



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

October 2020 – 6th issue

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

Message from the President: Here we are into the Fall, a few more weeks and this year will be over!

We had a socially distant Executive meeting and we have decided to not go ahead with our November meeting 'Christmas Arrangement Demonstration' unfortunately. Due to the increase in cases and halls not being open in some cases we feel it is best and safer for everyone.

Our December meeting is also cancelled as we feel it is best not to take any chances just before Christmas. Our AGM cannot be held at this time so Officer positions will remain the same. Once the government has declared the pandemic over, we have 90 days to hold our AGM to keep our grant status and status with the OHA viable. Any empty positions may be filled by appointment and officially installed later.

In 2021 we will have our first meeting in March instead of February and have another membership drive then we may even try doing this online as well. Our plan is to have local speakers or members for meetings, extend our meetings through the summer so we have the option of going outdoors and having member garden tours. This will keep the costs down and make for easier cancellations if need be.

Because we are unsure on how things will go in the new year with booking people it makes it very difficult to print up a calendar so we will send you a PDF copy sometime in the new year and email you for every meeting. You can also check out the OHA website under 'Lynden Horticultural Society' for the calendar also, <https://gardenontario.org> Our newsletter and Facebook page will continue from now on also. If you or anyone you know would be willing to do a presentation or a garden tour, please contact [Cindy](#) or [myself](#) so we may better plan for next year.

We hope that you will choose to continue being a member of this society and we will endeavour to create a better year next year than this one. Without you there is no Lynden Horticultural Society.

Job Position: We need someone to take over the Membership director position. This job entails running the membership drive which is mostly at the end and beginning of our calendar year. I have created a comprehensive file with premade forms and tracking charts on a USB stick. You would collect dues and record members information. This job is very easy and does not require a lot of work, except during membership drive time, even then it is minimal. I will help with the transition and during the drive. Please [contact me](#) if you are interested.



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October 19th Meeting: Is our joint meeting with St. George and Glen Morris. This is hosted by St. George and will be a virtual Zoom meeting at 7 pm. Judge and Designer Marie Decker will go over a live power point demo, which will be on arrangements of flowers and greens from the garden doing a “Design Demo”. If you are interested in viewing this please contact Shirley Steedman at stgeorgegardenclub@gmail.com for the zoom login.

Trivia:

1. What “B” flower means “Beware”?
2. This herb, often administered to alleviate depression, is used in healing salves, and can be recognized by the red oils in its petals that can stain skin and clothes. What is its name?
3. What continent is the only one with no native orchids?
4. True or False? A sunflower is just one flower.
5. There are more microorganisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth. True or False?

Website: Here is a nice video of the history of Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island with past and present pictures from how it was built and how it is today, and then a tour. What is interesting about this video is that it is presented by the Garden Writers Association from Oklahoma, so they talk about the difference between growing here and there. [Video](#)



Fall Planting: You can still carry on planting even though the temperatures have dropped in fact that is the best time to plant garlic and onions. In mid autumn in a sunny location with rich well drained soil is the best place to start. Plant garlic 4-6” deep and 1 ½ -2” apart, cover with 1-2” of fine soil and in the north 6” of mulch for winter protection. The best time to plant is when the soil is warm to cool, if it is hot the bulb will start to grow. The Garlic Growers Association of Ontario recommends you do not plant imported garlic as it will grow poorly, and you risk the possibility of infecting your garden with foreign-based diseases. You can find garlic seed locally at William Dam Seeds, 1 variety in 2 sizes of bags and Brant County Garlic Company (near Norwich) which carries 8 varieties. [Brant County Garlic Company](#)



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The Garlic Growers of Ontario have a great website with all the information you might need to grow a small or large amount of garlic and has some great tips.

Onions can be planted in the spring and fall. Fall planted onions are a great way to enjoy an earlier and larger bulbed harvest the next year. Onions planted in the warm autumn soil will quickly establish a strong root system before winter sets in and go dormant as the chill of winter arrives. They will mature earlier and can usually be harvested as early as June. Some say fall planted onions taste better and are much larger.

