



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

Message from the President

I apologize for the delays in sending this newsletter, but it seems like one thing after another happens, as usual great intentions!! So as you may have noticed our June newsletter was not sent out, that is because I ran into some troubles with my computer and it fried! So with the rising panic as I thought I may lose all my files (as I did not save it elsewhere, lesson learned!), I waited to see if it was fixable in the end, no. As it turned out it was the motor not the hard drive, oh so lucky me, those were some nail biting days!!! I've had to get a new laptop and await the data from the old to be transferred. Since I had already started the June newsletter but was unable to finish or send it out I have decided to scrap it and move onto July since most of what I had was not relevant anymore! I had a great write up about container planting from a webinar I saw with Paul Zammit, of which you will see my experiments when you come on the garden tour in July, that is now ready for next year! Lol! And now since I have been focused on my garden and had an upswing in sewing work I have been delayed yet again, I know I was procrastinating!!! Everything is much more fun than sitting in front of a computer when the sun is shining!! Plus I lost my mojo!!

I hope that I have more than made up for the delay with the amount of content I am including in this newsletter, Lol! Ok so I finally found my mojo and went to town, plus the rain has helped and I've had some suggestions which didn't all fit into this one but will be in our September issue.

Everything is coming along nicely as we look ahead, we may actually be able to sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labors. The frenzy of planting is over, now it's just weed control and the next crop of insects. Myself I am always looking for projects to occupy my time and try to work with what I have on hand. I must say I have become quite creative out of necessity! But then again I never stop creating!!!

***(picture of a "Climbing Lily – Gloriosa Rothschildiana" on a screen I built. I got them from Walmart this spring, there were 2 tubers in the bag for \$9.95. I was hoping it would be a bit more voracious in growth and cover the shed, maybe next year?!? Still gorgeous and unique!)



Enjoy the weather and 'Keep Calm and Garden on'!

June Garden Tours

Our June Garden tour was a success! We had perfect weather for it! It was wonderful to see these 3 very different gardens with their spectacular views! Thank you to Helen, Shelley and Linda for sharing your



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

gardens with us. I posted some pictures on Facebook for those who missed it. Everything went pretty smoothly, and we had a good turn out despite the short notice. For those who missed both here is a synopsis:

Shelley garden is grown from seed!!! Almost everything she has grown started in her basement then moved to greenhouse and then out to the garden, truly impressive! She also incorporated wonderfully creative pockets from a plant box picture frame on an easel to hockey sticks for tomato stakes and has a beautiful fish pond nestled around the side which she recycles the water on her gardens. Nothing goes to waste as she makes her own compost and collects rainwater too! She has a wonderful blend of flower and vegetable gardens which she collects the seeds from each year to use for the next. Very resourceful! Oh and what a view!!



Linda's garden was so full of colour with a mass of beds bursting full of flowers, very much a showcase garden! The impressive back garden was cram packed full of plantings all beautifully blending together, and the sound of the waterfall takes you into another world. Whimsical metal art hidden within the plants make for lots of visual interest with the trees framing the beautiful vistas across the field in back. Then you travel down the side, and you are transformed to the wooded garden with its natural feel and lovely dappled shade, truly a wonderfully peaceful place.

Helen's garden was so different than the other two with wonderful winding trails wandering through the natural area in the back, littered with native species plantings of trees and shrubs making it a very enjoyable walk as butterfly's flitted about. There are little clearings showcasing the odd tree, like the pea tree which I have never seen before, and the bridge over the stream make for a very relaxed walk. I loved seeing the variety of Ninebarks and now am trying to figure how to put one in my garden!!!



Looking Ahead



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

August meeting will be the tour of **Steelwheel Brewery**, we will let you know when we have a date set.

September will be our first ever **Fall Plant Sale**, again no date set yet. This should be an interesting change from our spring one with different varieties of plants to offer as well as other things.

