



Flamborough Horticultural Society

Co-President's Message

Newsletter
June 2020

Summer is almost here although the weather recently has made us believe it has arrived. A few rainy nights and some sun and the gardens have blossomed (but so have the weeds). I just have to learn to love those yellow flowers.

During COVID-19 I hope you are spending more time in your gardens and backyards and are enjoying all that mother nature has to offer. It's ok to relax and enjoy the quiet times.

Because we were unable to have a Spring plant sale, I thought we might use the plant exchange. Post what plants you are looking for on our Facebook page, and someone might have the one you are looking for. You can communicate where to pick it up or drop it off, you might even get an invitation to view their gardens. How about we charge \$5.00 per plant and donate it to the Society?

Jim and I have planted our 1200 annuals and the greenhouse is now empty. Perhaps a BBQ at our

home later in the summer will be feasible. We can make a very large circle on the grass (to accommodate physical distancing) and share friendships. A country drive can do wonders for the soul. We hope you continue to be in good health and spirits.

Tina Coverly
Co-President

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Update on FHS Events

The June Bus Tour is **cancelled**.

The June Plant Sale is **cancelled**.

The Garden Walk is **cancelled**

Other FHS events are on hold until further notice.

Visit and post on our Facebook page.

Go to www.Facebook.com and in the search bar, enter Flamborough Horticultural Society to navigate to the page.

Gardening Kick-Start

We had a cold, dry, slow start to spring but we finally got enough rain on the May long weekend to kick start our existing perennials or new ones we planted. The opening of the nurseries during physical distancing was a welcome change as we searched for annuals and any vegetable plants that we did not start from seed. If you follow Garden Ontario you would have seen the funny cartoon of the mummy covered in garden nursery receipt tape. That could be you!

Some of my treasured plants are from gardening friends. Society members generously give them away. Sharing plants is one of the friendliest acts a gardener can do.

Gardening Tips for June

Sowing

In June, sow the first autumn vegetables, such as kale, endive and a little later Chinese cabbage.

Garden Fundamentals has a good video on germinating seeds at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dirz0WIMQi0&feature=emb_rel_end

See the seed starting video – 10 myths debunked at <https://www.gardenfundamentals.com/when-start-seeds-indoors/>

If you want biennial plants like foxglove, forget-me-nots and pansies to flower next spring, sow them in June.

Watering

The best time to water your plants is early morning to allow water to get deeper into the ground where it will be retained for a longer period before it evaporates. Watering long and deep means you can water less often in perennial beds. Avoid overhead sprinklers that repeatedly spray the leaves. Experts say there has been some success fighting powdery mildew using 1 tablespoon each of soda bicarbonate powder and horticultural oil (or substitute one teaspoon dish soap and one tablespoon vegetable oil) in a gallon of water. Shake well and spray on both sides of leaves at the very first sign of powdery mildew. Do this after a rain and every 5-7 days until you see improvement.

Harvesting Herbs

Chives oregano, marjoram, thyme and mint should be clipped almost at the ground. Cut parsley at the outside edges of the plant so as not to disturb the crown. Cut fennel and dill back to the main stem. Basil, oregano and marjoram needs regular clipping to avoid going to flower.

Food Crop Gardening

Do you only have three to four hours a day of sun in a particular area? To overcome this, try growing leafy green vegetables, such as lettuce, mesclun greens, and Swiss chard, or root crops like carrots, beets, and radishes. Mulch your tomato plants to retain moisture. They need good long drinks – but not too much at once when the fruit is growing. If you let one of your lettuce plants bolt, you will have fresh seeds for next year.

Thin carrot seedlings to an inch apart, and again when their leaves touch, to about 3 inches apart, to allow space for the carrot growth. Carrots grow best and without splits or deformities if the soil is extra fine without pieces of debris or wood chips.

Clipping and Pruning

Depending on how far along some or your perennials are, in weeks two to three in June, it might be time to cut Chelone (Turtlehead), Chrysanthemums, Joe Pye weed and Heliopsis back by one-third and they should grow bushier stems and bloom better later. Cut delphiniums back as soon as they finish blooming to promote a second bloom.

Deadhead those spring blooms so that the leaves can concentrate on delivering food to the bulbs. Once the leaves have died back, remove any leaves that have wilted. Bearded irises also need wilted leaves removed to reduce the risk of iris borer infestation. Rhododendrons and Lilacs will benefit from deadheading the spent blooms too.

Any spring blooming shrubs that need to be pruned should be done right after the bloom is finished. For example, Weigela and Forsythia bushes. This will reduce the risk of inadvertently pruning off next year's flowers. Weigela bloom on wood that is about a year old so the wood that grows this year will bloom next year.

