



The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com



Est. 1984

April 2026

President's Pen

Hi Everyone,

It's here, what we've been craving as gardeners for many months. Yes, I'd say Spring cannot be held back any longer.

I find this the most hopeful time of year, so many possibilities for my garden. But often I find that before long, I'm looking forward to the start of the next growing season and what I'll do differently. Oh well, that is the secret power we gardeners possess, eternal optimism and hope for the future, right?

One of the events to which we have to look forward is our annual plant sale scheduled for the long weekend in May. Lots of possibilities will be on offer there, especially from Richard Catchpaw's beautiful collection of daylilies and hostas. There's always room for one more plant, don't you find?

As well, I'm looking forward to working in the various public gardens that our Society maintains:

- Perth Museum
- Inge Va
- Flag Garden
- Cenotaph in front of the Perth Hospital
- Wendy Laut Memorial (Pollinator) Garden

If you haven't already come out to one of these gardening sessions, please consider doing so. I have found it to be so constructive and rewarding to work alongside other Society members while maintaining these lovely gardens for our community.

If you have any suggestions or comments you'd like to share, please reach out. I'll talk to you again in May.

Cheers,

Robin McIntosh

May 12, 2026 Meeting Notes on a Japanese Garden

presented by Barbara Sibbald, Master Gardener

In a Japanese-themed garden, a small space holds big ideas about designing with plants, stone, water and ma, the all-important space in between. Part garden travelogue, part gardening experiment, this lecture aims to inspire.

Master Gardener Barbara Sibbald cultivates her yard and nearby parks in Ottawa's Centretown. When she's not gardening, she is writing.



A spring overview. The bench, in keeping with wabi-sabi, is repurposed wood from a demolished airplane hanger. Photo: Barbara Sibbald

Hardening off Seedlings

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

For the last few weeks or even months, we have been looking after our seedlings and envisioning where they will be planted in our gardens. Now, we are coming to what many experts believe is the most crucial stage of their growth—Hardening off.

Hardening off is the gradual training of indoor seedlings to handle real sun, wind and temperature swings so they do not scorch, wilt or stall when planted outside. You can think of this as progressive exposure conditioning. After all the love and caring you have been giving to your seedlings, you do not want them to die from exposure to the outside world. The following schedule will get you started.



Day 1—Shade only for 1 hour—put the seedlings outside in full shade, sheltered from the wind. Bring them back in. Plants growing under grow lights cannot handle UV just yet.

Day 2—Shade only for 2 hours. Use the same conditions as Day 1.

Day 3—Bright shade or dappled light for 3 hours. You still don't want direct sunlight but for now, a light breeze is fine.

Day 4—First direct sunlight for 1 hour and then move back to shade for the remaining time 2 hours.

Day 5—Morning sun for 2-3 hours. Add a bit more breeze exposure. Total outdoor time 4 hours.

Day 6—4-5 hours of sun. They should be able to tolerate half a day of real light BUT keep an eye on leaf edges for signs of stress.

Day 7—Full day outside. By now they should be used to sun and wind and temperature swings. You can leave them outside overnight if the temperature is consistently above 10°C. If it looks like it will drop below 10°C, bring them back inside.

Temperature rules: If the temperature is below 10°C, it is too cold for your tender plants such as tomatoes, peppers, basil and annuals. If it is below 5°C, it is too cold for most seedlings except maybe hardy brassicas.

Watering rules: Keep the soil slightly moist, never dry. Remember they will need watering more often outside than they did in. Sun and wind have a drying effect on your plants. Water the plants before you put them out in the first week. Dry seedlings will scorch faster.

When to plant: You will know when they are hardened off and ready to plant in their summer homes when the leaves feel thicker and slightly tougher. The stems should not sway dramatically in the wind, and the colour should be deep and even. There should be no wilting after several hours in the sun.

Avoid jumping straight to direct sun as this will cause bleaching or crispy edges. Leaving them out on a cold night too early will stall their growth for weeks.

If you saved your plants, bulbs and corms from last year (Gladiolas, Dahlias), and have started them indoors, apply the same principals as you do to the seedlings. They are usually more able to handle the sun and wind but keep a close eye on them.

Enjoy your plants as they grow over the summer providing food and beauty to your garden.

PDHS May 2026 Flower Show

Here is the Schedule and Rules for our first Flower Show for 2026. 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: “Whispers of Spring” – A design

Class 13: “Reflections on the Tay” – A water-viewing design

Class 14: “Reflections on the Tay” – A water-viewing 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.



Water-viewing
Design
Linda Bartlett

PDHS Plant Sale May 16, 2026

We will be having our plant sale on Saturday, May 16th 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 a 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 (to be announced) at Richard Catchpaw's home, 454 Keays Rd, Balderson (another place where plants can be dropped off).

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. If you are available to volunteer for this sale in any way, let Robin know.

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 ecosystem.

- 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

As a member of the Perth & District Horticultural Society, these local Garden Centres and surrounding areas usually give a discount on **PLANTS**, 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
- Peter Knippel Nursery & Garden Centre Inc
- Ramsay Creek Garden Nursery
- Ritchie Feed & Seed Inc.

Interested in native plants:

- Biosphere Native Plants in Westport
- Echo Native Plants in Almonte

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.