



Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

March 2021 – 10th issue.

Website: www.gardenontario.org

Facebook: [Lynden Horticultural Society](#)

Message from the President

Ahh March, one month closer to spring!!! So exciting, I can hardly wait!!! I have already started purchasing bulbs to plant and am now itching to put all my plans in motions, if only the darn snow would go! Like the rest of you, I'm sure, I'm tired of being cooped up, but am having a great time planning and fantasizing about my garden!!

Well it has been a busy time for the Exec's, so much stuff to tell you about, so this Newsletter is cram packed!! Your Exec committee has been working hard figuring out how to have safe meetings this year and all things being well I think we succeeded!! It should be an exciting year, so many great things planned! One of the things we have planned is Members Only Garden Tour. As I went back in our history (what is recorded) our society used to hold meetings in member's gardens, then membership grew, and we rented a hall. So now we will return to our 'roots' and do something similar, a tour, to share all our hard work with others who appreciate it and hopefully inspire renewed enthusiasm, and we should be proud to show them off!! (my snowdrops peeking through already!)



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the AGM zoom and what a great meeting that turned out to be!!! The Execs and I are ecstatic with making quorum and passing our financials, we were really worried we wouldn't be able to, but you did us proud and we can now breathe a sigh of relief. This has been a lot of work in the making and I would like to thank our Board for all their hard work in making this happen. We would also like to welcome Kathy Rotchell to the exec board as our newest Director and Barb Bell for taking on Membership!!! And Linda Davis for volunteering to help with our Annual Plant Sale. Three cheers!!!



Thank you!

Last month I was remiss, I forgot to thank Linda Filmer for creating this beautiful planter at the Library for the Christmas/Winter display. She incorporated a wonderful bit of whimsy by adding little children's books (Thank you Kathy Rotchell for the book)! Well done and thank you Linda F.!!!

I would also like to thank Cathy Bryden, Rosalind Clayton, Barb Bell and Helen Bishop for their help handing out the membership packages, much appreciated! By now everyone should have gotten theirs if you have not please let me know and I will get one out to you. (you wouldn't want to miss out on all this fun informative



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newsletter, would you?!?!? Lol!). In your package you will notice we are having a contest! You can sign any one up they don't even have to live in town or mention it to neighbours or friends. Let them know what we do, and that we do more than just talk about flowers!

What's new for this month

We welcome Tracey Kenning's contributions to our Newsletter! She is a lapse Master Gardener (her words lol!) and has a diploma in Landscape Design and one in Plant Identification, she also helps with the gardens at Westfield and writes in their newsletter. She is looking forward to passing along some of her knowledge. How lucky for us!!!

Next Meeting

Our February meeting was supposed to be our March meeting but because we had to push it up to hold our AGM in time, we do not have one in March.

Our next meeting will be a Zoom meeting held on April 12, 2021 at 7 pm with speaker Karin Davidson-Taylor from the RBG on Medicinal Plants and their properties. Cindy will send you the link closer to the date along with a reminder. Hope you can join us!



Our Calendar for 2021

Our Calendar will look a little different, for this year and we will send out postings of the month via emails and newsletters, there will also be information of each meeting on the OHA website. For now, here is a glimpse of what we have planned to September at this point, dates, times and locations will follow as we move forward. The Execs will have a meeting in the summer to discuss what to do for the remainder of the year and how to proceed.

Date	Time	Topic
April 22	7:00 pm	Zoom with RBG's Karin Davidson-Taylor on Medicinal Plants
May 22	8 – 11 am	Annual Plant Sale (looking for plants) – Lynden Lions Park
June	TBA	Member Only Garden Tour of Helen Bishop, Linda Filmer and Shelley Scott's gardens. *
July	TBA	Member Only Garden Tour of Rosalind Clayton, Valeria Salonen and Darielle Clayton-Thomas's gardens. *
August	TBA	Member Only Tour of Hop yard at Steel Wheel Brewery
September	TBA	Workshop with member Bill Spero, building Birdhouses. - Lion's Den Pavilion

*Protocols for the garden tours will be put in place, we will let you know closer to the date.



