

BATH GARDENING
CLUB NEWSLETTER –
SPRING 2022

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*“A weed is a plant that has
mastered every survival skill,
except for learning how to
grow in rows.”*

Doug Larson



UPDATE FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING

The Gardening Club is now 88 members strong. We welcome the following new members:

Valerie Behm
Elaine Donaldson
Judith Gould
Jeri Love
Doris Power
Nancy, Robert and Melissa Willis

The following Executive positions are open:

President
Vice-President
Publicity Secretary

The Club acknowledges the tremendous work and time that Jeannie Czesnik has given over the years as Recording Secretary. Thank you, Jeannie for your dedication and your timely updates to all of us regarding upcoming events and news items. We welcome Heather Bennett as our new Recording Secretary and extend special thanks to Heather for her previous work as Publicity Secretary. We are pleased to announce Linda Cohen has joined our executive as a new member of the Board of Directors.

Possible Spring activities include:

Opening of the Lafarge Memorial Grove

Fundraising events: Fertilizer sale, Bath Sunday Market, Plant/bulb sale

On January 17th over 25 members of the Gardening Club were captivated by Dr. Cathy Christie's presentation:



“PLANNING YOUR FOOD GARDEN: Selecting, Planting and Saving Seeds”

Cathy Christie describes herself as a mother, science educator, biologist, gardener and seed saver. She is currently Chair of the Kingston Area Seed System Initiative (KASSI) and a Master Gardener in Training.

The following summary of Cathy's presentation does not do justice to the wealth of information that she shared. But here are a few of the highlights of her presentation:

What are Open-Pollinated Plants? These plants have been naturally pollinated by wind, insects and birds. Seeds that come from open-pollinated plants resemble the parent plant. Open pollinated plants “retain their genetic diversity and adapt to a changing environment.” Cathy reminded us that 9 out of 10 bits of food that we consume comes from seeds. Open pollinated seeds are considered to be “fundamental to our seed system”. You can collect seeds from open-pollinated plants, save them, plant them and the results will be new growth that resembles the original parent plant.

Is there a difference between open-pollinated plants and hybrids? Yes. Hybrids may have been developed by pairing two open-pollinated plants but their seeds are not as stable as seeds from their original parents. You need to buy seeds that produce a hybrid plant. If you choose to save seeds from hybrid plants or from plants that have been cross pollinated, it is important to note that “the plants that grow from these saved seeds will carry the genetics from both ‘parents’ and may display different characteristics than you are expecting”.



What does Heirloom mean? According to KASSI, there is “no legal definition for heirloom seeds in Canada.” KASSI does “define heirloom seeds as a variety worthy of being saved. This definition does not exclude successful hybrids. The term ‘heirloom’ does not necessarily guarantee that the seed is open pollinated”.

What are the best seeds to buy? Open-pollinated, non-genetically modified (GMO) seeds are more robust with predictable outcomes than hybrid seeds. A purchase of open-pollinated seeds will result in a plant that you expect. No surprises!



What kind of seeds are best saved? Squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, pumpkins, carrots, radish, to name a few. **For example:**

How do I harvest Tomatoes seeds? Collect a few of the best-looking tomatoes from each tomato plant, squeeze the seeds into a jar, allow them to ferment for a few days then remove, rinse and dry on plate or wax paper. Paper towel is not recommended as seeds will stick to it.

For this and other instructions for harvesting and drying seeds check out:

<https://rideau1000islandsmastergardeners.com/2020/05/19/planning-a-seed-saving-garden-with-cathy-christie/Article> by Colette McKinnon



How do I ensure that my seeds will remain “true to type”?

Make sure that you keep certain varieties of seeds separate from one another so that they do not mix resulting in a hybrid plant. To ensure that seeds are separated sufficiently requires space, often using barriers, planting some seeds in the front garden, others in the back for example. For more information check out www.bathgardeningclub.ca

FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



During our February 21st Zoom meeting, we were delighted to have Ken Brown as our speaker. Ken is a horticultural consultant, writer and photographer. He received his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Guelph. When the Toronto Zoo was being constructed, Ken was hired as the Superintendent of Horticulture and, in this role, he was responsible for the planning and planting of all the indoor gardens and the overseeing of the outdoor landscaping contractors. Ken also worked in his own landscaping business for many years. In addition to being a certified horticultural judge, Ken taught courses in horticulture at the University of Toronto. His website: www.gardening-enjoyed.com, is not to be missed. Ken's topic for the Gardening Club meeting was “My Beauty from Bulbs”.

Here are a few highlights of Ken's presentation:

Ken plants thousands of bulbs in his garden, replenishing hundreds each year. He plants, tulips, narcissus, crocus, snowdrops, iris, hyacinths, and allium. Below are a few of the numerous recommendations and gardening hints that he shared with us:

Grass is a good growing medium. Snowdrops, for example, can be planted in the lawn and they will bloom on the edge of melting snow. In the spring a lawn appears to be “dead” but bulbs will still materialize. The first lawn cutting should be done on a high setting so that bulbs are able to rejuvenate for the following year's growth.

