



Flamborough Horticultural Society

Co-President's Message

As I write, the end of August approaches. A beautiful summer for all gardeners.

Lots of hot summer days and nights. We took a week off to a cottage. It was wonderful to do nothing but read and knit. If I was home, I would have been weeding or watering my gardens. Sometimes you need a break. I loved having visitors who see the gardens through different eyes. Garden friends are the best. They know the efforts to make it look good and always have great ideas to pass along.

We are very happy we added the Lee Valley mats to our planters especially this hot year. The planters thrived even though the heat was intense. The mats keep the moisture in the bottom of the planter. They can be re-used year after year. I hope you took lots of pictures to compare to previous years to see the growth and changes in your gardens.

Hoping our September continues to have warm days and cool nights to transition our gardens from summer to fall.

I would like to hear from the membership of their failures and successes in their gardens this year. Sharing this with our group helps us to learn from each other. Send me

an email and I will share at the meeting.

September is a great time to rearrange the garden with plants that thrived and relocate those that did not.

We will begin planning for 2021 in the upcoming month and would love to have new members join the Board of Directors. When many of the Societies are shrinking, we are thriving. This is due to the efforts of your Board of Directors and Committees. Think about joining a Committee this year so that we can share the workload.

See you all on the 16th at Connon's

Tina Coverly
Co-President

Important Notices:

September 16 Meeting at Connon Nursery and Via ZOOM. Read your email for important instructions. Instructions will also be at the door.

Congratulations to Ann Williams, new Chair of the Hospitality Committee.

Congratulations to Liz Visentin, new Newsletter Editor.

Newsletter
September 2020

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Tomatoes Everywhere

Did you buy enough paper bags to slow the ripening process for all those tomatoes? Or, do you wrap each of them in newspaper? If an immature tomato is picked too early it will never ripen. When a tomato begins to turn pink it is called a “breaker.” A green tomato is considered mature when it no longer increases in size for about 3 to 5 days. These will ripen on your counter. Breakers usually ripen in about 8-10 days. To speed up the ripening process for just a few tomatoes, you can increase the temperature by moving them to an area up to 29° C (85° F) or place a ripe banana (gives off high amounts of ethylene gas) in the container with the tomatoes to hasten ripening.

Tomatoes ripening all at once and too soon? The best holding temperature is 10°C to 15.5°C (50-60 ° F) and they ripen quickest at 21 to 26.6 °C (70-80° F). Chop them up with a desired amount of chopped garlic cloves, microwave on high for 3 minutes (stir twice), then pop in freezer bags or plastic containers. Use for sauce, stews and soups later. Green tomatoes have 30% more vitamin C than red ones so they make good salsas and green tomato chutney. A serving of 100 grams of tomatoes offers 23.4 mg of Vitamin C content. Vitamin C regenerates skin and maintain skin health. For an excellent article about ripening tomato myths, read Robert Pavlis at <https://www.gardenmyths.com/myths-ripening-tomatoes/>

Do you have Roses?

A regular fertilizing schedule is every four to six weeks during the growing season including 6 weeks before the expected frost date. Hmmm. [Editor’s note]. In 2019 at the spring plant sale, there was one small rose bush of unknown colour and no one bought it. I felt sorry for it and took it home. This is one of two rose bushes I have. The other is a native smooth rose *blanda*. Despite my lack of fertilizing, it did well. For Hybrid teas, finger or pinch pruning encourages new basal growth, green leaves and root development.

It spreads out the flowering cycle so that there is an almost continual supply of roses.

Remove the central bud from candelabras to ensure an even head of flowers. Check the stakes and ties of standard roses. For a step by step on rose pruning, see <https://www.gardenandhome.co.za/gardening/roses/step-step-pruning-guide/>

September is Time to Transplant, Dig, Prune, Plant and Divide. . .

Unless it still feels like the heat of August since heat and dryness are stressful to plants.

If you decide a plant is in the wrong spot (remember there are no gardening mistakes, just experiments), you will feel better by moving it. Some plants can go into transplant shock when moved or if there is injury to the plant’s root system during transplanting. Water stress is one of the biggest culprits for a plant’s death in a new location. Transplants require more water than other plants as they adjust and become established in the new location. Before moving it, research the plant’s sun requirements, moisture needs, soil drainage and exposure to wind. A plant moved to a site with soggy or poorly draining soil is stressed equally. The root system may be drowned and deprived of oxygen. Some experts suggest digging compost into a good-sized hole, transplant, give the plant a good drink, then protect the plant. Baby it even more and keep it evenly watered. Azaleas need a fall planting but not too deep. If transplanting peonies, make sure you also plant these shallow with no more than two inches of soil on top of the crown.