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Trivia: This month it's all about the alcohol, which seems fitting!!

1. In pear brandy how does the pear get inside the bottle? (Thank you, Cathy B., for this one!) and yes there really is a whole pear inside the bottle!
2. What is the most widely planted grape in the world?
3. On average, how much wine does one acre of grapevines produce?
4. Sloe gin isn't gin at all, it's a liqueur made with berries from what bush?
5. Hops always twist in a clockwise direction. True or False?



Seeds vs. Transplants the Next Step

Gardening is all about trial and error, and it really doesn't matter if it didn't work out the first time because every garden is different and sometimes plants defy all odds. If you've decided to try your hand at growing from seed good for you! We have the time now why not! Here are some more tips for success!!



There are many products that can make it easier like, grow kits, plug cells, however very tiny seeds are better in flat trays and transplanted to cells when they are bigger. The soil you use is very important too. Regular potting soil is not fine enough for many seeds roots to easily penetrate and does not allow oxygen flow, it still works but not as well as one designed for seed starting, Miracle-gro offers a Seed Starting Potting Soil for \$7.49, which is specially balanced to help give germinating seeds strong roots.

Watering is also important, light gentle watering is better, doesn't pack down the soil, misting from a spray bottle does the job but is a lot of work. Trays that have a water reservoir allow the water to draw up from the bottom, but the top can dry out if you're not careful. Here is a terrific little product for inside watering of plants and seedlings from [Lee Valley](#) - Bottle-top Waterers. A set of 4 costs \$7.95 with 3 different size of holes. The finer holes are perfect for gently watering those seedlings and not disturbing the soil. Simply screw this cap on a 710 ml or larger pop bottle (water bottles won't work) and voila! Your plants can have a gentle shower! PS surprisingly they are made in the UK!



Moisture is very important in the growth and germination process as well as hours of light. Grow lights are great but expensive you can achieve the same result using an old desk lamp and grow light bulb. This [desk lamp how to](#) video from Urban Leaf, explains the difference between regular lights to grow lights, the distance needed and making your own.



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Now you don't have to start them in a container you can still have lots of success putting them straight into the garden. Here is a chart for planting based on frost-free date of May 24 - Last Frost	Start Seeds - Vegetables and Flowers
10 weeks to last frost (approx. Mar 15)	Celery, eggplant, leeks, onion, pepper and flowers like Impatiens, lobelia, verbena and perennials indoors.
8 weeks, (Approx. Mar 29)	Early head lettuce and flowers like Begonia, coleus, nicotiana, petunia, salvia indoors.
7 weeks, (Approx. April 5)	Tomatoes, hot peppers & early basil indoors.
6 weeks, (Approx. Apr 12)	Early leaf lettuce, early cabbages, cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, kale and small seed annuals indoors. DIRECT SEED: Broad beans, carrots, peas, spinach, leaf lettuce, turnips, dill, parsley and hardy flowers, alyssum, candytuft, pansies, poppies, snapdragons, stocks, sunflowers, sweet peas. Transplant onion seedlings outdoors.
4 weeks, (Approx. Apr 26)	Start melons seeds indoors. If desired, start seeds of late basil, cucumber, squash, pumpkin, large-seeded annuals and flowering vines indoors in peat pots. DIRECT SEED radishes, beets, cabbage, chard, head lettuce and flowers like godetia, hollyhock, mallow. Transplant early cabbages & potato eyes
2 weeks, (Approx. May 10)	DIRECT SEED corn, tender bulbs such as gladiolus , and annual vines such as morning glory. Transplant early lettuce seedlings.
Weeks of Last Frost (May 17-24)	Around the last frost date, you can finally direct seed beans, cauliflower, cucumbers, squashes, heat-loving flowers such as zinnias, marigolds and lavatera. Transplant your tomatoes, cauliflower, squash and cucumber seedlings if you've got them.
1-2 weeks after frost (Approx. May 31- June 7)	Wait for a couple of weeks after the last frost before direct seedling lima beans, soybeans, melons, and herbs such as basil, summer savory, and sweet marjoram. Transplant celery, melon, peppers, eggplant seedlings when the night temp stays well above 10°C. Plant sweet potato slips. Start second crop of kale seedlings and reseed spinach and peas for a second crop.

