hogweed has been mistaken for other species, especially others in the carrot family. These species include; Wild carrot or Queen Anne's Lace (*daucus carota*), Goutweed (*aegopodium podagraria*), poison hemlock (*conium maculatum*), water-parsnip (*sium suave*), spotted water-hemlock (*cicuta maculata*) and angelica (*angelica atropurpurea*). Once again, its "giant" size is the easiest distinguishing feature, as it towers above these other species.

Description

Plants forming rosettes to 1m high the first year; in the second year, either sending up a flowering stem, or remaining vegetative and producing a very large rosette of huge leaves, these including their petioles, up to 2m high, and flowering in the third year.



Co-Presidents: Ted Bryant and Kathy Allen

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Flower Show Schedule

OCTOBER 13

1. 'Last Rose of Summer' – one stem
2. Any other perennial – one stem
3. 'Picture Perfect' – a collage using dried flowers, leaves, nuts, feathers, seed heads etc., displayed on a piece of wood
4. 'Thanksgiving Horn of Plenty' – using fresh or dried material, not over 16"
5. 'Scary Stuff' – a Halloween novelty using plant material

NOVEMBER 10

1. Christmas Wreath
2. 'Shimmer and Sparkle' – a Christmas design using fresh or dried material, accessories permitted i.e. lights, fruit, Christmas balls etc.
3. Christmas garland using plant material, nuts, pine cones, fresh and dried fruit.

Gardening Helping to De-stress.....

Ever wonder why you feel good when you garden, weed, or toil out in the yard? Researchers from the University of Bristol think the answer is bacteria. Soil contains the friendly bacterium *Mycobacterium vaccae*, which increases the metabolism of serotonin in the brain.

Since a lack of serotonin is connected to depression, scientists hypothesize that this bacterium may improve mood, ease stress, and maintain a strong immune system. Landscaping, sowing seeds and nurturing flowers or homegrown veggies are creative ways to unwind and improve your mood.

Source: Alive magazine, August, 2009

Little Realized Benefit of Gardening.....

David Harrington, a horticultural expert, had an idea in 1996 for helping drug addicts and alcoholics who had been picked up and were housed by the state. He thought those who wanted to escape the addiction might benefit from working on a farm raising vegetables and flowers. He set up Project Renewal's Renewal Farm. It is now located 50 miles north of Manhattan and offers a bucolic country life to hardened urban dwellers who have hit bottom. The produce they raise is sold at a roadside stand, at a thrift shop operated by the centre and is also sold to local high

end country clubs for their restaurants. Originally at Camp LaGuardia, a 100 bed homeless hold for New York City, the new location offers less temptation to fall back into the addiction. Positive scores on random drug tests lead to immediate expulsion from the program. Dr. David Deitch says residents stay in the agriculture program for 6 months and during that time clean up and contribute to society. Though 1/3 to 2/3 may fall back into addiction, some of them then return to the farm. The farm treats 24 people at a time.

Source: E-newsletter on Caring by Bev Smith of Calgary, Alberta

Treasurer's Report

June 1 to June 30, 2009

Balance May 31, 2009 \$5,997.15

Receipts:

Membership	\$50.00	
Plant Sales	5.00	
Miscellaneous	412.00	
Bank interest	<u>.03</u>	
	467.03	\$467.03

Expenses:

Community Projects	\$268.20	
Speaker Fees	75.00	
Socials	20.87	
Meeting Expenses	36.60	
OHA Conf/meetings	500.00	
Office Supplies	6.78	
Plant Sales	326.76	
Donations	<u>40.00</u>	
	\$1,274.21	\$1,274.21

Balance June 30, 2009 \$5,189.97

Bank Balance June 30, 2009 \$2,736.75

Reserve Fund 2,500.00

\$5,236.75

Outstanding cheques \$(40.00)

(6.75)

\$5,189.97

Berry Nice

Nothing taste more like summer than fresh berries. Easy to grow, quick to bear, super nutritious berries are one of the best fruits to grow organically. They rarely lose their newly fertilized flowers to late spring frosts which can be a common heartbreak with fruit trees.