October is our **Bird house workshop** – we will be sending out an email with sign up instructions (I know I said this last time but it will really happen this time! Lol! I've made it up just have to send it!). Those who have paid already need not worry I have all their info.

November will be a **Christmas demonstration workshop** we hope to be able to

We will endeavor to get the dates set as soon as possible so you may plan.



Trivia:

1. How many inches in a day can hops grow?
2. In brewing how many “types” of hops are there?
3. True or False? Hops were originally used as a preservative in beer.
4. If high Alpha acid is better suited for flavor, what is a lower acid level good for?
5. Early 19th century, English brewers were looking for a way to export their traditional ales to India, but the journey by sea would take too long and the beer would spoil by the time it arrived. How did they solve it?

Bonus:

6. Which country has the highest production of hops at over 34,000 metric tons per year?
7. Is a ‘zythologist’ a real thing?
8. Which country consumes the most beer?

Old Garden Hoses Uses!

That old garden hose that is full of holes that you think is garbage still has endless useful possibilities, so don't throw them out!! Save them and cut them up when needed, they can be used in all kinds of places, for instance:



Garden Hose Spring Wreath
© 2018 CRAFTS LOVER



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

Bucket handles – when the plastic handle over the wire breaks down, cut a 4” piece of hose, then slit lengthwise and slip onto the wire and voila you have a new comfortable handle, and you bucket has a new life!

Tree support brace – protect young trees from the support rope cutting into the trunk by threading the rope through a piece of garden hose.

Rain barrels – when the hose on your old rain barrel has hardened or is leaking or comes off all the time, replace it with a piece of garden hose. I made mine longer than the original because it kept getting knocked off and draining the barrel. My new hose is more flexible because it is rubber and I use the original attachment ends so I could screw the nozzle head back on. If you don’t have the connectors (hose ends) you can buy new ones at a hardware store and use a plumbing clamp to secure it.

Soaker hoses – Crimp one end and drill small holes in the hose, bury just under the soil around plants and fill with water. Keep plants watered for days. Drain in winter.

Blade protector – Cut the hose to the length of the saw or knife blade you wish to cover. Slit down the length so it can be slipped over the blade. Works great for ice skates too!

Earwig control??? – yes earwig control! This is genius, thank you Cat (District 6 Director)!! Simply cut a 6” piece of hose and lay it where there is a concentration of earwigs, like the gypsy moth caterpillars they hide during the day. Fill a small bucket or container with water and dishwashing soap at mid to late day take the tube and knock it into your bucket of soapy water. You will be amazed at how many you collect!!

For more ideas check out this website [33+ Genius uses for old garden hoses](#)

Pest Control and the Internet

As with all thing’s various methods surface of pest control and not all work for everyone. For example, there is also another method for killing earwigs circulating the internet – soya sauce and vegetable oil in a container with a non sealed lid for them to crawl into and hide. Pictures show a ton of dead earwigs, however it is food and if you have an inquisitive dog for example well I don’t think I need to expand on that!!! I have just seen another that just uses a bowl with olive oil, leave it in the garden and they collected lots of earwigs.

Then there is the duct tape on trees to catch gypsy moth caterpillars, next thing you see people spreading it catches and kill all kinds of other things, not true. Yes a few ants, spiders but not birds....really!?!?...the glue dries out after a few days and it really isn’t that strong to begin with and you only need it in the beginning when they first hatch, the tape works the best on the baby gypsy moth caterpillars, then change to the burlap wrap. However, if you use the stronger glue from Lee Valley that might cause this problem if not used properly. The things I recommend I have tried, and they work for me, but you may have differing



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

results, it's all trial and error, so if you have had success with a pest or weed control send it in and we will spread the word.

Tracey K. uses an upside-down plant pot on a stake. They crawl up during the day to hide, simply lift the pot off and knock into a bucket of soapy water. I'm trying that one next!

