



# The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

[www.perthhortsociety.com](http://www.perthhortsociety.com)



Est. 1984

April 2024

## President's Pen

Spring is in the air. I was out walking around my gardens today and can't believe all of the daffodils that are in bloom.

Our Community Gardens coordinators are busy setting up the schedule for the season. If you have volunteered to work in the community gardens, you should be hearing from them soon. Doug Smallwood and Judy Buehler will coordinate the Museum Garden. Cheryl Moss and Rita Godin will coordinate Inge Va gardens. David Archer will set up the Flag Garden, but we are looking for someone to take care of the garden through the summer.

Please mark your calendars for our spring plant sale. It will take place on Saturday, May 18 at the Perth Farmer's Market, Crystal Palace. We are looking for volunteers to contribute plants and to work the sale.

Our Junior Gardeners program is back thanks to program leader Robin McIntosh. It starts on April 25 and wraps up on May 16 at three area schools.

Tonight we are fortunate to gather for Laurie Bachand's talk on drought-tolerant perennials. Laurie owns Stoneridge Nursery & Garden Centre in Middleville/Clayton. If you have never been, it is well worth the drive to see her gardens and greenhouses.

The District 2 AGM is being held on Saturday, May 4th at the Glad Tidings Church, 160 Wayside Drive, off of Hwy 7 in Perth. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered so far.

Don't miss our May 14th meeting where we will host a mini spring flower show. Speaker Owen Marsh will introduce us to "Bonsai."

Remember to check out our website [PerthHortSociety.com](http://PerthHortSociety.com). The site offers a link to Useful Websites where you will find a wealth of information to help you to kick off this year's planting season.

Happy Gardening

Linda

## PDHS May Meeting Bonsai for Beginners

Bonsai is a hobby! At our May 14th meeting, Owen Marsh from the Ottawa Bonsai Society will speak about the art form of bonsai. A bonsai results from the combined application of horticultural techniques and aesthetics principles.

If you are interested in Bonsai, check out the Ottawa Bonsai Society website at <https://ottawabonsai.org>. They have meetings and workshops as well as expositions.



# PDHS May Flower Show

Here is the Schedule and Rules for our first Flower Show for 2024. We encourage you to participate.

## Section I: Horticultural Specimen

Class 1: African Violet – any colour – single flower

Class 2: Best potted plant in bloom – other than African Violet – named, if possible

Class 3: Best potted foliage plant – named, if possible

Class 4: Single Tulip – 1 stem with no more than two pairs of leaves attached

Class 5: Double Tulip – 1 stem with no more than two pairs of leaves attached

Class 6: Parrot Tulip – 1 stem with no more than two pairs of leaves attached

Class 7: Narcissus/Daffodil – 1 scape, no foliage attached

Class 8: Flowering Branch – no more than 24” above table

Class 9: Any other spring flower from your garden – one stem – named

## Section II: Design

Class 10: “Tu Lips” – A design using tulips.

Class 11: “Green Envy” – A foliage design.

Class 12: Pik n Plunk – Spring flowers and branches arranged in a clear vase.



## SHOW RULES

- ▶ Exhibitors must be members of the Perth & District Horticultural Society.
- ▶ Entries are to be placed prior to 7:00 p.m. when judging takes place.
- ▶ Once placed, entries may only be moved by the show steward.
- ▶ Only one entry per exhibitor for each Design Class.
- ▶ Maximum of two entries per exhibitor for each Horticultural Class providing specimens are of different cultivars.
- ▶ All entries in Horticultural classes must have been grown or have been in the possession of the exhibitor for three months.
- ▶ Entry tag must be completed and remain with the entry.
- ▶ The decision of the judge is final.
- ▶ No exhibit will receive a prize, even though it is the only one in the class, unless judged to have sufficient merit.
- ▶ No exhibit may be moved before the specified closing time.
- ▶ All shows will take place during regular meetings.

For definitions and tips, please visit <https://www.perthhortsociety.com/show.htm>. Please refer to the Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Standards – Second Edition, OJES 2019 for more definitions and information.

# Gardening in Small Spaces

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

As our population expands, more homes such as townhouses and apartment buildings are built, yards are smaller, and gardeners have less space to ply our favorite hobby. A small space is no reason we must stop gardening.