Remember, summer bloomers are best divided in the Fall so divide your daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) in the fall. The first year after dividing expect fewer flowers.

The oldest task in human history is to live on a piece of land without spoiling it.”

~**Leopold Wilson** Biologist, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of 29 books

Your woody plants need to slow down and prepare their own cool weather protection. They should not be fertilized or pruned at this time.

Potted plants cannot become established when moved to a new container that's too small to accommodate the root system. Plants having a hard time becoming established makes them more susceptible to invasion from pests and diseases, which further hinders their lifespan. Do some root pruning in late summer or Fall and put the plant back in the same size pot with more soil.

Still Want to Re-design Your Perennial Garden?

We sometimes buy one or two different plants every time we go shopping and then end up with only a few of each kind placed where there is still room. Plants arranged in blocks and drifts instead of random plants are eye catching. Other garden mistakes to avoid can be seen at Flower Garden Design by Megan at <https://www.creativevegetablegardener.com/flower-garden-design/>

Hardening Off in Spring, Softening Up in Fall

It takes time to check plants that you will overwinter indoors and inspect for insects. Place pots in a protected partial shade location for a few days, gently hose them down and if you spot disease, an insecticidal soap might be necessary before bringing them indoors. Reserve your prime indoor space for only the healthiest plants. Some experts suggest bringing in your herbs about 3 weeks before you usually turn on the heat

Plant Cuttings (Continued from August Newsletter)

Most herbs from cuttings will last through the winter if cared for. Other examples of cuttings include your favourite pelargonium. Remove all but 3 leaves of a 4-inch cut stem that has been airdried for a day. Another option is to bring the whole pot in later before frost and cut it back then prepare cuttings.

The cooler the room, the dryer the plant should be kept. See a previous Newsletter about storing pelargoniums in winter.

Storing Winter Squash

If you grew winter squash, wash it in a very mild bleach solution (e.g., 1:1000) then wipe the skin with a vegetable-oiled cloth and store in a cool dry place. If you have a big enough freezer peel, bake and store it.

Did you find spider mites or bulb flies in your daffodil bulbs?

Soak bulbs in hot water maintained at 43°C (110 ° F°) for 4 hours just before they are due to be planted.

Nutrient Levels in Small Raised Garden and Flower Beds

Tomatoes, corn, garlic and potatoes are examples of heavy feeders where the soil will benefit from manure or compost. Check your plant's nutrient level requirements. Many non-native plants benefit from a Fall manure application too. For continuous blooms, use diluted fertilizer in container plants monthly (until they die). Perennial beds will need the soil prepared around the plants, like using organic material or compost to enrich the soil.



For the Dahlia lover

"It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves."

~Robert Louis Stevenson

Plant Cover Crops Even for Small Raised Beds

These crops protect the soil from weeds and heavy rains while adding nutrients to the soil. Some experts suggest field peas planted 4 weeks before your usual frost date. Field pea top-growth can be used in salads. Then when the top growth dies off, it becomes your winter mulch. The roots decay and provide nutrition and attracts soil microbes that are fuel for soil health. See the separate attachment with this Newsletter about soil health.

Did you know plants can fight back?

Researchers working with tomato plants found that when a leaf was devoured by an insect, the plant started producing proteinase inhibitors which interferes with the insect's digestive system. This inhibitor plays an integral role in the plant's defence mechanisms. Of course, many insects still learn to adapt. For a detailed explanation see

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proteinase_inhibitors_in_plants

Where are the monarch butterflies?

Chip Taylor, Monarch Watch Director noted in his November 2019 "Monarch Population Status" blog post (Why overwintering monarch numbers will be lower this year). He outlined reasons for expecting lower monarch numbers. To view this article go to

<https://monarchwatch.org/blog/2020/03/13/monarch-population-status-42/>

Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) announced the total forest area occupied by overwintering monarch colonies. Eleven colonies were located this past winter season with a total area of 2.83 hectares, a 53.22% decrease from the previous season (6.05 ha) The two biggest factors that appear to account for the lower numbers this winter are the lateness of the migration and the drought in Texas which meant lack of nectar. Nectar production is reported to shut down during drought stress.

For a better understanding of the monarch migration see

<https://espacepourelavie.ca/blogue/en/getting-a-better-understanding-monarch-s-spring-migration>

As the colder weather approaches. . .

