



The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com



Est. 1984

April 2025

President's Pen



On Friday, April 4th, I thought Spring had arrived. I walked around the yard and noticed some of the spring bulbs were blooming to add a bit of colour to the gardens. Then today, April 8th, I woke up to winter again. It just doesn't seem to want to go away this year. I have noticed over the years, when Easter is late, we can expect any kind of weather before then. Hopefully, after April 21st, the weather will become reasonable garden weather.



Now is a good time to start some seedlings. Check out the article on page 3 to get you started.

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. Judy Buehler will coordinate the Museum Garden. Cheryl Moss and Rita Godin will coordinate Inge Va gardens. Kim McPherson will coordinate the Flag Garden. Robin McIntosh takes care of the Cenotaph garden. We plan to have some garden tours this summer at both the Museum Garden and the Flag Garden. We will keep you posted. We are also planning other garden tours. One of our members has already volunteered to have a garden tour. If anyone else would like to volunteer a tour of their gardens, please let me know so I can organize these tours over the summer.

The Pakenham Horticultural Society is hosting the OHA District 2 General Meeting on Saturday, May 3rd, at the Stewart Community Centre, 112 MacFarlane Street, Pakenham. The theme is "Sustainable Gardening" and there will be two speakers, vendors, and a raffle. Lunch will be served, as well as breakfast snacks. The business meeting for District 2 will be in the afternoon. The cost to attend this event is \$25.00. If you would like to attend this event please let me know so we can register you by April 12th.

Don't miss our May 13th meeting where we will host a mini spring flower show (see the schedule on page 2). Our speaker will be Dr. Sean Murphy and he will talk to us about our bodies and minds and how they affect our gardening. *"Stop doing stretches and do this instead... Statistically, less than 2% of people will do exercises consistently, unless one condition is met. Do you know what that is? Stop working all day in the garden and set this as a goal instead... Most people miss out on this one daily plan and end up hurting themselves. Do you know what this is? Stop unhealthy habits and achieve this goal instead..."* Are you curious?

Please mark your calendars for our spring plant sale. It will take place on Saturday, May 17th at the Perth Farmer's Market, Crystal Palace. We are looking for volunteers to contribute plants and to work the sale. Please see page 4 for more details about the Plant Sale.

I have included a list of garden centres on page 4 that usually give us a horticultural discount on PLANTS only.

Remember to check out our website PerthHortSociety.com. The site offers a link to Garden Centres and Useful Websites where you will find a wealth of information to help you to kick off this year's planting season.

Happy Gardening, soon!

Linda

PDHS May Flower Show

Here is the Schedule and Rules for our first Flower Show for 2025. We encourage you to participate.

Section I: Horticultural Specimen

Class 1: African Violet – any colour – single flower - 1 pot

Class 2: Best potted plant in bloom – other than African Violet – 1 pot - named, if possible

Class 3: Best potted foliage plant – 1 pot - named, if possible

Class 4: Succulent, including cacti - 1 pot

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

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

Class 7: Parrot Tulip – 1 stem with no more than two pairs of leaves attached

Class 8: Narcissus/Daffodil – 1 scape, no foliage attached

Class 9: Flowering Branch – no more than 24” above table

Class 10: Any other spring flower from your garden – one stem – named

Class 11: A Tray of Seedlings – at least six in the tray – named

Section II: Design

Class 12: “Spring Forth” – A design portraying spring.

Class 13: “Itsy Bitsy” – A miniature design.

Class 14: “Itsy Bitsy” – A miniature design (Novice).

Class 15: Pik n Plunk – Spring flowers and branches arranged in a 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.

Starting Seeds Indoors

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

Growing your own vegetables is the most rewarding form of gardening—the plants are beautiful and you can eat the results. Starting your vegetable transplants from seed kicks all of these rewards up a notch. Every time I pick up a tiny tomato seed and imagine the bushel of tomatoes it will produce, I am amazed. Also, starting your own vegetables indoors lets you get your hands dirty 6 weeks earlier!



To grow seeds, you need growing medium, containers, water and light. I typically purchase a soilless mix to start my plants. You can make your own using equal quantities of good garden soil, clean, coarse builders sand and peat moss. The garden soil should be sterilized by spreading in a shallow pan and baking at 275F for 30 minutes. Premoisten your growing medium before planting. When watering is required, stand each container in a tray of water to dampen the medium until it is moist but not wet.

