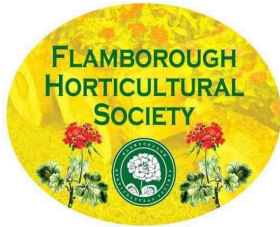


Flamborough Horticultural Society

June 2024 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

We wish a warm welcome to new members at the May meeting, Diane Brandon and Pam Renton.

Thank you to everyone who was able to help with the early bird plant sale on May 18 at my house, and on the 25th. A special thanks goes to Sabina McPhee and Connie Godyn for transporting so many plants to the sale. We had four hours of rain and lighter foot traffic at the Farmers Market. Thank you to Sharon Hall and her husband for bringing the big stuff back to my house and for the volunteers who ferried plants back to my driveway for a final sale on May 26th. The sun brought a steady stream of new and seasoned gardeners. Thank you to Trudy Bliedung, Liz Visentin, Connie Godyn and Erika Friesen for the added teamwork on Sunday and for members who also purchased plants!

There is still one other Society plant sale of interest until Winona's in August. The Annual Plant Sale for Glen Morris is Saturday, June 8, which coincides with their Community Garage Sale proclaimed by the Lions Club.

As you saw in my email, the June 19 Society meeting is canceled. For 2025 we are considering having our June meeting the last Wednesday in June to avoid the loss of venue again.

We now need to gear up for the June 29-30th Waterdown & Area Garden Walk. A sign-up sheet will go out for volunteers needed at the 130 Mill St. home base marquis to welcome visitors who will receive the information on garden hosts and garden etiquette. This will also be a good time to promote the Society, membership and hand out educational information as we did last year. Lastly, we need volunteers to scout Ward 15 for gardens worthy of Trillium awards and submit them on. Trillium Awards Registration (arcgis.com). We know the usual gardens in the core, but many gardeners still do not know that they can and should self nominate. The deadline for submissions is June 15 at 5 pm.

Thank you for your help on this.

Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

No monthly meeting in June.

2024 Garden Walk



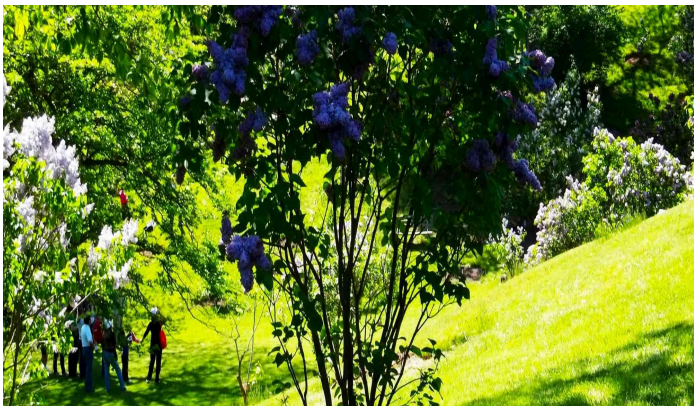
Date(s): Sat. June 29, Sun., June 30

Time: 9am to 4pm

Location: Waterdown and surrounding areas. Details to be emailed to members

Did you Know?

There are about 21 species of Lilac found in the wild in Eastern Asia (mostly Japan and China) with one species found in Eastern Europe and one (*Syringa vulgaris*) found in the Balkan mountains. Our common lilac is this latter species. Cultivars from this species are referred to as single flowered (having four petals) and double flowered (having more than four petals) French Hybrids.



Convention Info and Details

[OHA Convention](#)

2024 OHA Convention Competitions Consider entering! Some of our members have already entered photos!

[OHA 2024 – Flower Show Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Arts Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Publications Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Youth Competition](#)

[OHA 2024 – Photography Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Creative Writing Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Words of Advice from the Judge for All Creative Writers](#)