How to start? Why not begin by choosing one or two of your favourite berry varieties that you would normally buy at your local farmer's market. Choose a spot in the garden with full sun for the best flavour although it is important to note that most berry varieties

can handle a bit of afternoon shade from the summer heat.

STRAWBERRIES are usually the first berry of the season. Generally there are two types of strawberries; Junebearing and Everbearing.

Junebearing are always the first fruits to ripen. They are generally considered to produce better quality berries. These types of strawberries produce lots of runners that can quickly become a tangle of plants. To capitalize on this, try to manage the plants as a ground cover. Mow tattered foliage down mid-summer and mulch between plants.

Everbearing produce fruit all season, from spring to fall. If you pinch off early season blossoms and runners then these types can turn out a strong late summer crop of strawberries. If you can't bring yourself to do this, then by all means, leave them and enjoy picking smaller berries all season long. These varieties are great for containers or hanging baskets. The constant emergence of new growth requires fertile soil so be sure to feed regularly.

RASBERRIES/BLACKBERRIES - Sweet and tart, these are excellent berries to grow if you have the space. Grown in thickets or along fencerows usually they enjoy full sun and mulching to keep weeds down and moisture in. Topdress with manure and feed regularly. In fall, prune out all canes that produced fruit that season.

Raspberry 'Lantham Red' produces very large red berries in early summer. Very hardy and productive they are excellent for all types of jams, pies and, of course, eaten freshly picked!

Summer-bearing Black Raspberry is an early mid-season variety with good hardiness and great productivity. These berries are large with excellent flavour and firmness.

Blackberry 'Black Satin' is heavy yielding with thornless canes, black medium sized fruit in early summer. Excellent for jellies, preserves and pies.

GRAPES - These plants love full sun and also serve a dual purpose as a beautiful ornamental vine on a trellis or arbour. Typically grape vines take 3 years to establish but once established will produce fruit for up to 40 years.

Concord Grape is the most common purple grape and a reliable producer. Developed in 1849, it gets its name from Concord Massachusetts. Medium large clusters of blue-black fruit in early fall can

be used for desserts, wine or juice.

Fredonia is a blue-black table grape with notable cold hardiness, good for short seasons and hardy from zone 4-8. Grapes grow on new growth so heavily prune in the fall. *From Gemmill's Garden Centre e-newsletter*

The Kindest Cut

Get a jump on next season by overwintering frost-tender plants

Have you fallen in love with one of the new coleus cultivars? Did you just inherit your grandmother's prize Pelargonium? Or are you simply tired of paying top dollar for your favourite double-flowered, variegated pink Impatiens? If so, consider overwintering your favourites indoors by taking tip cuttings this autumn to propagate tender perennials—and help your thumb stay green while the snow flies.

Plants that make the cut

You can easily propagate fibrous-rooted begonias; coleus; fuchsias; impatiens; zonal, ivy and scented geraniums (Pelargonium); and Plectranthus spp. and cultivars, including Swedish ivy.

Flowers that you cannot propagate

"True" annuals—those that flower and set seed in a single season, such as cosmos and sunflowers—are not suitable for propagation by cuttings. Nor are tender perennials that require high light levels (such as petunias and marigolds). At the end of the season, just toss these onto the compost heap.

10 tips for creating new plants

1. Take cuttings from healthy plants, since they will only be as good as the parent plants, which should be robust and completely free from any signs of disease or insect infestation.
2. The best time to take tip cuttings is in late summer or early autumn. Select a supple, young stem and remove any flower buds. Using a sharp, sterile knife, cut the branch eight to 12 centimetres below the growing tip, just beneath a leaf node. Each parent plant should yield six to eight tip cuttings.
3. Once you've made all the cuttings you want, remove the leaves from the bottom half of each one. Make three or four vertical slits, about 1.5 centimetres long and one to two millimetres deep, at the base of each cutting (this scoring helps speed up the rooting process).
4. Gently dip the bases into a rooting hormone containing IBA (indolebutyric acid). A light dusting is



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sufficient—too much will cause the cuttings to rot.

5. Before planting the cuttings, thoroughly scour the containers you intend to use. I favour terra-cotta pots because they allow oxygen to circulate around plant roots, but plastic ones hold water more efficiently. Fill the containers with a sterile, soilless mixture formulated for cuttings and starting seeds.