If you haven't checked out [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#) link, then you should for more detailed information on planting in cells and when to transplant.



To Prune or Not to Prune that is the Question?

By Tracey Kenning

Pruning can be scary, but it needs to be done to maintain shape, size, improve the plant's general appearance and remove dead or diseased branches. There are various methods and types of pruning for different types of plants for example root pruning, evergreen pruning, hedge pruning and so on. In this article, I'll be concentrating on deciduous shrubs as this is the most common pruning I'm asked about. Before you begin to prune it's important to understand what you want to accomplish. A good pruning project will remove branches without changing the plant's natural appearance and increase the production of new wood which in turn, on flowering shrubs, will increase flowering. So, take a step back and take a good look at your plant. Remember that a shrub trimmed to an unnatural shape requires more pruning than one with a natural shape.

1. When to Prune, as a general rule:

- Plants that flower in the spring before June 1st bloom on the previous year's growth, so prune these soon after flowering so they have the rest of the year to produce new growth for flowers the following spring.
- Plants that flower after June 1st bloom on new wood. These plants are best pruned when dormant (before the leaf buds open) in late winter or early spring.
- Some shrubs like yellow or red twig dogwoods are grown more for their coloured bark, for these, the best colour is produced on young stems so hard pruning in late spring to the base of the plant will produce the best colour.

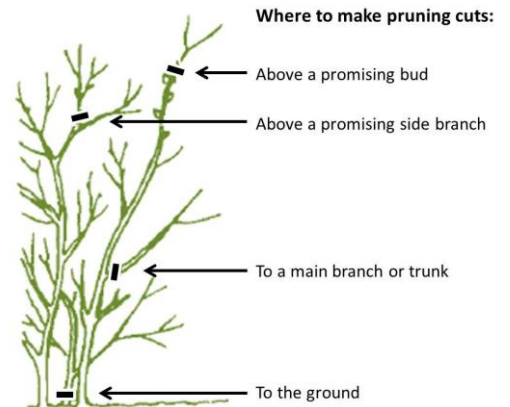
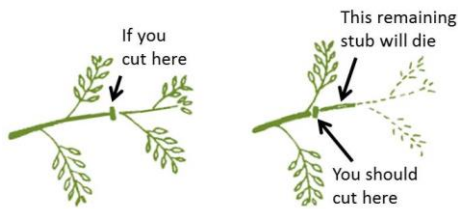
Where to Prune, remove problematic branches first then completely remove the following:

- Dead branches: Live and dead branches can be differentiated even during dormancy. Live branches tend to be more flexible, have a green layer just below the bark, and their buds are green inside. If you are not sure the branch is dead scrape a small spot on the branch with a fingernail if it's green, it's alive.
- Branches that cross or rub against others or are diseased.
- Branches that are growing toward the center of the plant
- Suckers: These unwanted shoots grow directly from the roots and appear near the base of the shrub they are usually very straight.

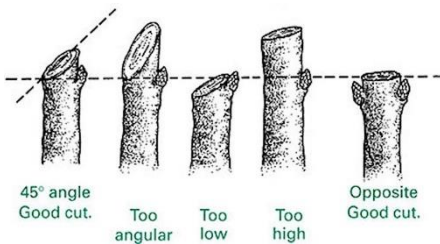
Tip: Do not prune in late summer or fall. This promotes tender new growth that may not survive the winter.



2. **Know Where to Cut:** Always prune back to or just above a growing point (branch or bud) or to the soil line. Never leave a stem or branch stub.