Gardening Knowhow has a short article on pruning Weigela at <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/shrubs/weigela/pruning-weigela.htm>.

Hydrangea can be pruned in June or July just after the blooming season if it is getting too large for you.

See <https://www.wikihow.com/Prune-Hydrangeas>

Once blooming is finished, fertilize spring-flowering bulbs and only lightly fertilize peonies.

Leggy shoots of Viburnum can also be trimmed back in early summer to maintain the shrub's form.

About the fourth week of June the chrysanthemums, Joe Pye weed and Heliopsis should be cut back by another third. The plants will send out more stems and you should get more flowers on a shorter plant. This includes pruning Tradescantia (Spiderwort) and Nepeta (Catmint) 'Walker's Low.'

If you have Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium Gateway) locate the swirl in the middle of the surrounding leaves. That's where you will prune. Stems at the

back of the plant grouping can be left unpruned if you want them taller than those in the forefront.

For Heliopsis (False sunflower) pinch the growing tips of young plants in spring to create bushy plants. Deadhead throughout the blooming season to prevent your false sunflower from going to seed prematurely (unless you want to capture the seed for a seed exchange).

If you are a soaker hose lover like me, snake the hoses through perennial and vegetable gardens to provide water directly to roots.

Worms

Earthworms act as 'engineers for the ecosystem'. Their guts mineralise plant litter and soil organic matter, produce casts that enhance soil nutrient availability and promote plant productivity. Their burrowing enhances soil root penetration and water infiltration. Plants depend on a variety of soil microorganisms to transform atmospheric nitrogen into nitrates for plants to use. So, it's important to protect soil health. Six studies found damaging effects to worms including reproduction effects, of the herbicide Glyphosate (Roundup) and toxic effects on soil biota. Experts indicate that the impact of glyphosate on the soil and soil life is far from conclusive and more research is needed. Ref: <https://www.soilassociation.org/media/7202/glyphosate-and-soil-health-full-report.pdf>

Supports and Protection

If you grow dahlias, secure them at the time of planting, to 5-6 ft stakes about an inch away from roots. Depending on the variety, you might need two stakes. Rebar lasts forever, is sturdy enough to handle the heavier flower-producers, withstands the wind and won't rot like wood. If you have an abundance of wood and don't mind replacing it, both seem to be better than bamboo.

Clematis like their roots shaded either by planting low-growing perennials at their base, mulching or placing rocks over the soil and roots.

So, what if you do have a few bugs? More food for the birds and beneficial insects.

Mulch helps with weed control and retains moisture in your flower beds. Keep mulch away from tree trunks to reduce the risk of tree rot. Too deep a mulch (more than 2-3 in.) invites mice to live there. For information on wood chips vs non chip mulching and other aspects of soil health listen to the podcast on KZFR with Robert Pavlis on Soil Health at <https://ln2.sync.com/dl/ceb631c30/42p4uteh-23iq99r-ha5fswc8-5ascbas2/view/default/9084213960007>

Annuals

Inspect annuals and pinch them back so that they do not get too spindly. About twice during the summer pinch back some of your blooms partway, but not all at once. Three weeks later you should have a new set of blooms. Keep herbs pinched back or cut regularly unless you are looking to save some seeds. For more information check out <https://www.thespruce.com/outdoors-and-gardening-4127780>

Protect Pollinators

One third of the food we eat is related directly to the pollination services of bees– not just honey bees. Leave a few areas with exposed dry soil for the beneficial pollinators like ground bees. For more information on bee habitat, see <https://www.uoguelph.ca/oac/news/meet-ontarios-pollinators> .

Japanese Beetles, Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs (BMSB) and Other Pests

June is the time to pick Japanese beetles by hand and dispose of them in a bucket of soapy water. A menace to the home gardener, stink bugs prefer tomatoes, peaches, apples, grapes, berries, and peppers. They attack agriculture crops too. See the OMAFRA pdf document http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/info_bmstinkbug.htm .

Predators of BMSB include birds, bats, spiders, assassin bugs, predatory stink bugs, and parasitic flies.

There are species of earwigs that will attack plants, especially seedlings but most often they like decaying vegetation. They love eating dahlias, marigolds and hollyhocks in particular. In their favor, earwigs eat aphids, snails, slugs, and some types of larvae. Earwigs like damp, sheltered places, including mulched garden beds or areas under potted plants. Since they are considered beneficial insects, they are only treated as pests when their damage becomes excessive. Place damp, rolled-up newspapers in the garden area in the evening. Earwigs feed at night and look for a damp, sheltered spot to spend the day. You can pick up quite a few in the newspaper the next morning. The [Cooperative Extension System](#) recommends baiting traps with oatmeal or bran to attract them into the trap.