Product Recommendation

Tis the season! Fruit Flies. There are lots of different ways to eliminate them. If you're looking for a store-bought trap that works great, check out **Green Strike, Fruit fly traps**. It will control the fruit fly populations indoors for 30 days and works really well on large infestations. Simply punch a hole in the center indent with a pen and place it on the counter. It's small and can easily sit anywhere without getting in the way, you can knock it over and no flies can get out and no spilling! Simply throw it out when done! There are many other different kinds but I have tried this one and know it works.



They are available at [Home Hardware](#) for \$16.99 for 6 and [Home Depot](#) on line only for \$14.98.

Jenny's Homemade Weed Killer

I have a family friend who is an avid gardener, her whole back yard is garden, no grass. She starts everything from seed and when she has too much to plant, she donates it. She has lots of tips and tricks and one is a homemade weed killer that is super simple to make and works like a charm and is also environmentally friendly! But don't get it on of your plants it will kill them too!!!

Simply mix: 1 Quart of Vinegar, ½ a handful of salt and a squirt of dish soap.

Pour or squirt it onto the weeds and a few days later they will be dead (probably kill ants too!). Great for paths! The soap allows the salt and vinegar mix to stick to the plants and ultimately kills them. Added bonus if you purchased the Lee Valley bottle toppers there is a single hole squirt nozzle, this works perfect for isolated or directional spraying. Rosalind says it works great!!



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

Tracey K. tip: If you don't want to buy the nozzles, your husband might have some very fine drill bits, use these to drill holes into a water or pop bottle top and voila! You've made a homemade spray bottle!!!

Can you believe the hype? By Tracey Kenning

For a number of years now I have been hearing people rave about **ProvenWinner Supertunia Vista Bubble gum** in magazines, blogs and YouTube... this is a petunia like no other and being the skeptic I, I've taken it with a pinch of salt.

Now you either like petunias or not, I happen to love them, for the few months a year that we have them they give an unconditional splash of colour and touch wood, I've never had the issue of them going sticky or leggy, but I am ruthless when planting them. First, I make sure that I incorporate a slow-release fertilizer in the soil and then cut them back by at least half if not more so they will form bushier plants and then feed them every two weeks with a liquid feed which is usually some homemade liquid comfrey.

So, this year when I saw them at a local garden center I thought why not give them a try. Now they are a little more expensive than your regular petunias but I'm sure that in part, that is due to the growers having to pay for patenting. Who knew that one day plants would be patented!

Anyway, back to my experience and skepticism... I have three planters on my deck that I like to stuff full of long flowering annuals to give that pop of colour all season. The foundation of these planters is a Hydrangea fire light tidbit. This is a panicle hydrangea that only grows 2-3' tall and wide it has lush white flowers that appear mid-summer and as they age turn bright pink with red tones which last until the first frost. So I thought let's give these Vista Bubblegum a try and see what happens. However, being skeptical I thought I'd add two more petunias royal velvet and a trailing pink/white verbena.

Well look at this, we are only in the second week of July, and you can barely see the other plants, the Vista Bubblegum has taken over!! My pots are approximately 3' tall and ONE plant, yes this is ONE plant is nearly half way down and climbing through the hydrangea....If I hadn't been so skeptical I could have saved myself some money and not bothered planting the other plants lol....



Lesson learned, sometimes the hype is right! Maybe next year I'll give them a go in the garden!!



