



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

October 2022 – 26th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

Message from the President



FALL!!! My favorite time of year! Which is why this is late in coming, I didn't want to sit in front of my computer when I could be outside cleaning up of the gardens and yard. It's something I enjoy and not at the same time. It's nice to cut down and tidy up all the plants that are near the end and pack the garden stuff up, but it all looks so barren when you're done. I try to use this time for making plans for next year's garden. What to plant, what to move, what can go for the plant sale, what changes do I want to do??? So many possibilities!

So, this issue may be a little smaller as my mind is elsewhere!!! Lol!

As Cindy said last time, I can't believe it has been 25 issues and now 26!!! This has been a successful endeavor and a terrific way to share with each member the goings on with this society as well as things in the world. For us at least this is one good thing that came out of COVID. I have enjoyed writing these and often get a little carried away that sometimes I will run out of things to say.... Fat chance! Lol!

Sorry this issue has taken some time to get to you, but I have had a lot of self-made deadlines. In the next month we will be deciding what our calendar will look like for next year so if there is anything you would like to see please let us know.

'Keep Calm and Garden on'

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **Monday November 7th at 7pm**, our first speaker of the year!!! This will take place at the Lion's Den, 4070 Governors Road, Lynden. Our speaker will be from the Hamilton Conservation Authority talking to us about "Saving the Wetlands". Each year we donate to this group and thought maybe it was time to hear what they do. Look forward to seeing you there!



*** We will be needing refreshments and goodies for this meeting, if anyone would be interested in volunteering to bring something that would be greatly appreciated!! Please send [Darielle](mailto:darielle_owen@hotmail.com) an email (darielle_owen@hotmail.com).



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OHA Business

The OHA has many exciting things offered to all members. Here are what they have going on: **District 6 Fall Dinner** - November 1 at the Caledonia Lions Community Center, tickets are \$40 for dinner, speaker and silent auction. Doors open at 5, dinner at 6:30pm.

OHA 50/50 Raffle. Next draw is December 15, 2022. The last person won \$3475! Here's the link <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>. This initiative supports all kinds of programs run by the OHA.

OHA 18-month Calendars are available which features a collage of red flower photos from each district. The calendars are \$25 each.

*** if you are interest in any of these fundraisers, please contact me and I can give you more information about them.



ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

The RGB has a Great Pumpkin Trail event happening on October 21, 22, 23 and 28, 29, 30 with time slots from 5:30- 8:40pm. Registration is required. This event will take you on a magical evening as you follow the candlelit glow of hundreds of jack-o-lanterns guiding your way through the garden, along Hendrie Valley South Bridle Trail. Here is the link if you are interested, [The Great Pumpkin Trail - Royal Botanical Gardens \(rbg.ca\)](http://The Great Pumpkin Trail - Royal Botanical Gardens (rbg.ca)). Throw on a costume to get in the spirit!!

Trivia:

1. Where did the name "Pumpkin" originate?
 2. Pumpkins can be grown on all continents but one. Which one is it?
 3. Jack-o-lanterns were originally made out of turnips or potatoes. True or False?
 4. What do you think the weight of the heaviest pumpkin was? 1,058, 2,528 or 2,624lbs.
 5. How did Halloween originate?
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William Dam Seeds Tour

Another great tour under our belt!!! Once again we had great weather and enough sunshine to complete our tour. We had about 20 members join us for this tour.



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The tour started at the storefront of William Dam Seeds where our host Connie talked a bit about the container plants they had on the porch. There were impatiens, coleus and a gorgeous large dark leaf begonia that does not bloom it is just grown for its leaves. Then we proceeded to the Cut Flower Trial Program garden. This garden holds a variety of flowers grown from seed that must go through a trial of 3 years to see how they survive in our climate. Companies send William Dam seeds for trial and they are studied with careful notes taken each year. The most eye catching ones were the Lianthus in a variety of colors

(which we all fell in love with!), the Ornamental Eggplant (which looks like miniature pumpkins) and the “Milkweed Hairy Balls” (which we all had a good laugh over!), not kidding that’s it’s name, look it up!



After that we travelled down the hill to another section of the flower garden where it didn’t look like much until you stood among the plethora of flowers blooming. The nasturtium and zinnias were particularly vibrant with the towering millet and giant sunflowers dwarfing everything.

After that it was up the hill and over to the herb and vegetable patch where we saw not green beans but black called “velour”. The peppers were covered with simple homemade cages and nets to protect them



against a tiny insect fly that will get inside the pepper leaving no trace on the outside but eating away the inside leaving webs.