Night feeding slugs and snails move on slime and prefer a damp, shady environment. They often congregate under the shady lip of a plant pot, in empty pots or on the side of bricks.

Weevils of which there are 1000 species can kill your garden plants. Ref.

https://www.orkin.com/scienceeducation/pest_library

Aphids gather in pale green clusters at the tips of new growth and suck the soft green stems, leaves, and buds of plants such as citrus, roses, hibiscus, and hydrangea. Ants farm aphids for milk, and a trail of black ants on a plant usually leads to aphids.

Wireworms are yellow to brownish-red in color and feed underground, attacking germinating seeds, roots, bulbs and tubers. Damaged plants soon wilt and die.

Cut Worms live just under the soil surface, ready to munch on seedlings as soon as you plant them. In the home garden where these worms are not often found, set chunks of potato with a skewer as a decoy trap for larvae. Pull the skewer out once a week and throw the potato away.



Wireworms

Adult click beetle

"It didn't occur to me...that gardening, like music, could demand practice, patience, a willingness to make mistakes." Amy Stewart in [From The Ground Up: The Story of a First Garden, p. 18](#)

Welcome Toads

Toads are great for your pest wars. Crack a 2-2 ½ inch makeshift opening in the side of an old clay pot or plastic pot (weighted with a rock) in a dry location and that should attract toads.

Great Assets in our Garden

Hoverflies are one of the most valuable of the good bugs to have in your garden. They imitate bees and wasps to avoid being attacked as they hover over plants waiting for prey like aphids, beetles, and caterpillars. They lay their eggs in aphids so their offspring have a plentiful food supply when they hatch. Hoverflies also need nectar and pollen, so like bees, help to pollinate the plants in your garden.

Centipedes love to dine on slugs.

Beetles can be pests but many such as ground beetles and bombardier beetles prey as larvae and adults on such things as caterpillars, cutworms, march flies, nematodes, fruit fly larvae, slugs, snails, thrips, aphids, ant, termites and grasshopper eggs.

Beat the Heat

Plan to garden in the morning before it gets too hot and keep well hydrated.

Grow Vertically

As we age, switching to raised planters, vertical wall gardening and trellis-based plants will put less strain on your knees and spine.

Enjoy your Edibles

If you want fruit for yourself, any fruit bearing plants or shrubs need row covers or netting.

Chop tender edible leaves and petals (like nasturtium), mix with honey, vinegar, oil and mustard and you have a tasty homemade combination for your salad. Other edibles include tulip, sunflower and violet pansy, peony, rose, sunflower, borage and hollyhock. Some people even like the taste of invasive early mustard seed plants as a pesto or in salad. Pull the whole plant before it flowers though.

Red currants usually begin ripening at the end of June and are ready for jellies if you have the time.

Deer cannot resist food crops like beans, peas, spinach and corn. If deer can access your plants, consider investing in netting or fencing.

Deer do not usually like strongly scented plants like mint, onions, marjoram or oregano. Plant these in places accessible to deer.

Dealing with Old Soil

Author Robert Pavlis who has a background in chemistry, biochemistry and is owner of Aspen Grove Gardens, notes the following. *“People using containers and raised beds are told that “soil gets old”. That is a myth. Soil does not get old and does not need to be replaced unless you have contaminated it with high levels of fertilizer or pesticides. This is especially true of real soil as opposed to soil-less mixes, but even those can be used for a very long time. They don’t get old either – they just decompose. Used soil usually lacks nutrients and organic matter since both are used up as plants grow. The best thing to do is to add a couple of inches of compost each spring by layering it on top, as a mulch. Don’t dig it in, since digging soil damages soil structure. This compost increases the amount of organic matter, which decomposes over time providing nutrients. If you follow this advice the soil will never be old.”*

Ref: <https://www.gardenfundamentals.com/soil-for-raised-beds/>

See also <https://www.gardenfundamentals.com/topsoil-compost-triple-mix-whats-difference/>

See his Soil and Compost Selection at <https://www.gardenfundamentals.com/soil-compost-selecting-right-one/>

And Garden Soil Myths at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkcYQOhY0r8>

Animal Control

Living close to forested areas means some members will have a constant battle with raccoons and other pesky animals to the extent that bird feeders must come in each night or risk bent iron mounting poles, spilled seeds and upended nectar feeders. Halton Master Gardeners has posted an article about making an informed approach to animal ‘pests’ in the garden and can be viewed at

https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2020/05/08/an-informed-approach-to-animal-pests-in-the-garden/?fbclid=IwAR0sJnwch_clu2Hy4LO0NuV4bJaoJs6k6qzsC7FoSc1P9bs2HAg8MlodZFA

Want to make inexpensive one gallon or larger Grow Bags/Pots? You use heavier fabric cloth. See this handy video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq3aBghgGfo>

Member's Experiment.