Native bees are more effective pollinators than the honeybee -- "two to three times better," finds entomologist professor Bryan Danforth. (Ref: <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2011/10/native-bees-are-better-pollinators-honeybees> and <http://www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog/guess-how-many-bee-species-call-ontario-home/>)

Honeybees are more interested in the nectar. They don't really want the pollen if they can avoid it. The wild, native bees are mostly pollen collectors. They are collecting the pollen going from flower to flower then taking some of it back to their nests."

If you are moving plants, to protect our native bees, look for nest aggregations and place small flag or marker so that you can avoid digging at nests while working in your garden.

Mining Bees pack their burrows (which are almost like tiny cave systems) with balls of pollen, then lay an egg on each ball. The pollen is food supply for the bee larva.



"We need to create landscapes that contribute rather than degrade local ecosystems functions. Each Homeowner can contribute."

~Douglas W Tallamy

Most native bee species will spend the winter in the nests that their mothers provisioned (an exception is the cuckoo bee). Like bears, many pollinators hibernate through the winter—and they may need our help to survive until spring. Leaves and other “litter” are essential shelter for hibernating bumble bee queens and the larvae of numerous butterfly and moth species.

These piles will also attract beneficial insects like lady beetles, so they’ll already be situated to attack aphids in your garden when spring arrives.

See Leave the Leaves at

<http://www.xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>

Check your fallen stem cuttings. Native bees “cap” or close them with leaves, mud, resin, or even plant fiber. In addition, many invertebrate species prefer to nest and/or hibernate around rocks, woody debris and other clever hiding places. For an interesting article and photos about where pollinators go in winter see

<http://www.xerces.org/blog/where-do-pollinators-go-in-winter>

Phragmites stems are hollow and can be used to build bee houses (cut and bag the flower before it seeds and place in the garbage, not the compost).



Seed Storage

Now is the time we are thinking about collecting more seeds for next year.

Seeds should be completely dry before storing. Stash them somewhere in airtight containers, in a cool dry place. Toss any seeds past their prime. Expect a few duds each year. Storing seeds in the freezer will provide seeds with more consistent temperatures than refrigerator storage. For every 1% increase in humidity, a seed can lose half its storage life.

Two sources to read about this are

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/propagation/seeds/does-freezing-kill-seeds.htm#:~:text=Storing%20seeds%20in%20the%20freezer%20will%20provide%20seeds,a%20seed%20can%20lose%20half%20its%20storage%20life> . And, see

<https://www.epicgardening.com/storing-seeds/>

Latin (or Greek) Cues for the Garden

Latin names are descriptive terms used to describe a specific type of plant and its characteristics.

While some of these are intuitive, here is a short list to help you decide if you want the plant.

Latin names can also describe colour, like luteus/ yellow, its origin or habitat (montana/ mountains, alpinus/ alpine), its form or habit and there are also common root words.

Communis – growing in a community

Crassus – thick

Divaricate – spreading/ branching pattern

Elata – tall

Farinacea – mealy, softly furred

Laevis - Smooth

Liana – climbing

Maculata - spotted

Nana, pumila – dwarf

Nutans – nodding

Gardening is learning, learning, learning. That's the fun of them. You're always learning." ~ Helen Mirren

Patens – spreading
Pendula – hanging
Prostrata - creeping
Reptans, repens – creeping
Robusta – strong
Rugosa describes the wrinkled rough
Scadens – climbing
Suffruticosa – shrubby
Stachys - Straight
Tenua – thin
For other listings see

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/info/latin-plant-names.htm>

End of September

Ornamental cabbages and kale are beautiful with their crinkled leaves, purple and green hues and they look good even when the first frost has hit them. Ornamental cabbage usually takes around 12 weeks to mature to full color. And they do so best when cooler temperatures arrive. Starting seeds in mid-August works well to have plants at their best in the height of autumn season. Did you start yours? If not, many nurseries are selling them now.

Attackers in the Garden

Editor's Note: For those of you who don't know me, our property has two large, older shagbark hickory trees that were probably part of a farmer's long laneway as several of these hickories grow along a linear path.

These feed many squirrels, chipmunks, birds and caterpillars.

The chipmunks have been particularly bad this year, taking a few bites out of tomatoes then leaving the rest to rot, ripping down peppers, snow peas and eating begonias up on our sun porch.