Then it was across the road to the ‘All-America Selections Display Garden’. All these plants through out the years have won ‘performance’ awards. Vegetables, herbs, annuals perennials all laid out on a winding path with a couple of trellis’s to traverse through. Below this was the “Year of the Garden plant it red” where they mixed in complimentary colors with the red flowering plants to create a wheel of color.



Back up the hill we went to the ‘Trial Ground’ where they test new varieties for home gardens. This garden has rows and rows of flowers and vegetables, some unusual like the straw flower and then more common like a variety of marigolds and gladiolus. Vegetables ranged from cabbage and peppers to tomatoes and squash. This year they had a problem with the birds pecking holes in the melons and squash and eating the insides for the juicy food they provided in doing so the produce was rotting in the fields and for the most part had to be removed, so someone thought maybe sticking a fake crow would scare the other birds away. They aren’t sure it’s working yet.



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In the gardens they have displayed Fleuroselect Gold Medal or FleuroStar winners. Gold medal winners are true breed innovations or new ornamental varieties for excellent garden performance through breeding breakthroughs at 20 trial grounds across Europe. The FleuroStar winners are pot and bedding plants with the wow-factor or strong visual impact, these winners are chosen by 30 judges from breeders, growers, retailers and garden journalists.

These gardens are open for anyone to come and view anytime throughout the year. Each plant has a name tag so if you love it you can go inside and purchase the seeds and if you have any questions about it William Dam can help since they have grown everything they sell so they can inform you on what they've learned. However now the gardens may be no more but there is always next year!

Check out our Facebook page for all the pictures!

Thank you to Connie for sharing her evening with us.



Lion's Den Garden Digging Day

For those of you who are on Facebook you may have seen our post on the much needed clean up of the Lion's Den Garden. We had a great day! There were 4 of us and we made the most of the 2 hours to remove what we could. We spent the most time on the lefthand side of the building digging out as much gout weed as we could. We trimmed the Euonymus and pulled out a leggy Hydrangea (and a well rooted walnut tree!) to be replace with a new more compact variety. The plan we have for another day is trim up the other shrubs add some much-needed poop and tackle the other side (we only cleaned that up) so we can be ready for next year to pop in some plants in the spring and top off with some mulch!

Keep an eye out for a pop-up email to garden at the Den in the coming weeks. This will be solely based on weather that's why it will be a pop up! We have tried to plan for these things, but the weather always has other ideas!

A big thank you to Chelsea, Roz and Shelley!!!



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Myths

Coating tree wounds with pruning paint or sealant will prevent rot.

In fact, they may impede the healing and encourage the growth of rot organisms by cutting off the airflow and creating a humid environment where fungi can thrive. In most cases it is best to let the wounds seal on their own. In past decades it was recommended to paint wounds to prevent decay and help speed the



healing, but many are petroleum-based and advertised as being waterproof and flexible to keep insects and fungi from invading the pruned areas, how is this better? Over a millennia trees have developed effective mechanisms to compartmentalize wounds with layers of cells that prevent damage from spreading. A properly pruned tree or shrub will seal off wounds and prevent decay organisms from entering the trunk. Right or wrong you will still find these products at garden centers

Bulb planting

Bulbs should be planted right away in mid September, but you can plant as late as the end of October. The trick is to be sure to do it at least one month before the ground freezes. Spring bulbs already contain all the minerals and energy needed to grow now the only thing they require is a long exposure to cold temperatures and soil moisture, so it's not too late to put some in the now. What they need is to be planted in an area that receives six or more hours of sun. It can be under a deciduous tree since it will be leafless when they bloom, and they also prefer well-drained soil.



Dig a hole three times deeper than the bulb is tall. You can sprinkle mycorrhizae (beneficial fungi) in the hole to help if you wish. Mix one-third compost into the soil, tamp down lightly, water well to stimulate growth for the bulbs to start producing roots in the fall. You can also cover with about 8" of mulch for a bit of winter protection especially in cold areas.

The squirrel/chipmunk issue!! They love those bulbs, especially the crocus and tulip!!! There are lots of ideas out there to prevent them and I guess some work for some people probably depends on the determination of your pest! In planters I have tried rocks (not too small they chuck them out!), this has worked for me in deterring them, gardens are a different story, I find the heavier soil they don't tend to dig but if I have loosened the soil then that seems to send a signal, tasty treats here! The rabbits are another



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story, I have put wire cages over spring bulbs so I may enjoy the flowers. I have also used a cluster of 2-3” rocks in the garden to thwart digging when the squirrels were digging up my lilies that worked well. This year I also noted that the planters with strong scented flowers or herbs they did not bury anything in.