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society



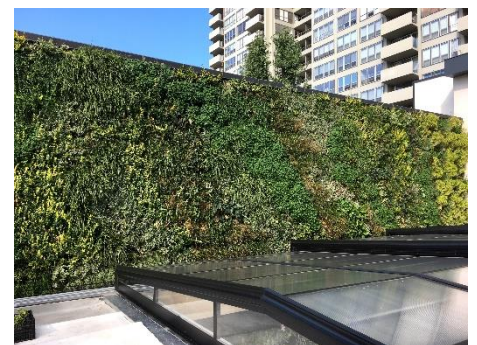
The Honeybee Issue

Urban sprawl is one of the key issues with the honeybee decline, not necessarily farmers they are only doing what the government allows in terms of spraying (old vs new). They tend to get a bad wrap because of the spraying of crops. Is it necessary? Without it they lose a lot of their crop, then there is less food. Does it kill? Yes. The bees eat the dew first thing in the morning, they don't know the difference between dew and weed killer when they land, they collect it and take it back to the hive and the next is history. But when a field is planted the flowers are seasonal, so they move with each new crop or look for new food, this is where urban sprawl is an issue. With each new subdivision there is a loss of farmland or wetland and trees. Farming is a dying trade only the big survive and small ones are gobbled up by cities. Subdivisions are the worst they rip up all the soil, dig and build houses close together, then comes the grass which everybody wants the perfect lawn, so they spray to get rid of weeds. Those weeds have flowers which the pollinators would visit. Next comes the nonexistent gardens which consist of hostas, daylilies and conifers which provide nothing and maybe a tree but not fruit trees. Backyards are equally dismal with lots of lawn or a pool or playground equipment, add in roads, sidewalks, mini malls, parking lots and what do you have, an urban wasteland for pollinators.



The government has agreed this is an issue, so they tossed some money at the bee associations, not enough to do anything with the declining percentage being so high or in the right place (Spectator article, July 15, 2021). They need to make cities aware that its not just the farms spraying to keep their crop or make your food perfect or the Varroa mite (parasite), it's also the urban factor. Changing to an environmentally friendly spray also hasn't helped because its not as effective so more spray is needed. Builders also need to be held accountable for

replacement trees, monitored and forced to actually plant them. Driving around the cities you see the evidence, change is slow, some medians are being filled with flowers, however the bees have to cross the road, planters and trees are being added to city streets. [Roof top gardens](#) and [live walls](#) are slowly appearing, some city properties are not spraying parks and playgrounds, so that brings it back down to the urban sprawl. Houses are so close together water runoff has also become an issue as there is no land to absorb it and so it's sent down the sewers with homeowners trying to thwart flooding.





Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society



If urbanites would just stop spraying and cultivating the perfect lawn and spend more time creating and looking after a garden, they might realise what we gardeners already knew, that it is so much more rewarding and beneficial. I think that is the big issue that the government needs to encourage people to plant for the pollinators, society's ideals need to change, builders need to be held accountable. Plucking weeds from your lawn is no different then pulling them from a garden and the same for

dead heading. They need to see a garden is not more work than looking after a lawn but its all an image thing which needs to change and be encouraged, but alas we all like driving our lawnmowers and those homeowners that choose not to mow are subject to neighbors calling the city on them.

The city of Toronto has stepped up and offered up to a [\\$5000 grant to plant a pollinator garden](#). In 2019, 35 gardens received funding out of 151 applications. This totals more than 9,500 square meters of pollinator habitat. This year 33 pollinator gardens were created; this is a great start and just one city.

Hamilton created a [pollinator corridor](#), where they offer plant and habitat suggestions with an [extensive list](#), and how to get your garden on the list.

I think another big issue is ignorance. People don't know the difference between a bee, wasp or a hornet, get stung by a wasp or hornet and now the bee has been lumped in as a pest and bad so kill it. My daughter when she was young knew because I explained the difference and not to be afraid, her friends had no idea and would swat at the bee and run and so she set them straight. Maybe we need to start with the kids and educate them about the environment they are in, include it in school curriculum perhaps. Perceptions need to change. I realize I'm preaching to the choir, Lynden actual has a lot of gardens, we are doing our bit, it's the bigger cities that need to do better. Maybe the choir needs to sing a little louder.