Some bulbs are a natural deterrent to squirrels. For example: Ruby Grant Crocus, Fritillaria, Tulip Lilac Wonder, Crocus Tommasianus, Clusiana Lady Jane tulip, Clusiana Tinka. If squirrels are still problematic, use a variety of liquid repellents, blood meal or hen manure. The smell of these products is what deters the squirrel from munching on our bulbs.

Drill, or use an auger to plant bulbs. Plant deep! Annuals can be planted on top of the bulbs. Tulips can be planted in a tree shaded area but not in the shade of a house or other permanent structure. Trees are not usually in bloom when tulips are blooming so the tulips will actually be receiving the sun that they need.





NEXT MEETING: MARCH 21, 2022 @ 2:00 P.M.

A presentation by Larry Branscombe of Enviromaster. Larry is an avid environmentalist, introducing organic fertilizers in 1994 as part of Enviromasters' lawn management process. During his presentation, Larry will discuss soil needs, weed and pest management, lawn cutting techniques, water needs and conservation for a healthy lawn. We are pleased to announce our return to in-person meetings at St. John's Hall. For the safety of members, masks and proof of vaccination (if not previously provided) will still be required.

In order to get our minds past Covid and to start thinking joyful thoughts about spring, check out the following link below, great time-lapse photography taken from a Ted Talks presentation. The topic is "The Beauty of Pollination" approximately 4 minutes in duration and presented by the wonderful world of bees, birds, bats and butterflies.

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4?rel=0>



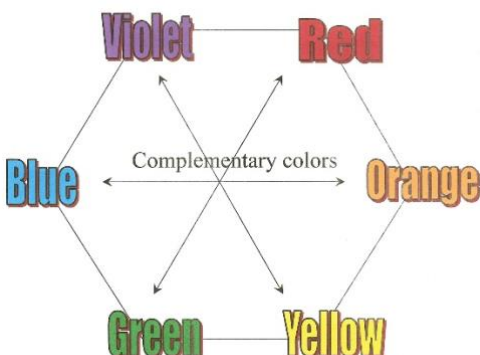
VILLAGE BARRELS AND GARDENS 2022

In keeping with the Canadian Garden Council's proclamation that 2022 is the Year of the Garden, and with the encouragement of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) to plant the colour RED, the Gardening Club has worked hard to come up with a beautiful selection of red flowers, complemented with a variety of other vibrant colours. This year the village gardens, planters and barrels will exhibit an abundance of: red Canna Lilies; Sunpatience in red, royal magenta, hot pink, purple and white; red and white Impatience; white Cleomes; white Scaevola; white Supertunia; and red Vinca... the official flower of Bath. 398 plants in total! Loyalist Township will also highlight red flowers in the gardens at Loyalist Park complementing the red with accents of lime, orange and blue.



USING THE COLOUR WHEEL WHEN CHOOSING FLOWERS FOR YOUR GARDEN

How do we make the most of our planting areas and at the same time provide that "WOW" factor in our garden creation? Using the colour wheel as a resource might provide us with helpful hints when we choose our flowers and even when we purchase our garden art and furniture. Here are some facts about how the colour wheel works followed by two great links for more information. A simplified version of the Colour Wheel:



The colour wheel consists of 6 prime or basic colours: red, orange, yellow, blue, green and violet. A complete colour wheel will show a variety of shades of the six prime colours. For example, looking at the colour wheel ... on left side of RED, we would find pink and reddish mauve shades and on the right side of RED, we would find a variety of reddish orange shades.

How does all of this help us in the garden?

Sometimes an easy, but by no way dull, garden can be created by combining different shades of the same colour, choosing a selection of plants that are red, pink, mauve, red-orange for example. This is known as a monochromatic garden.

Mixing colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel can also produce a beautiful effect as these colours blend well together. For example: red and orange flowers work well together as do orange and yellow, yellow and green, green and blue, blue and violet.

You can create greater contrast and “WOW” in your garden by mixing plants that have “complementary” colors, colours that are opposite on the colour wheel. For example: a garden including shades of red and green, shades of blue and orange and, shades of violet and yellow is a garden using complementary colours.

Expanding the use of contrasting colours, by using three primary colours can be achieved by forming a triangle on the colour wheel. For example: Shades of violet, green and orange work well as does planting shades of red, blue and yellow in the same garden.

In addition to considering the colour wheel as a resource when choosing flowers, check out the height and width of plants and the use of dark or bright colors that can influence the mood of a garden. Dark colours tend to evoke calmness, a cool effect and often have a “tendency to make areas look larger than they really are.” Bright colours tend to fill in a garden space and seem to be more festive and celebratory. What about white, grey or light brown colours? These are considered to be neutral colours and work wonders when planted between colours that you feel might clash with one another. White is particularly interesting often producing a bit of a “glow” first thing in the morning or in the early evening.