Small spaces have many special challenges. Balconies are usually long and narrow, too shady, too sunny, or, worst of all, too windy. Small yards are often impacted by fences or nearby buildings. For these reasons, it is critical to develop a plan.



As with the start of any garden project, decide how you want to use your garden. Use a sheet of graph paper to sketch out your garden design. Do a sun-shade analysis to determine how much sun you get in the different corners of your garden so you know what plants you can grow successfully. Draw in any permanent structures—existing or planned walks, patios or decks, fences, trees, driveway, and your house. Consider who will be using your space—children, pets, and if special accommodations are necessary.

Containers can be your best friends in small spaces. Think upwards. Vertical gardens that use trellises, vertical planters and containers make the most of your space. Vining plants such as pole beans and cucumbers thrive in this type of set-up.

Companion planting is not limited to large gardens. Basil and tomatoes do well in each other's company and happily share a container. Herb gardens in general are perfect for small spaces. Look into implementing square foot gardening techniques.



If you have room, consider a small tree or shrub. Look at the size it will eventually grow. Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) is a beautiful choice, but it can grow up to six metres tall and wide. Do not plant it too close to hard structures that will cause your tree to lean away and into your yard.

For something smaller, consider the red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*). It flowers in the spring, has berries the birds love in the summer, and beautiful colour year-round. While it can grow up to five metres tall, it benefits from coppicing, cutting stems back to ground level to encourage new red stems, keeping it small and beautiful.

If your new home is in a high-rise building with a balcony, take advantage of it to create a garden. Before you rush out to buy plants and pots and soil, remember that balcony gardens have specific challenges. Although you have exclusive use of your balcony, it is owned by the building owners. Check with building management before you get started. Some have rules about railing planters, weight of containers or watering.

Consider the logistics. How do you get your containers and soil up to your balcony? Where do you store your tools? How will you get water to your plants? In a hot windy garden, you will be watering your plants often, likely daily or more. Since small containers dry out often, you will also need to

fertilize more often. I usually start my containers with an extra helping of compost and add slow-release pellets twice a season. Choose light-weight containers. The soil will give them the weight they need to hold them in place. Your plants are the attraction, not the pots.

Garden soil or topsoil is much too heavy and dense for your containers. It will pack down and not drain well. Choose instead a potting soil or soilless mix. These tend to be lightweight and provide good drainage for your plants. They provide little nutrition so your plants will need fertilizer on a regular basis.

If you want to grow perennials in your containers, choose plants that are hardy a zone or two lower than where you live. Keep in mind that the climate on your balcony is much harsher than it is on the ground. Overwintering perennials in your containers is difficult as containers are much more likely to be impacted by the freeze-thaw cycle. I have not been successful leaving perennials in my 9th floor patio.

House plants that overwinter in your home may do well on your balcony. Rather than grow a tree in a container, consider moving your oleander, hibiscus, or other larger houseplants outside to add beauty to your balcony garden. These may need hardening off before going outside and debugging before going back in.

Plant plants that attract pollinators. I am always excited to see bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies on my plants.

In our building, more and more containers and hanging baskets are popping up on the balcony rails in the summer, making our building look less like a monolith of brick and cement and more like a welcoming home. Why not give it a go? Have fun and share your enjoyment with your neighbours.

## **PDHS Plant Sale May 18, 2024**

We will be having our plant sale on Saturday, May 20th at the Perth Farmer's Market, Crystal Palace from 8:00 AM to Noon. So when you are working in your gardens this spring and digging up plants, please pot up some for the plant sale. This plant sale is our main fundraiser for the society and helps us keep the Junior Gardener's program going as well as other community projects.

We are looking for a few volunteers to dig up plants in people's gardens, pot the plants up and get them ready for the plant sale. We would also like some volunteers to help price the plants and set up at the Farmer's Market on the morning of the plant sale.

Here is a list of plants that should NOT be sold at a Horticultural Society Plant Sale. These plants are all non-native and considered to be invasive in our eco-system.

Periwinkle (Vinca Minor)	Gout Weed
Lily of the Valley	Yellow Archangel
Wintercreeper	English Ivy
Bugleweed (Ajuga)	Creeping Jenny
Miscanthus	Norway Maple
Amur Maple	Russian Olive
Winged Euonymus	Japanese Barberry
Honeysuckle (Non-native including the vine)	Yellow Flag Iris
Common Orange Daylily (Ditch lily )	