



The Ladyslipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com

Est. 1984

June 2024

President's Pen

Wow, what a chilly day today, so hard to believe it is June 11th.

Our Junior Gardeners program wrapped up on May 16th. The program was well organized and received warmly by the schools. Kudos to all the volunteers who made this program a success this year. Special thanks to Robin McIntosh for organizing the program.

PDHS May Plant Sale: Our Annual Plant Sale was held at Crystal Palace on May 18th. It was very successful, bringing in around \$1700.00 in sales to support our society activities. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event.



A few of our members at the Plant Sale

Summer Garden Tours: Save the dates - Tuesday, July 16th, Garden tour of Sylvia's 4th Line Florals and July 30th, a tour of Richard Catchpaw's hosta and daylily gardens as well as Janette and Max Woods gardens. I will try to organize one or two garden tours for August.

Looking for something to do this Father's Day weekend, check out Art in the Garden at Kiwi Gardens, 687 Harper Rd, Perth, ON. Check out their website for more information and hours: <https://www.kiwigardens.ca/>

Enjoy your summer!

Linda

Summer Garden Tours

TUESDAY, JULY 16th

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

SYLVIA'S 4TH LINE FLORALS

2172 Upper Fourth Concession Bathurst,
Perth, ON K7H 3C9

SYLVIA'S 4th LINE FLORALS IS A FLOWER FARM AND FLORIST LOCATED JUST WEST OF PERTH, ONTARIO, CANADA.

There is ample parking but you may want to travel with a buddy or two.

TUESDAY, JULY 30th

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

RICHARD CATCHPAW'S GARDENS

454 Keays Rd, Balderson, On K0G 1A0

JANETTE AND MAX WOOD'S GARDENS

1380 Bathurst 7th Conc. Perth, ON K7H 3C9

Both of these members are graciously opening their gardens for all of our members to enjoy.

JULY 20-28, 2024

Whitehouse Perennials

594 Rae Road, Almonte, ON

Bloomfest

Fields of Daylilies

For more information and hours of operation, visit <https://www.whitehouseperennials.com/>

More details and maps for these garden tours will be sent by email closer to the garden tour dates.

How Do I Get Rid of Weeds in my Garden

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners (Article and photos)

Many first-time gardeners and a few long-term gardeners come to Master Gardeners with the lament—I just weeded my garden and now all the weeds are coming back. What can I do?

Weeding is a part of gardening—not our favorite part but an important part. There are some natural methods to reduce or eliminate weeds in your garden.

Mulch—An organic mulch, such as shredded leaves, straw or wood chips applied around your plants blocks weed seeds from sunlight, thus eliminating weed growth. Mulch also has the benefit of retain moisture, reducing the need to water your plants as often. Apply a layer of mulch at least 2.5 cm thick between plants and along the rows.

For persistent weeds, exclude light by covering the soil with dampened newspaper or brown cardboard. Use at least 10 sheets of newspaper. Put 5 cm of straw or compost on top. This method works best when starting a new garden bed. Do not use landscape cloth. People are often told that this prevents weeds. It may keep weeds from growing through the cloth but weed seeds love to germinate on top and send roots through the cloth and become almost impossible to remove.



Arbor with garden mulched



Hori-Hori Knife

Regularly pull the weeds out manually. Use a comfortable kneeling pad or knee pads. This activity brings you close to your plants so you can check on how they are growing. Cut the stems off at or below the soil. I was recently gifted a Hori-Hori knife that works very well for this.

One of our Master Gardeners always recommends planting a lot of plants, close together. This will reduce the area in which weeds can grow.

Every time you disturb the soil, you move weed seeds from underground to the top of the soil where they will happily germinate. The no-dig or no-till approach to gardening reduces the weed numbers. Weed gently and avoid disturbing the soil.

Finally, if you cannot do a thorough weeding job, at least dead head the weeds to keep them from going to seed. You can compost the leafy parts of the weeds, but most home composters do not raise the temperature in their compost bins high enough to prevent the weeds from going to seed.

Don't look at weeding as a chore. It can be a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. Enjoy the plants close up and butterflies and bees and birds that come to your beautiful garden. When I lived in the county, I had lots of gardens. Hubby used to say that if he was looking for me all he had to do was look to the sky and see the Turkey Vultures circling. I was a meal about to happen as it had been so long since I had moved very much.

So often we gardeners, look at our own garden, and only see the flaws. When we look at someone else's garden we see the beauty. Enjoy the beauty in your own garden.

Have a Wonderful Summer!

If you have a gardening question, contact us at lanarkmg@gmail.com. Visit us at the Perth and Almonte Farmers Markets.



Liatris planted close so weeds don't grow