June Garden Tasks

- Fertilize perennials, roses, shrubs and vegetables using a balanced fertilizer, not the one for your lawn.
- Start cutting your lawn higher/longer and leave cuttings on the lawn as fertilizer.
- Prune spring-blooming shrubs and trees (lilac, forsythia) after they have flowered.
- Prune evergreens and hedges now, not later in the summer.
- Finish removing all daffodil and tulip flower stems. Leave leaves to mature and feed the bulb for next year's bloom. Add a little bone meal around bulb clumps to promote bulb growth.
- Stake or cage tomato plants, dahlias, gladiolas, peony plants.
- Thin vegetable seedlings and plant successive crops. (Plant a second crop of lettuce, spinach and radishes as the first is maturing)
- Plant seeds of fast-growing flowers such as cosmos, marigold, calendula
- If desired, move houseplants outside to a protected area.
- Deadhead faded blooms on plants such as petunia, rose, and verbena.
- Cut mums and asters back one third to give them a mounded shape and more blooms in the fall.
- Continue regular weeding
- Turn compost piles regularly and keep moist.

Coffee Grounds in the Garden?

This has been a much debated topic in recent years. Linda Brewer, Oregon State University Extension Service soil scientist, states that coffee grounds can be worked into the soil or added to a compost pile but should be done with **some restraint**. Contrary to popular belief, it's a myth that coffee grounds are acidic and will lower the pH of the soil.

Small contained gardens like raised beds can also be damaged by the addition of too many coffee grounds. However, coffee grounds are best at improving soil. As the coffee grounds feed the soil microbes, microbial glues are released that promote good soil structure and improve drainage. Brewer recommends working in a half inch to a depth of 4 inches. If used as a mulch on top of the soil, a layer of leaves or bark mulch helps keep the grounds from drying out and repelling water.

When using grounds in the compost bin layer 3-parts leaves to 1-part fresh grass clippings to 1-part coffee grounds. Perhaps more exciting is the potential of coffee grounds as a slug killer according to Brewer. Research shows that using a 1% to 2% solution mixed with water as a soil drench caused 100% of slugs to leave the treated soil and subsequently die of caffeine poisoning. To make a 1% to 2% soil drench add 1-part water to

2-parts strong brewed coffee (I would use a cheap supermarket brand rather than my gourmet beans!) To reduce slug feeding on foliage, add 9-parts water to 1-part brewed coffee and apply as a spray.

Gardening For Birds



Gregor Beck, one of our speakers, gave an informative talk on gardening to feed the birds. The key take away was that less lawn and more gardens helps nature as lawns are basically biological deserts. Thus when gardening for birds think of providing food, water and shelter for all seasons and pollinators. Availability of seeds, nuts, fruit, insects, cones and nectar will emulate nature in your garden. Structural diversity for shelter is also a must which is best provided by cedars, shrubs and tree canopies. It is also important to keep in mind that water is an incredible draw for birds. Visit [Bird Gardens](#) and [Birds Canada](#) for factsheets, detailed information and to sign up for enews.

Places to Visit This Summer:
University of Guelph Arboretum
[Arboretum](#)

Reading Corner

Garden Ontario: Latest OHA news, Trillium Magazine, OHA 50/50 draw
[Garden Ontario](#)

Toronto Master Gardeners Gardening Guides

Introductory information on a broad range of horticultural topics such as native plants or habitats, controlling pests and diseases, container gardening, houseplants and many more
[Gardening Guides](#)

Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR)

The Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR) formed in 2022 in response to a growing need for awareness of the impacts of invasive and to the need to protect the environment and the economy and to develop policies, tools and regulations. Read more here: [CCIPR](#)

Plant Dill to Attract/Feed Swallowtail Caterpillars

Along with being a culinary herb, this plant is a popular host for Swallowtails. Last summer I planted a clump in my vegetable garden which was devoured by swallowtails. I netted another clump for my own use! This summer I am adding some plants to my perennial beds for the butterflies!

Caring for Tomatoes

By now most of us will have finished hardening off tomato plants and have planted them in our gardens. With the rainy end to May and a hot sunny start to June their growth will get a huge boost! What now?