Some people posted on Facebook that they wrap their tomatoes in newspaper to deter chipmunks. I read that they do not like certain synthetic fabric cloth. To experiment, I bought small reusable cloth bags with a long twist tie attached.

These really worked! I had a bumper crop of tomatoes in several varieties and lost only two peppers to those rodents before the bags were applied. The bags even kept the earwigs away from the tomatoes. And the racoons did not bother with them. It might look a bit strange, but I am re-using these next year. The sodden/spent ones will get a ghost face painted on them for use at Halloween in the front tree.



September Meeting Flower Show Competition

This is to be a photo of “Celebrating the Pelargonium: Our Society Flower”

A bouquet with Pelargoniums and flowers from your September garden tied with a ribbon. Your bouquet could lie on a table and then photograph it. This allows both onsite and Zoom meeting attendees to participate.

If you know a member who does not have email but would like to enter the competition, please help them by taking a photo for them, scanning it and sending it to flamhor@hotmail.com and state from whose garden is the bouquet. Your Editor Susan is more than willing to help you with this submission! **Call me at 905-977-8567**

I will place the photos in a PowerPoint presentation for both Zoom and onsite attendees to review. Ann Cochren will devise a voting system for you that will be announced at either the meeting or the next meeting.

We need your photo submission by no later than September 14.

September 16 Meeting Speaker

Dugald Cameron– Planting your Spectacular Spring Garden Now has been a popular speaker at other Hort Society talks.

Summer Caring Committee Report

June – A get well card was sent to Connie Godyn who fell and broke her wrist. Not good timing for this to happen to an avid gardener. Hope the healing is going well Connie.

June – A ‘thinking of you’ card was sent to Ina and Freek Vrugtman. They are still adjusting to life in their new location. Such a big move for them.

June – A belated birthday card was sent to Roy Horlick who celebrated his 90th on June 21. You are amazing Roy.

If you know of anyone who should be brought to the attention of the Caring Committee, please contact Annamary at amdakilham@cogeco.ca or call 905-689-4808.

OHA Garden Ontario News & Website

Please take a moment to check out other OHA information available by going to

<https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/524/>

OR www.gardenontario.org Look under Societies Listing - F for Flamborough

Links to Remember

Connon Nursery and Manager Terry Vanderkruk has been a wonderful supporter of our Society.

Please show them your appreciation by buying products at Connon Nursery. Visit <https://connon.ca/> 905-689-7433

Directors for 2019-2020

Co-President - Trudy Bliedung

Co-President - Tina Coverly

Vice President - Theresa Santin

Past President - **Vacant**

Treasurer -Trudy Bliedung

Secretary - Susan MacMillan

Director – Ann Cochren

Newsletter Editor– Liz Visentin as of Oct 1

Facebook Administrator –Liz Visentin

Director – Rosanne Waugh

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 – **To be Determined**

Meeting Hospitality – Ann Williams

Membership – Janet Waterfall

OHA Website Monitor – Phil Longstaff

Publicity – Susan MacMillan

Spring Plant Sale –Roxanne Riley & Connie Godyn

Sign Standardization – Ann Cochren

Speakers and Programs – Theresa Santin & Connie Godyn

Do you know of good speakers that you would like to hear in 2021?

Please help by submitting their name and topic to the Chair of the Speaker Committee. Send to Theresa Santin at flamhort@hotmail.com

“It was such a pleasure to sink one’s hands into the warm earth, to feel at one’s fingertips the possibilities of the new season” ~ Kate Morton

Did You Know?

Wild Bird Unlimited offers at 10% discount on products you buy when you mention that you are a horticultural society member. Check out

https://burlington.wbu.com/?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=local&utm_campaign=localmaps&utm_content=157

Join Facebook to Access Our Page at.

<https://www.facebook.com/>

In the Search bar enter Flamborough Horticultural Society to access our Facebook. Post something about your garden, a garden tip for others, or, post a question for others to assist you.

Liz Visentin works hard finding a variety posts for members to view.

Other Garden News

Don't forget to check out Garden Myths by Robert Pavlis at <https://www.gardenmyths.com/> Does Foliar Feeding Work? See also, The Scientific Method and Why Controls Are So Important.

Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

Please send in your questions, comments, corrections, items or articles for the Newsletter to flamhort@hotmail.com a minimum of 5 days before the end of the month. **Some exceptions can be made.**

If you ever want to be removed from this Newsletter mailing list [CLICK HERE](#). We respect your right to not receive this. In the Subject Line, type 'Unsubscribe me to Newsletter'

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.

How to Reach Us

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