Storing Garlic: Depending on strain of garlic it can be stored in a cold room or cellar up to a year, do not refrigerate or store near a stove or windowsill. Think dry and dark. Store garlic at room temperature in a dry dark place with plenty of air circulation, like in a wire-meshed basket or open paper bag in a cupboard or pantry.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

Recently my mom and her neighbors had the back fence redone. As I watched them take panel after panel away, I thought what a waste. So, when it came time for my mom's fence to come down, I asked for all the 4x4 posts and some of the panels. I took apart all the panels and used them to fill in the spacing on my fence



so it would be solid at my gardens, no site line for my dog (my decorative posts didn't work but they looked good! Lol!). With the 4x4's I then made 2 raised flower beds. (Note, treated lumber should not be used for vegetable gardens as they use potentially toxic chemicals to treat the wood.) I framed them on the ground, screwed them together and laid cardboard down to kill any weeds that may want to come through and then dumped compost and garden soil on top. When we redo our patio, I intend to take all the pavers and lay them in between all the





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raised beds. After all that I had bits left, still I couldn't throw them out, so I made bug hotels!
The block tower I call "Hotel Beetlejuice".

Seed Saving:

Seeds have a life span, some longer than others, surprisingly. Some can be planted up to 5 years after harvesting others only 1. Here is a list of the approximate life expectancy of vegetable seeds stored under favorable conditions.

| Plants | Life expectancy (years) | Plants | Life expectancy (years) | Plants | Life expectancy (years) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Asparagus | 3 | Collards | 5 | Onion | 1 |
| Bean | 3 | Corn, sweet | 2 | Parsley | 1 |
| Beet | 4 | Cucumber | 5 | Pea | 3 |
| Broccoli | 3 | Eggplant | 4 | Pepper | 2 |
| Brussel Sprouts | 4 | Endive | 5 | Pumpkin | 4 |
| Cabbage | 3 | Fennel | 4 | Radish | 5 |
| Carrot | 3 | Kale | 4 | Rutabaga | 4 |
| Celeriac | 3 | Kohlrabi | 3 | Spinach | 3 |
| Cauliflower | 4 | Leek | 2 | Squash | 4 |
| Celery | 3 | Lettuce | 6 | Tomato | 4 |
| Chard, Swiss | 4 | Muskmelon | 5 | Turnip | 4 |
| Chicory | 4 | Mustard | 4 | Watermelon | 4 |
| Chinese cabbage | 3 | Okra | 2 | | |

Most seeds store well at a constant temperature of around 5°C in a cellar or fridge, the drier the better. Store in a paper bag or envelope or airtight jar and store in a cool dry dark place. Humidity and warmth shorten a seed's shelf life, so the refrigerator is generally the best place to store seeds. If you're harvesting seeds be sure to air dry them for at least a week before placing them in a container. Even if you are organized, methodical and careful about storing seeds, accept the fact that some just won't germinate the following year.

So, don't be so quick to throw out your old seed packets each year! Put the date you bought them on the package or if you're harvesting them be sure to include the date.



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10 Things I learned this summer:

1. Tomato cages can be used as a support for more than just tomato's! They work great for Gladiolas!
2. Tomato cages make a great perches and rest stops for hummingbirds when feeding and other birds.
3. Placing a plant pot saucer of water on the ground in your garden helps reduce the amount of damage a nibbling bunny does when it's hot and dry out. Also, the birds like to bathe in it too!
4. If you don't have enough rain barrels to collect water a garbage pail works in a pinch by sticking the overflow hose in it!
5. Placing a canopy (or clamping an old bed sheet to the garden fence) over your beans during the hot dry days helps extend the life of the plant and produces more beans. Can also be used as a frost cover later.
6. If you chop up your kitchen refuse for the compost (i.e. broccoli stems, old apples etc.) it breaks down a lot faster. Especially the apples (from the apple tree), it also helps reduce the wasps!
7. Not be afraid to move plants and objects in my garden.
8. Putting blanket cloth and plastic under stone paths is still not enough to stop ants and weeds!!!
9. It's OK to let weeds grow because sometimes they turn out not to be weeds!
10. If you leave a pot with damp soil on the ground over night a toad will make it a home.



If you have 5 things you learned good or bad, this summer send them in to us and we would love to share them.



Amaryllis: If you did what you were supposed to at the beginning of the summer and plant your amaryllis bulb in the garden over the summer (or have been watering it in a pot), now is the time to dig it up and let it dry out. Leave it in a dry location away from bright light. The leaves will wither and fall away as the plant goes dormant. I like to cut mine off. After it has rested for 2 – 5 months you can repot it using fresh growing mix. Water once and move the pot into a bright room and water sparingly until the bulb is in active growth. You will have beautiful flowers once again just in time for Christmas!

Trivia Answers:



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1. Begonia
2. St. John's Wort
3. Antarctica
4. False. Both the fuzzy brown center and the classic yellow petals are actually 1,000 – 2,000 individual flowers held together on a single stalk.
5. True. Microbes are important for keeping your soil full of nutrients.