That's my rant! 😊

Recipes

This is more a tip than a recipe?!?! **Wilted Spinach**. If you grow it and you have more than you can eat and want to save some for later, say in the winter, you can cook it and freeze it. Here's what I do:

Depending on how much spinach you have, I base this method on the 454g large plastic containers of baby spinach they have in the grocery store.





Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

- Wash and stem spinach (don't need to if it's baby spinach)
- In a large pot on the stove **melt 1/8 cup of butter**, (only half of the container of spinach will fit, you will have to repeat process for second half), drop in spinach, as much as you can and stir. It will only take a **couple of minutes to wilt**, keep **stirring from the bottom until all is wilted** (and turns dark green).
- Remove to a sieve and press out as much juice as you can using the stirring spoon pressing against the sieve.

Now the hard part....spinach is acidic, so I recommend wearing gloves for this part otherwise your hands will hurt after and not just from the squeezing!

- While still warm/hot in small batches squeeze out as much juice as you can. I find squeezing between clamped hands the easiest. If you don't do it while it's hot its harder to do when the spinach cools down.
- Chop and divide into portions for a meal. A 454g container will make 5-6 logs (1"x3" approx.) depending on how much spinach you like to use in your dishes. You would be surprised how much is actually in the logs of this size.
- Roll/shape into log and individually wrap in plastic wrap then place all in a freezer bag to prevent freezer burn and keep together.

Voila you have spinach anytime you want ready to go! Takes seconds to thaw in microwave and add to any meal. Spinach cooked this way has a much nicer flavor than prebought frozen or cooked with water.

Beloved Garden Pests

Update: I will grudgingly admit it appears Mr. Bunnykins is a bit of a gardener after all. The Weigela is coming back and bushing quite nicely, but that does not mean he is forgiven, he also ate my oak sapling and pussy willow!!!

Up-update: Mr. Bunnykins is back in the bad books!!! The weigela may be coming back but it reverted to green leaves....they are supposed to be dark purple!!! Sigh.



Garden Tips

Old interlocking bricks are very handy for many reasons, they are great for paths obviously but also handy for edging gardens. When my mother removed her interlocking driveway there were a lot 2x4 and 4x4



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

July/August 2021 – 13th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

blocks, we decided to save a few. Wishing we'd saved more now!!! You can use the 2x4 individual ones to stand planters on a deck to allow the wood to dry and prevent rotting or on a patio or ground to prevent ants from making a home inside. Insert them in the ground to edge a garden and you can mow right over top of them. Use them to weigh down paper or cardboard to prevent weeds in the vegetable patch.



Here is another hot tip! Do you have a chipmunk who insists on burying his seeds and goodness knows what else in your planters? Here are a couple rodent deterrents: I place a few rocks on the top of the soil in amongst the plants, this way there is no room to dig. Another option is plastic forks, stick the handle (you may have to shorten it) into the soil so the tines are sticking up, this creates less room for digging plus they get poked. And thirdly you can lay some chicken wire down with your plants poking through the holes once again making harder for them to dig.

Trivia Answers:

1. They can grow 12" in a day!
2. 2 types of hops. Bittering and aroma
3. True.
4. Lower level acid; is good for aroma.
5. By adding extra hops and the IPA (India Pale Ale) was born. Originally the IPA's were not much stronger in alcohol than other ales but the hoppy bitterness caught on.
6. Germany, while the U.S. has just over 27,000 metric tons per year. Despite its rich brewing history Belgium actually ranks 20th with just over 1,200.
7. Yes. From the Greek words zythos (beer) and logos (study), is about the analyzing of ingredients and the effect they have on the brewing process, the knowledge of beer styles, history and the application of beer pairings. A zythologist is a true beer connoisseur!
8. China, not only does it boast the world's largest population but China's annual consumption of beer averages at 46 billion liters, which is twice the amount of the US. The Czech Republic leads the world in terms of consumption per person.

*** This is it!!! Get ready, next month we take the Steelwheel Brewery tour (August) and quiz you!!!
Whoever gets them all right will win something!!!