New member Ann Williams wanted to overwinter some geraniums (Pelargoniums). "I don't have adequate space or light to bring the plants indoors. I removed them from their pots and beds, shook off the soil, cut back the stems and removed dead leaves. I placed them in cardboard boxes and put them in the crawl space. There they remained until stirrings of Spring in late March reminded me of their existence. A visit to the crawl space on my hands and knees is always a chore, however, I retrieved the boxes curious to see how they fared. Upon opening, I was surprised to find many had new pale white sprouts while many had dried up into little plant carcasses. I potted those with promising signs of life and within a few weeks was gratified to see new green growth. On showing off my success to my plant mentor Trudy, she suggested I tell share my experience. I wonder if they will overwinter a second time."

Report by Jan Bignall

I had a conversation with high school teacher, Nathan Tidridge, who is well known in the area for his historical lessons. As part of their classwork, he has encouraged his students to grow a Covictory garden as a way to learn about the outdoors, and 32 families have taken up the challenge. He asked if we had any resources they could utilize and I told him our members knowledge was our resources and that the group could post questions on our Facebook page for a response. Nathan was also interested to learn that the students from Mary Hopkins Primary school were helping out at the Grace Church garden that also supplies their Food Bank with produce. There is also a community garden at the High school where people can help and also reap the benefits. Nathan thinks it would great if school curriculum in the future could include a gardening course!

"A good gardener always plants 3 seeds – one for the bugs, one for the weather and one for himself." – Leo Aikman

Submitted Questions and Answers

Q. What is the preferred way to prune young fruit trees?

A. Karen Bertelsen from the Art of Doing Stuff posted her experience on 6-in-1 apple espalier at <https://www.theartofdoingstuff.com/espalier/>
See also <https://www.rotinrice.com/6-in-1-espalier-apple-tree-in-a-container/>

In addition, YouTube has several videos on this topic. Or, post the question on our facebook to reach other experts.

Other News and Important Dates

Trillium Committee

Ann Cochren has been installed as Chair of the Trillium Committee. Only White Trillium awards will be handed out this year. Other details are still being planned and additional information will be out soon.

Anyone can be a judge using their easy to follow criteria. **Please register** your willingness to be a judge at <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-awards/trillium-awards-program/trillium-award-volunteer-judges>.

You can nominate your own or other gardens at <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-awards/trillium-awards-program/trillium-award-nominations>.

Monarch Society

The Monarch Society is proceeding with their judging this year. The deadline to enter your property is midnight June 21, 2020. See <http://monarchawardshamilton.org/entry-2020/>.

Rain Barrels

Waterdown Anglican Church is proceeding with their annual fundraiser selling rain barrels **for home delivery only**. Please spread the word for this worthy fundraiser. Go to www.rainbarrels.ca/graceanglican

Directors 2019-2020

Co-President - Trudy Bliedung
Co-President - Tina Coverly
Vice President - Theresa Santin
Past President - **Vacant**
Treasurer - Trudy Bliedung (to Sept 30)
Secretary - Susan MacMillan
Director - Ann Cochren
Publicity Director & Newsletter Editor - Susan MacMillan (to Sept 30)
Director & Facebook Administrator - Liz Visentin
Director - Rosanne Waugh



“Gardening is medicine that does not need a prescription. . . and has no limit on dosage.”
Author Unknown

Committee Chairpersons 2019-2020

Bus Tour– Tina Coverly
Caring – Annamary Kilham
Civic Improvement– Jan Bignell
Communications Copywriter- Jennifer Godyn
Flower Show & Trillium Liaison– Ann Cochren
Garden Walk – Susan MacMillan
Meeting Hospitality – Susan MacMillan
Membership – Janet Waterfall
OHA Website Monitor: Phil Longstaff
Plant Sale – Connie Godyn and Roxanne Riley
Sign Standardization – Ann Cochren
Speakers and Programs – Theresa Santin & Connie Godyn

How to Reach Us

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905-977-8567

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.

We are dedicated to sharing gardening knowledge.