Pruning

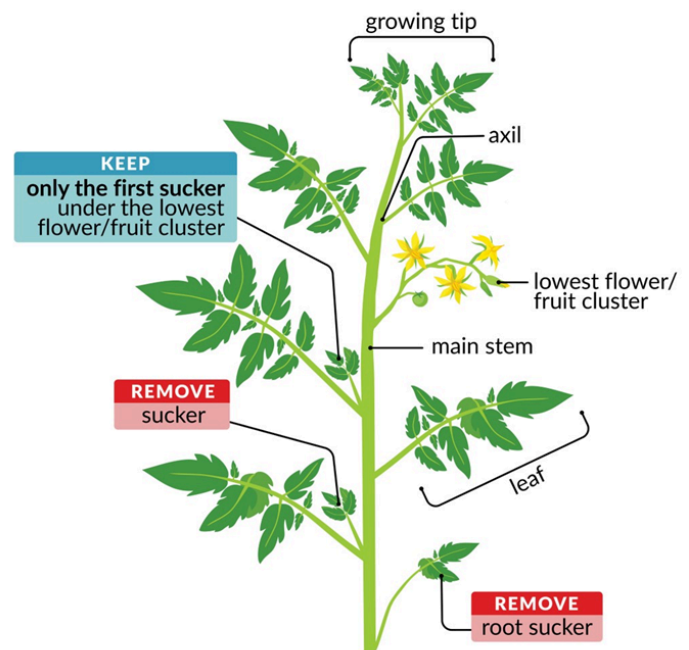
This will depend on the type of plant. There are two broad categories of tomatoes: determinate and indeterminate. Determinate tomatoes grow to a certain size, then stop growing. Indeterminate tomatoes continue to grow. It's the latter that should be pruned.

Pruning indeterminate tomatoes improves fruit production by removing extra growth that diverts energy away from developing fruits, both of which will help fruits mature more quickly. Pruning also allows for more airflow which reduces risk of fungal and bacterial disease development. Removing the bottommost leaves of a tomato plant serves a similar purpose. This should be done for both varieties.

When to Prune? Start pruning in late June or early July when the first tomato flower opens. Continue with a second and third pruning (as needed) every 10 to 14 days. Stop pruning one to two weeks before your expected first harvest

to allow time for tomato plants to produce canopies that will protect fruits from sunscald

How to Prune? Identify the main stem of the plant, and locate any suckers which are the branches that form in the leaf axils. Next, identify the lowest flower/fruit cluster on the plant (the one closest to the ground). Remove every sucker from the plant EXCEPT for the first one below the lowest flower / fruit cluster. That sucker is the strongest one on the plant and should be left to grow and bear fruit as a second stem. In recent years I had planned to do this maintenance on my tomato plants, but did not follow through resulting in overgrown plants and mildew issues in late summer. This season I am going to follow this guide for my indeterminate tomatoes!



Northland Nursery : Family run nursery in Millgrove Ontario (722 Concession 5 W [Northland](#) Let them know you are an FHS member for our Society year-end rebate.

Wild Birds Unlimited offers a 10% discount when you mention that you are a Horticultural Society member.

[Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

Less Mess Enviro Bag Our code is OHA6FLA. Under the code, each bag sold the customer gets a \$20 discount, the District receives \$10 and the Society receives \$15

How to Reach Us: Please email your comments, suggestions, corrections or submissions. If you wish to submit an article questions or tips, contact:

flamhort@hotmail.com

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MISSION

The mission of the Flamborough Horticultural Society is to encourage interest and involvement in horticulture through civic improvement, preservation, exhibitions, the distribution of plant materials and regular instruction pertaining to the theory and practice of horticulture.

Directors for 2023/24

President – Susan MacMillan

Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung

Vice President - Open

Treasurer - Trudy Bliedung

Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris

Publicity - Shared by VP and President

Facebook Admin. - Liz Visentin

Newsletter Editor - Liz Visentin

Flower Show and Trillium Judging Liaison- Ann Cochren

Director at large - Christine Rowe

Director at large - Verna Scovell

Committee Chairpersons

Bus Tour – Open

Caring - Susan MacMillan

Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung

Civic Improvement – Jan Bignell

Communications Copywriter – Jennifer Godyn

Garden Walk – Open

Meeting Hospitality – Ann Williams

Membership – Janet Waterfall

OHA Website Monitor – Phil Longstaff

Spring Plant Sale Co-chairs –

Connie Godyn and Sharon Hall

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

The garden suggests there may be a place where we can meet nature half way.

Micheal Pollan