

Flamborough Horticultural Society



November 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings Members

It was wonderful to be able to see members in person at Connon Nursery for the September meeting. All those lush tropical plants surrounded us and the scent of the lime and lemon trees were welcome. Since the November meeting is going to include a Seasonal demonstration, I would like to encourage as many people as possible attend in person. We are not sure if Connon's will have the camera available to view both the speaker and the demonstration. PowerPoint works fine on Zoom but a laptop camera might not work for this situation. In January we are back to Zoom presentations. The flower show will continue to be via Zoom submissions.

The membership renewal table will be set up again so please plan to arrive early to renew your commitment to the Society.

We wish a warm welcome to a new member in October - Deborah Little.

One of our long time members and great historian, artist, poet and gardener, Rosemary Brown turns 100 this month. Congratulations Rosemary! Over the years Rosemary has contributed immensely to the Society, in many roles on the executive, as member or Chair of many committees, contributed to the plant sales, donated plants and wonderful pieces of art to both the Society and her community. Rosemary often won at the Flower Show competitions. While Rosemary is unable to attend the upcoming meeting, we will keep in touch with her and hope to help her celebrate this milestone.

Happy Fall and we hope to see you at the meeting that begins at 6:30 PM.

Best wishes

Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

November Meeting

Date: Wed., Nov. 17

Time: **6:30 pm**

Location: Cannon Nurseries

Speaker: Paul Zammit

Topic: Festive decorations - a demonstration

Flower Show:

Create a Christmas Wreath using outdoor greenery and natural materials (such as pine cones) plus a few colour accents of your choice. Email entries to: flamhort@hotmail.com by Nov. 16

September Flower Show

First Place: Vivienne Reaveley



Second Place: Liz Visentin



Third Place: Marie Vijvalka



How Long Do Seeds Last?

With good storage, garden seeds can last 3-12+ years...



Beans	5-8 years	Lettuce	3-6 years
Beets	6-10 years	Melons	5-8 years
Broccoli	5-8 years	Onions	2-4 years
Cabbage	4-7 years	Parsnips	2-4 years
Carrots	3-5 years	Peas	3-6 years
Cauliflower	5-8 years	Peppers	3-6 years
Celery	8-12 years	Pumpkins	6-10 years
Celeriac	8-12 years	Radish	5-8 years
Chard	6-10 years	Spinach	5-8 years
Flint Corn	6-12 years	Squash, Summer	6-10 years
Sweet Corn	3-5 years	Squash, Winter	6-10 years
Cucumbers	10-14 years	Tomatoes	5-10 years
Kale	4-7 years	Watermelon	5-8 years
Leeks	3-5 years	Zucchini	6-10 years

November Garden Tasks

This is the month when we finish putting our gardens to bed!

- Hill up roses
- Mulch tender plants
- Plant bulbs for winter forcing indoors
- Clean garden storage area and tools
- Mulch asparagus bed for winter
- Apply repellents and wraps to guard against rabbit damage
- Drain water lilies and pumps
- Tulip bulbs may still be planted
- Remove any visible weeds so they do not meet you in the Spring.
- Dig up tender bulbs and store in a cool dark area after the first frost.
- Apply fall fertilizer to the lawn if not already done
- Soak the soil around evergreens if the soil is dry (especially new plantings)
- Remember to continue feeding the birds

Canada's Plant Hardiness Zones

The third edition of the plant hardiness zones map shows the different zones in Canada where various types of trees, shrubs and flowers will most likely survive.

The map is based on a formula using seven important variables that influence plant survival:

1. Monthly mean of the daily minimum temperatures of the coldest month
2. Mean frost-free period (above 0°C) in days
3. Amount of rainfall from June to November
4. Monthly mean of the daily maximum temperatures of the warmest month

5. A winter harshness index related to rainfall in January and mean maximum snow depth.
6. Maximum wind gusts in a 30 year period

Zones were previously based on average values from 1930 to 1960. This new map uses 1981 to 2010 averages.