Some ideas suggested are burying your bulbs 20cm deeper or covering the area with chicken wire which becomes a pain to dig around and the chipmunks may just wait till the plant dies down and dig it out anyways. Blood meal or chicken poop is another suggestion, the odour helps hide the smell of the bulbs but need to be renewed. Now if you really want to discourage the rodents try planting your bulbs near a *Fritillaria imperialis*, the bulb stinks!!! And believe me the bulb does stink!! Not just the bulb but the whole plant smells somewhat like skunk so think carefully about where you plant this one!



Burying under a thick layer of mulch is another option, making it difficult to dig which seems to be the key. They may bury something in the mulch but won't go much further to dig the bulb up. Rodents are looking for easy targets, if the ground looks soft it's a great place to bury a nut or an indication of a buried treasure. Planting them near or in other perennials also makes a good deterrent, making it hard for them to dig through the roots. Hiding the scent also is key, if planting clean up all indications of the bulbs (skins) this may cause them to investigate.

Basically, there isn't really much you can do about it other than getting a cat or possibly giving said rodent a dirt nap, but you didn't hear that from me or just living with them in harmony, lol! It's nature, roll with it!

My Amaryllis bulb is shrinking!



Is it normal? Yes. It takes a lot out of the bulb to produce such large flowers and like a battery it needs charging. Now there are a few methods I have found that people say you should do to rejuvenate the bulb. The one I used that was recommend on the box I bought has still resulted in bulb shrinkage after a few years and this last year no flower so now I'm going to try a new method. This one is from [Bloomaker USA](#).

They recommend after the flowers have faded to clip the wilted flower stem to 1-2” above the bulb but not the foliage. The size of the pot is important, the plant needs to be in a



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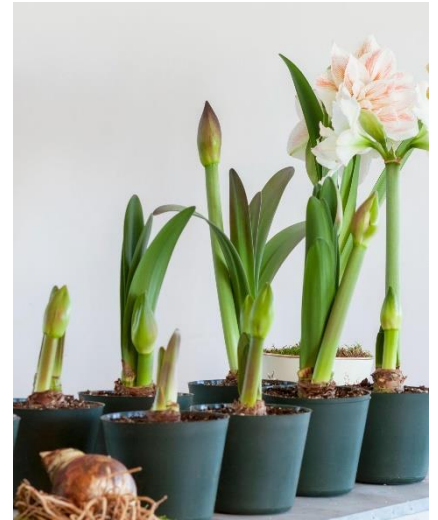
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pot at least twice the diameter of the bulb with 2/3 of the bulb in the soil and use good quality planters mix or peat moss. If the bulb is in a wide enough pot already replanting is not necessary, just leave it. It is also not necessary to move them out to the garden for the summer as some recommend if they are happy in their pot. Pot size and space around bulb and temperature seems to be the key for recharging, which may be why mine has been shrinking, it has however thrown off a few babies so that's something.

Water regularly using a basic plant feed every 2 months at a low rate. At 6-7 months after flowering move the plant to a cool location of 50-60°F for a period of 3 months (indoors or outdoors) but temperature by far is most important. For 2 months water very moderately to keep soil slightly moist and stop after the 2 months. The leaves may remain green but may also gradually dry out, this is normal.

After 3 months move the plant to a location with 70-80°F cut off the foliage and dry the top neck with a tissue to prevent neck-rot. Do not water again until new leaves and a flower stem appears. In 8-10 weeks your Amaryllis may flower again. When the bud appears water twice a week until flowers are out.

Repeat these steps after every flower cycle. However, if the bulb is old, it may just have run its course and it's time for a new one.



Trivia Answers:

1. The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word Pepon, which means large melon. It was then nasalized by the French into "pompo" to "pumpion" and son on until American settlers arrived at the word we use today.
 2. Antarctica. They are native to Central America and Mexico but are now grown on six continents for obvious reasons not Antarctica.
 3. True. It wasn't until Irish immigrants arrived in America and discovered the pumpkin that a new Halloween ritual was born.
 4. The heaviest pumpkin grown weighed 2,624lbs. It was grown in Belgium in 2016. In 2018 the heaviest pumpkin was grown in New Hampshire and weighed 2,528lbs.
 5. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. All Saints Day on November 1 was incorporated with some traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve and later Halloween.
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