I like to start my seeds in seed trays or flats. I can start all the tomatoes I want in one tray, and they come with a handy clear dome cover. Be sure to label the type of tomatoes. They will all look the same in a few weeks. While they are quite flimsy, if handled carefully they will last a long time. Once the tomatoes have germinated, I transplant into small pots—3”.

Tomatoes and peppers love to be transplanted. Each time I move them up a pot size, I plant them as deep as I can. Roots will form along the planted stem, making the plants hardier. They also like to be tickled. Every time you walk by your seedlings, wave your fingers through your plants. Your fingers will smell like tomatoes—bliss!

Seedlings can be grown in a sunny window. If you decide to grow more seedlings than your window will hold, you may have to resort to using fluorescent lights. You can purchase tiers of grow lights or create temporary shelving from planks stacked on bricks with your lights propped on top. Special “GroLight” tubes are available but are very expensive. They add little to the health of your plants. We have found using one “warm” tube and one “cool” tube provides the full light spectrum at a much reduced cost.

The back of your seed package will tell you how deep to plant your seeds. A rule of thumb is seeds should be covered to 3 times their diameter.

Damping off is one problem with starting seeds indoors. To avoid, sterilize all seed containers. Use only sterile growing medium and sow seeds thinly. Do not allow your containers to be overcrowded. Water seed trays from below. Damping off can be stimulated by nitrogen so make sure your seedlings develop 3 true leaves before fertilizing. You will recognize damping off if your seedling flops over. If this happens, remove it and its neighbors immediately. If the soil appears too moist, move container away from other seedlings. Although not scientifically proven, many gardeners have had success watering their plants with chamomile tea or sprinkling cinnamon on the soil.



For years, I have started my own peppers and tomatoes from seeds indoors. All other vegetables, I have simply planted seeds in the ground where they would grow. This past autumn, our Master Gardener group visited a local greenhouse that grows greens for local restaurants and one of the presenters at our Technical Update indicated that they start all of their plants indoors to transplant out. Their rationale is that they have better plants, they can germinate cool weather crops (such as lettuce) all year long and they can plant what they need each month.

The following link lets you plug in your postal code and advises when to start plants. Almanac – <https://www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar/postalcode>. Enter your own postal code for your area.

PDHS Plant Sale May 17, 2025

We will be having our plant sale on Saturday, May 17th at the Perth Farmer's Market, Crystal Palace from 8:00 AM to Noon. This plant sale is our main fundraiser for the society and helps us maintain our community projects.

So when you are working in your gardens this spring and digging up plants, please pot up some for the plant sale. Be careful not to transplant weeds, invasives and worms. Anything dug out of the ground should be carefully checked and maybe bare-rooted and potted into sterile mix. Don't have time to pot up the plants, put them in bags, boxes or large pots and drop them off at Robin's place, 16 George Ave., Perth. We will have potting up days.

We are looking for a few volunteers to dig up plants in people's gardens, pot up plants 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)

Membership Benefit Horticultural Discounts

Here is a list of some of our local Garden Centres and surrounding areas that usually give a discount on **PLANTS** only to members of the Perth and District Horticultural Society upon presentation of your current year membership card.

Garden Centre	Discount
Budd Gardens 2832 Innes Road, Ottawa	10%
Gemmell's Garden Centre (their pots) 11862 ON-15, Smiths Falls	10%
Green Thumb Garden Centre 17 Tristan Ct, Nepean	10%
Kiwi Gardens 687 Harper Rd, Perth	13%
Made in the Shade 3626 Hwy 2 RR 3, Gananoque, ON	10%
Reid Gardens 142 Pick Rd, Carleton Place, ON	10%
Rideau Woodland Ramble 7210 Burritts Rapids Rd, Merrickville	10%
Stoneridge Gardens & Nursery 1851 Galbraith Rd, Clayton	10%
Whitehouse Perennials 594 Rae Rd, Almonte	10%

These garden centres do not offer discounts to horticultural society members.

Carleton Place Nursery - they have their own points system

Peter Knippel Nursery & Garden Centre Inc

Ramsay Creek Garden Nursery

Ritchie Feed & Seed Inc.

Looking for **native plants**, check out Diggin It Nursery online at: <https://digginitnursery.com/>

When you are at a Garden Centre, anywhere in Ontario, all you have to do is ask if they offer a discount to OHA Horticultural Members upon presentation of their membership card. It never hurts to ask.