To view an interactive version of this map and for more information on plant hardiness zones in Canada, go to the following Website: [Canadian Hardiness Zones](#)

No Room to Bring in Geraniums? Take Cuttings!



You want to end up with a stem that is approximately 4 to 6 inches long with two healthy leaves up top. Choose a new stem that is green (not old and woody). Cut just below a leaf node. Remove any flower stems, flowers, or buds and all leaves from the bottom 2 or 3 inches. Dip the base in rooting hormone (optional). Make a hole in the potting mix and insert the stem gently so as to leave the rooting hormone on the stem. Bury the stem deep enough that any bare leaf nodes (where you removed leaves) are submerged. Multiple cuttings can be placed into one pot, saving space! Moisten the potting mix and then cover with a clear plastic bag or dome. Loosen if too much condensation or mold appears. Keep in a warm location near a bright window, but not in full sun until roots have formed. Keep the potting mix evenly moist, but not soaking wet. Roots will form within four to eight weeks. Remove plastic cover and place the plant in a sunny location.

Which Seeds Should Be Sown in Fall or Winter?

When it comes to winter sowing, there are several ways to do it.

- Just let nature do the work and let the seeds drop. In the spring, you can dig up and move the plants where you want them to grow. Be careful when raking as it can disturb or move the seeds and mulch can smother them. You may want to mark the spot so you can find them come spring.
- Or, you can scatter seeds where you would like them to grow. This works best for plants with tap roots and ones that dislike transplanting including poppies, lupine, larkspur, bachelor buttons, and lunaria. I have had great luck scattering poppy seeds over the snow in late winter.
- Or, after a killing frost, sow the seeds in a nursery bed where you can have more control of the surroundings and keep an eye on them easily. Once they are up and growing well, next spring you can move them to their new locations. I prefer this to scattering, especially when I have purchased the seeds rather than collected them.
- If space in your garden is at a premium, you can start the seeds in pots outdoors. Just be sure to use pots that won't crack over the winter. Again, do this after a killing frost but before the soil freezes solid.
- If you prefer starting the seeds indoors, you can trick them into sprouting by giving them a period of moist cold in the fridge. You can either plant the seeds and place the containers in a plastic bag and put them in the fridge or other cold spot where they will stay below 45 degrees for at least 2 months. If you don't want pots of dirt in the fridge just place the seeds in plastic bags with a bit of moist soil or vermiculite. Don't place dry seeds in the

fridge or freezer to stratify them. **Moisture and cold are the key elements.**

Some of the plants that benefit from chilling or germinate best when planted in the fall are:

- coneflowers (Echinacea),
- asclepias (milkweed and butterfly weed)
- lobelia,
- delphinium,
- gas plant,
- rosemary,
- yarrow,
- feverfew,
- foxglove,
- dianthus,
- verbascum,
- columbine,
- penstemon,
- asters,
- rudbeckia,
- nicotiana,
- nigella,
- scabiosa,
- helianthus, and
- geranium.

If you are trying to establish a sunny meadow garden, many wildflower mixes do better when sown in the fall after a killing frost or two.

Don't cover small seeds, just press them into the surface of the soil—well-drained, weed-free soil. Over-sow by about 20%.

Last Chance to Plant Bulbs!

The best time to plant fall bulbs is when soils are below 60°F or about 6 weeks before a hard frost is expected. Tulips are one exception—you can plant tulips as late in winter as you can get them into the ground.

Consider Planting Native Bayberry

(*Myrica pensylvanica*)



Bayberry is an upright-rounded, dense, pleasantly aromatic large shrub with semi-evergreen, dark green, leathery leaves. It has small waxy, blue-gray fruit, which add winter interest and attract many species of birds. Planted as a hedge, its dense semi evergreen foliage provides dramatic bronze or burgundy winter color and protection for wildlife. This upright shrub—typically five to eight feet wide and tall—has dense, long leaves. Bayberry’s tiny gray-blue berries were used to make candles and are also a good food source for migrating birds. It is a good choice in the restoration of dry, degraded sites. It is also an excellent plant to use in tree and larger shrub borders as well as in wildlife plantings around homes.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. Its ideal soil conditions are sandy, acidic soils, but it will tolerate some clay. It is able to handle environmental salt and is highly tolerant of urban pollution. Plants are either male or female. In order to ensure berry production, plant several shrubs in the same landscape.