6. Insert the cuttings into the mix to a depth of about five centimetres and spaced eight centimetres apart to ensure maximum light penetration and air circulation. Place pots in an area with bright light (but out of direct sunlight), and keep the soil evenly moist.

7. After about five weeks, each cutting will have developed several strong roots; repot cuttings into their own small containers.

8. In another one to two weeks, signs of new growth will be noticeable; at this point, move plants to a bright, sunny window. Once a month, fertilize cuttings with a dilute solution high in phosphorus; I like using African violet food (0-12-0) because it doesn't contain nitrogen, which can lead to weak, leggy plants. Keep room temperatures cool over winter—between 10 and 15°C is ideal—and allow plants to dry out between waterings.

9. If cuttings become gangly, pinch them back to encourage bushy growth, and increase light levels using grow lights or fluorescent tubes.

10. By late spring, you should have a crop of healthy, young plants identical to those available at your local nursery. After all danger of frost has passed, harden off plants by moving them to a protected, partly sunny area of the garden. Keep plants well watered for two to three weeks and feed at half-strength with a fertilizer formulated for flowering plants (such as 15-30-15). Transplant the rooted cuttings into your garden as you would any other annual.

By Stephen Westcott-Gratton, canadiangardening.com

Plan for Spring

If you asked yourself this spring, "Why didn't my spring bulbs (fall planted bulbs) come up or bloom?" here are some pointers to help you avoid making the same mistake.

The overall cause of a bulb not producing a bloom, but lots of nice leaves, is either the flower bud was damaged or a flower bud wasn't formed. No bud equals no flower. Cultural conditions can also lead to diseases or conditions that cause the leaves to be deformed or the bulb to disappear. The following may lead to no flowers:

FERTILIZING AND WATERING: If bulbs have been fertilized or watered too much. Most bulbs prefer dry summers and a single application of bulb fertilizer in

the fall. If your bulbs are planted near perennials, annuals or a lawn that you are constantly watering and fertilizing, they will not be happy.

SUN: If there wasn't enough sun last spring or they are planted in a very shady area. Most spring blooming bulbs prefer full sun for 6 hours per day.

COMPETITION: If they are in competition with other plants, such as shallow rooted trees and aggressive perennials they may be weakened.

POOR DRAINAGE: If water puddles there, they will get basal rot fungus, not grow properly and die out. Bulbs need excellent drainage.

LEAVES REMOVED: If the leaves were cut off last season before they withered on their own. The leaves produce and store energy for next year's flowers. If they were removed too soon, the bulb cannot flower.

NEED DIVIDING: If they have multiplied and are crowded you may just need to divide them. This is not normally a problem in a home garden setting, but if there are lots of crowded leaves you can try division.

SHALLOW PLANTING: They may be planted too shallowly. Bulbs should be planted at a depth equal to three times the width of the bulb, with a minimum of 3" (8cm) for small bulbs and a maximum of 10" (25 cm) for large bulbs.

PLANTED TOO EARLY: You may have planted them too early last fall. Once the bulbs rooted into warm soil, they may have started to produce a flowerbud. Once the flowerbud emerges it will live or die depending on the current soil temperature. If it emerges when it is cold, it dies and then next spring, no flower. Plant most fall bulbs after the soil has cooled. This is usually September in Zones 2 and 3, October in Zones 4 and 5, November in Zones 6 and 7, and December in Zone 8. Plant your daffodils in the early part of the month (when leaves begin to fall from trees) to give them extra time to become established.

ANIMAL PESTS: Squirrels, mice, deer, rabbits or other pests have been known to selectively eat flower buds in the spring.

WINTER TEMPERATURES: If you had severe alternating temperatures during the winter, the bulbs may have been pushed out of the ground or started to grow during a mild spell and been damaged by subsequent very cold weather. A heavy winter mulch of straw or evergreen boughs helps to prevent this.

IMMATURE BULBS: In rare cases, if bulbs are immature or too small, they may not have a developed a flower bud and so cannot bloom.

SPRING TEMPERATURES: If temperatures fluctuate severely leading up to bloom time, flower buds may be aborted.

From: www.veseys.com