



ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION SPEAKER REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM

To add your name to our Speaker's List on gardenontario.org please fill in the following form and email to:

Rose Odell at speakers@gardenontario.org

Name: Mary-Jane Pilgrim

Biography:

Mary-Jane Pilgrim joined the Peterborough Hort Society and the Peterborough Master Gardeners over 10 years ago and loves getting out and meeting other gardeners to "talk plants". The love of gardening is probably hereditary as she grew up in a large farm family with Dutch immigrant parents. She definitely was not a fan in those days of weeding rows and rows of vegetables, but loves the colour and fragrance of her garden today. MJ was the president of the society in Peterborough for the last 8 years and now serves as the Past President. She is now one of two Coordinators for the Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners.

While not too applicable to this talk, MJ enjoys cycling, playing squash and making/fixing stained glass windows.

Depending on where the club is located, I do ask to be reimbursed for expenses and mileage. This is typically \$125-\$150 for clubs in the Peterborough area, however the cost will be higher for organizations farther than an hour's drive from my home (located in Lakefield).

Contact Information:

Email: mjpilgrim@live.ca

Website: peterboroughmastergardeners.com/speakers/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/maryjane.pilgrim

Phone: Cell:1-705-927-6993

Home Location: Lakefield, ON

Please list the District & Society you belong to:

Society: Peterborough Horticultural Society

District: 4

Districts Served – NO ZOOM Please

Please select all the Districts that you would travel to:

D1 D2 D3 **D4** D5 D6 D7
 D8 D9 D10 D11 D12 D13 D14
 D15 D16 D17 D18 D19

Topic List

For each entry, please list a topic from the list below, a title and a brief description noting any costs, restrictions, i.e. time of year, and any other special requirements.

Choose a TOPIC from the following:

Bulbs/Tubers	Gardening	Pollinators
Environment	Herbs	Propagating
Floral Design	Houseplants	Pruning
Fungi	Native Plants	Vegetables

Topic	Title	Description
Gardening	Basic Botany	A little latin, some discussion on plant families and classification, and a few skills to be able to determine a plant's family tree. (spoiler alert *quizzes*)
Bulbs Tubers	Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes & Tubers	How do these garden elements differ? When should you plant? Dealing with squirrels and other pests. Forcing bulbs for more petal power!
Gardening	Horticultural Trivia	A lighthearted but challenging evening of "test your memory" on all things horticulture. Great for challenging your group to put their knowledge to the test, either individually or in groups.
Gardening	Tips, Tricks & Slips	After many years and thousands of plants, I sometimes think I've seen it all — but I clearly haven't! Learn how to skip some of the biggest challenges and make your gardening journey a little easier.
Gardening	How Do They Do That?	How do they make weeping trees? What is and why would I buy a "standard" tree? What's up with grafting? What's a witch's broom? What is tissue culture and why should I care? What's an espalier? Learn about horticultural techniques(?) at their finest.
Gardening	Garden Disasters!	Prepare. Survive. Thrive. In this talk, we'll address some of the common misfortunes: Japanese beetles, grubs, lily beetles, cute but menacing critters, and a bit about invasive plants.
Gardening	Invasive Plants	Invasive plants are no joke! Many of having invasive plants growing in our yards and in our gardens. But what makes an invasive plant so bad? What harm do they actually cause? And what should we

		actually do about them to get rid of them? Let's talk.
Gardening	Christmas Gardening Trivia	A light-hearted horticulturally-related evening of fun with a Christmas theme and PRIZES.
Gardening	The Dirt on Soap and Home Remedies	Home recipes abound for ridding your garden of every single bug, but do we really think that's wise? What should we use for bugs that we know are not beneficial? A light-hearted look at nasty chemicals and what you may want to use instead.
Gardening	The History and Horticultural Mystique of Gothic Gardens	Poison gardens, black-flowered ornamentals, moonlit garden designs, and plants historically associated with witches, apothecaries, and folklore.
Gardening	Edible Flowers Through History and Culture	Not the common pansies and nasturtiums—focus on forgotten edible blooms like dianthus, musk mallow, daylilies, hyssop blossoms, elderflower, and borage variants.
Gardening	The Horticulture of Scent: Why Some Plants Smell Good... or Terrible	Volatile compounds, why fragrance changes with time of day or temperature, and plants known for their unusual scents (chocolate, vanilla, popcorn, curry, etc.).
Gardening	Horticultural Hoaxes, Scams & Plant Myths	The “vegetable lamb of Tartary,” fake blue roses, the tulip bubble, Victorian scams, miracle fertilizers, and the resurrection plant that doesn't resurrect. A historical lesson about scams and hoaxes in our shared plant history.
Gardening	When Plants Bite Back: The Chemistry of Plant Defenses	Why certain ornamentals are prickly, sticky, stinky, bitter, or toxic; how gardeners work with (or around) these adaptations; and surprising defensive traits in common garden plants.

Files to add to listing:

I will bring my own macbook and also my PPTX/PDF file on a memory stick. I can bring my own projector if required.

Authorization & Release

I, Mary-Jane Pilgrim , grant the Ontario Horticultural Association:

- Use of my photographic images and/or video and/or testimonials in various forms of media, including printed or multi-media materials, to be used by or for the Ontario Horticultural Association to assist in publicity, promotion, marketing and/or educational purposes.
- Use of my identity or likeness in photographic images and/or video and/or testimonials as described above.
- The permission to identify me by name and/or society/organization and such identifiers as hometown (if applicable).

Signature: *Mary-Jane Pilgrim*

Date: November 15, 2025