At the end of the day, our gardens are our personal treasures and they are always a work in progress. Colour Wheel or not, your gardens, whatever the colour scheme are yours to enjoy.

For more information check out: <https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/basic-design-principles-using-color-garden>

<https://blog.theenduringgardener.com/gardens/garden-design/using-colour-in-the-garden/>

THE BIG TEN!

The “Food Gardening Network” has identified 10 plants that will not only keep your gardens healthy and pest free, some are also a great addition to your cooking.



1. Basil

It is recommended that basil be planted near tomatoes. Both plants require a similar sun exposure and water conditions. Basil is a natural deterrent to pests that love to munch on tomatoes. Mosquitos also do not like to hang around basil!

2. Catmint and 3. Mint

Catmint discourages the presence of Japanese flying beetles, weevils, and ants. Mint deters the presence of cabbage moths. Be aware that plants from the mint family can overtake your garden so planting these in a contained area or in a pot may be helpful.

4. Dill

Dill is a delicious herb to use in your cooking. It appears that spider mites, squash bugs, and aphids do not like dill but tomato hornworms find it exceptionally attractive!



5. Garlic

This is often considered to be a “wonder” plant used in cooking and planted in gardens to deter aphids, Japanese beetles, cabbageworm, slugs, snails and even rabbits! Garlic is often used as an ingredient in commercial pesticides. Check out the following for more details. <https://www.networx.com/article/garden-pests-garlic-is-your-enemy>

6. Marigold

Marigolds attract pollinators but also can repel discourage the presence of nematodes, whiteflies, tomato hornworms, and cabbage worms. Marigolds are edible but, their smell may not enhance a fine dining experience.

7. Nasturtium

The addition of Nasturtium leaves and flowers to a salad not only adds a visual “wow” factor to the dish, the taste is delicious. Aphids however, also like to feast on nasturtiums but, ladybugs, which are prevalent in our area, love aphids. A win for humans and ladybugs!

8. Petunias

Petunias, not only a gorgeous addition to your garden, planted around your veggies will help to repel leafhoppers, squash bugs, aphids, tomato hornworms, potato bugs and asparagus beetles.



9. Rosemary and 10. Thyme

These two amazing herbs augment many a recipe. But, in addition to culinary delights, they also help repel unwanted pests. Carrot flies, snails, and cabbage moths do not find rosemary delectable. Tomato hornworms and whiteflies will also avoid areas where thyme has been planted.

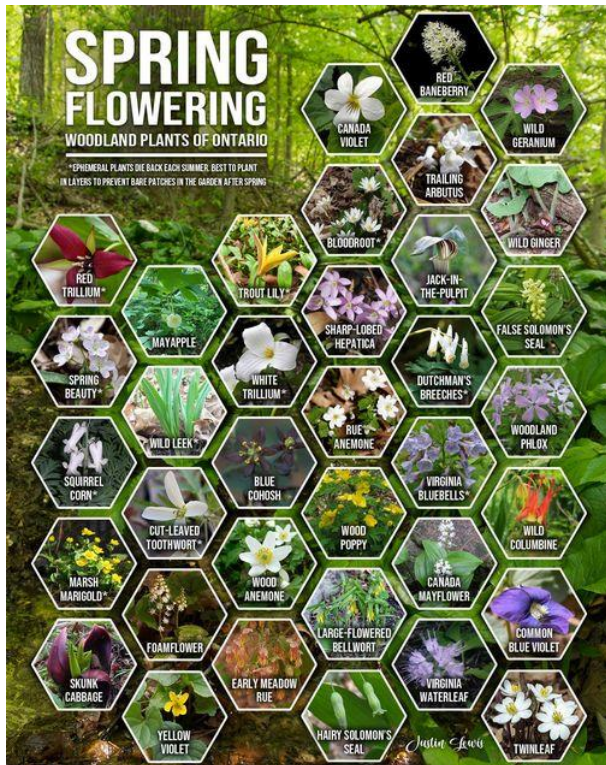
In search of drought resistant plants ... Planting drought-resistant vegetables results in greater overall water conservation.

For gardeners interested in planting veggies, here are some drought-resistant varieties that you might want to consider. Sweet potatoes, eggplant, peppers, Swiss chard, arugula, tomatoes (Roma, early girl), pole beans, chickpeas, zucchini.

Even though these plants are considered to be drought resistant, if starting by seed, they need to be watered well in order for their root system to become robust.



Thyme



ON A FINAL NOTE, ONTARIO'S SPRING WOODLAND FLOWERS...

Justin Lewis from Burlington, Ontario has created a wonderful image of spring flowering woodland plants found in Ontario. He has generously given permission to share this image. Although these flowers are native to our forests, many are welcome additions to our gardens.

For more information check out the following link:

www.facebook.com/groups/MasterGardenersofOntario/permalink/50002718623118799

