



# Roselands Horticultural Society

## NEWSLETTER



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and the requests for people to limit their social gatherings, it has been decided the Roselands will not have any meetings this year. It is unfortunate but we feel that this decision is the best for our Society members.

We will let you know about the January meeting later. Hopefully by then this crisis will be over. In the meantime, we will try to connect through our newsletter. So if anyone has an article, pictures or story to pass on to others, please send it in. We would love to hear from you.

## A WALK IN THE PARK

With these beautiful fall days, a walk in one of our Toronto parks is a lovely way to spend an afternoon. We are lucky in the westend to have parks such as James Gardens, Magwood Park, High Park and Centennial Park to name a few.

I recently went to Centennial Park. There are many roadways and paths take one around the park. The very adventurous of us can climb to the top of Centennial hill for a great view of the area. The conservatory is open daily for visitors from 12 – 4 p.m. Masks are required if you wish to go in. In front of the conservatory are three large urns filled now with fall flowers. With the long weekend coming, I hope you can take advantage of these natural spaces. Winter will be here before too long.



A proud member in good standing with the

**ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION**

Keeping Ontario Beautiful

[www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

**In the mood for some creative writing? Have a story idea for the newsletter? Send it to [ld.glen@hotmail.com](mailto:ld.glen@hotmail.com)**



Inside the conservatory.

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

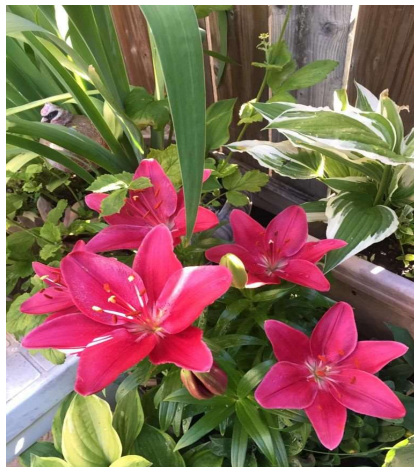
Marie Darmanin has been getting her garden ready for the winter and as a result has some perennials available for anyone interested. She can be contacted at 416-880-4426.

Pat Loy has a 3 tier light stand for sale. She can be reached at 416-251-9136 for further details.

Also, a member would like to know how to get rid of knotweed, Jerusalem artichoke and apios vine besides digging them out. Any ideas?

It is always nice to receive pictures of our members gardens.

Christine Koh sent in this picture of her garden. Lilies and hostas – beautiful. She said that the lilies always make her smile. I can understand why. The pink just pops.



Nancy Petrov sent some pictures of the cucumbers and garlic that she and Paul were growing to enter in the CNE show. Nancy gave me a tour of her garden last month and I was amazed at the size of it first and then by the variety of plants which she and Paul have growing. I came home with several different peppers and a lemon! They have a small lemon tree in one of the greenhouses. I really enjoy seeing what others have done with their yards. Each one is unique and as a result, I've picked up some ideas that I may use in my own garden in future years.



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## **HOW TO USE THOSE AUTUMN LEAVES**

There's something that doesn't feel right about leaves naturally falling from trees only to be stuffed into plastic garbage bags and dumped by the millions into landfills. Biodegradable paper leaf bags offer a partial solution, but wouldn't it be better to simply use those leaves instead of treating them as trash? Because leaves break down and contain a lot of carbon, they make great mulch, compost, and even lawn fertilizer.

The key to using leaves in your landscape is to shred them first, which you can do with a mulching lawnmower or a leaf vacuum mulcher. If you don't shred them, they won't completely break down over the winter, and you'll have to rake them up in the spring. It's also not good for lawns to be covered with a mat of whole leaves.

### **Compost**

Autumn leaves, especially those that have been shredded by a lawnmower, are dream additions to the compost pile. Leaves are a great source of "brown," high-carbon material for the compost. Simply alternate layers of shredded leaves

with the regular green materials you'd add to your compost pile, such as vegetable and fruit scraps, weeds, grass clippings, and plants that you pull out in your fall garden cleanup, and let it sit over the winter. Aerate or turn the pile when you think of it, and by planting time you'll have finished compost.

### **Make Leaf Mold**

Leaf mold is a wonderful soil amendment that is made from nothing more than fall leaves with the occasional layer of garden soil or finished compost added. The pile sits for about a year, and when it's finished you have the perfect amendment for vegetable and flower gardens, as well as a fantastic addition to potting soils.

### **Create Mulch**

After you shred the leaves, they can be used as an organic mulch in flower beds and vegetable gardens, around trees and shrubs, and in containers. Simply apply a 2- to 3-inch layer of shredded leaves to the beds, keeping the mulch from directly touching the stems and trunks of the plants. The mulch retains moisture in the soil, stays cool, and limits weed seed germination. As a bonus, the leaves add nutrients to the soil as they break down, and the worms and soil microorganisms work on them as well, resulting in lighter, fluffier soil over time.

### **Hoard Leaves**

You may think that once all the leaf cleanup is finished, you'll never want to see another leaf again. But when spring rolls around, and you're out there weeding and deadheading and pruning again, you'll be adding all of those "greens" to the compost pile. At the same time, brown compost materials can be hard to come by in spring and summer. If you've thought ahead and hoarded a garbage bag or two in your garage over the winter, you won't have any problem making perfect compost in spring. It's much easier to dump a bag of leaves on the compost pile than to stand there shredding newspaper in an attempt to dry out soggy compost.

### **Mow**

Simply mowing the leaves is the easiest solution, as it involves no raking whatsoever. There really is no scientific reason to rake all the leaves off the lawn. If you run over them with a mower, they'll break down over the winter, providing your soil with nutrients and shading the soil, which results in fewer lawn weeds to worry about next year. If you do this once a week until the leaves have finished falling, you won't have to rake a single leaf, and your lawn will look better for it next spring and summer.

Keep in mind that this requires a mulching lawnmower, which is designed to recirculate the grass clippings so they are cut into small pieces and can be left on the lawn rather than collected and bagged. The same design works with leaves. Most lawnmowers these days have mulching capability, and older mowers can be converted to mulchers by installing a mulching blade.