Use Fallen Leaves as Mulch

Use fallen leaves as mulch. Add a few inches of leaves to your garden beds in fall and leave them there for the winter to protect plants and to insulate roots. Do not remove leaves in the spring. In time, they will slowly decompose as microbes, fungi, and bacteria convert leaves to essential plant nutrients which helps to improve soil structure.

Low Light Houseplants

Our October speaker’s topic was “Houseplants”. Of particular interest was which plants will thrive in low light conditions. Her number one suggestion for the easiest to grow and almost impossible to kill was the Snake Plant (*Dracaena trifasciata*) which is able to survive very low light conditions and drought (neglect!). For more suggestions, read here:

[Low light Indoor Plants](#)

Christmas Cactus Bloom Tips

For about six weeks prior to blooming, the holiday cactus requires between 12-14 hours of dark to set buds. That means cool temperatures around 50-65 degrees, and no light (not even artificial). You may consider covering it or moving it to a room where it won’t be exposed to nighttime lights. Feed your holiday cactus monthly with a diluted water-soluble fertilizer during the spring and summer months. Once flower buds have formed, begin withholding fertilizer until it blooms (at which point you can resume monthly feedings). Also reduce watering in the fall. Once flower buds begin to form, move the plant near a bright window, but not in direct sun and away from drafts.

Plant folklore



When a persimmon seed is cut open, the white marking inside reveals the following information about the coming winter: If it's shaped like a knife, winter's winds will be biting and the season will be cold. If it's shaped like a fork, expect a relatively average winter. If it looks like a spoon, expect to shovel plenty of snow.

(I wonder how many will be buying a persimmon after reading this?)

Winter Care for Lavender



Lavender grows best outdoors, but not all varieties are hardy to our area. Those varieties must be moved indoors if they are to survive the winter. Being compact plants, lavenders will grow well in containers. Even though the plant is resting, the foliage will still be fragrant indoors!

Potting: Don't use too large a pot. Only give them an extra inch of soil around the root ball. Too much extra soil will just stay soggy, which these plants don't tolerate. Two parts potting soil with one part perlite or coarse sand will

give them the quick draining conditions they need.

Watering: They need less water in winter, too. Wait until the top inch of soil feels dry before giving them a drink. Overwatering will rot the roots and result in plant death (I have learned this the hard way!).

Lighting: Although they are fairly dormant during winter, they still need a lot of light. Place in or near a bright window.

Fertilizing: Do not fertilize until new growth starts in the spring. Unused nutrients can build up in the soil and become toxic.

Lavender Plants Outside: Dig a hole in the ground deep enough to place the whole pot in the ground, with the soil level of the ground the same as in the pot. This will give some protection and insulation to the roots and help it survive the winter.

Lavender Plants in the Ground: Prepare plants for winter by pruning. Once harvesting has been completed for the season (e.g., you have cut off all the lavender flower blooms), a light pruning to create a mound can help to minimize damage by snow. Cut the newer stems, but avoid cutting the woody part of the plants. A major pruning will be done in the spring. The woody parts of the plant are weak and can be prone to splitting and breaking under the heavy snow and ice of winter. Mulch heavily (fallen leaves are an excellent choice).

Are Your Perennials Ready for Winter?

Some can be cut down after the first killing frost. Others can be left to help birds and beneficial insects during the winter months. Don't be in a rush to cut back. Wait until a few hard frosts. Even if the flowers or leaves are dead, the roots are using energy from the dying plant for healthy growth in the spring.

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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 horticulture.

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"Gardening imparts an organic perspective on the passage of time."

William Cowper