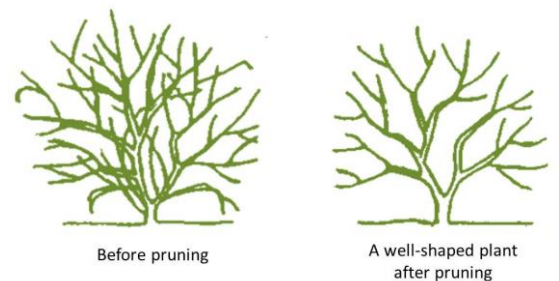


Never top a tree to “rejuvenate” growth. This ruins the plant’s natural shape and greatly increases its susceptibility to diseases, insect pests, and storm damage.



3. Thin Out Dense Growth.

Ideally, a shrub maintains healthy leaves both interiorly as well as exteriorly. However, overly dense exterior growth prevents light from reaching the centre of the plant resulting in a dense outer shell and a dead interior. This is particularly common in shrubs that are sheared. It can also prevent adequate moisture from reaching the roots directly below the plant or moisture accumulating on the outside foliage due to poor airflow and open to possible diseases like mildew. By thinning out dense growth, you can improve light, rain, and air penetration to improve your plant’s overall health.



Words of Wisdom – Remember “SHOW NO FEAR” these are plants, the worst you can do is cut off the next year or twos blooms or in very seldom cases kill the plant. Gardeners learn from experience you’ll know better next time, have fun and enjoy!!!








Pruning Tools

by Tracey Kenning

Some of the tools required to do a good pruning job depending on your project size. I'm sure we have all been guilty of trying to use secateurs when lopping shears are required, I know I have!

Here is all you need to know about the various pruning tools, which you can find at most garden centers or hardware stores. When purchasing get one that feels comfortable and easy to use for you. Talk to the garden center or other gardeners on what they recommend, some work better than others and remember cheaper isn't always better! (this info by Darielle)

	<p>Hand Pruners/ Secateurs – These are best for cutting small stems. Bypass models have blades that work like scissors to make a clean cut. Anvil pruners push through the plant to a flat edge. Use them on branches up to ½ inch thick. Don't wrestle blades through a big branch you will damage tool and plant.</p>
	<p>Pruning Saws – are great tools for working through larger branches. Most cut on the pull stroke which allows you to put some body strength into the cut. Use on 1 – 10" diameter branches.</p>
	<p>Hedge Shears – you can cut many stems at once, but the prune indiscriminately so don't use them for precision pruning. Use them on branches up to ¼" thick or less, mainly to create a formal-looking hedge.</p>
	<p>Loppers – are stronger than hand pruners but less work than a pruning saw. The longer the handles, the more leverage you have to cut larger branches. Use on ½ to 1 ½ "thick branches.</p>
	<p>Pole Pruners – help extend your reach to make pruning trees easier. They operate like regular saws and loppers except you pull a rope lever. Use them to prune branches of trees or shrubs that you can't reach with other tools.</p>



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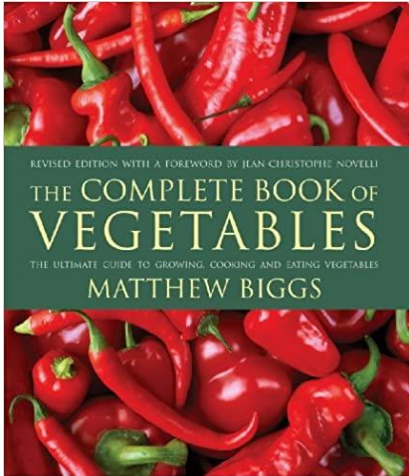
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One final tip! It is important to keep your tools clean to prevent the spread of disease. A quick and inexpensive solution I use is a mixture of bleach and water with a ratio of 1:9. Tools can simply be wiped sprayed or dipped in this solution between cuts.



Book

A great book for vegetable growing, *The Complete Book of Vegetables*, by Matthew Biggs.

It is very comprehensive. An A-Z encyclopedic guide (however not alphabetic) with detailed notes on the properties of each vegetable listing; varieties, history, cultivation, propagation, growing, maintenance, protected cropping, harvesting, storing, pests, diseases, then on to companion planting, container growing, medicinal and culinary with recipes thrown in from celebrated chef Jean-Christophe Novelli and hundreds of color photographs. The pages are well laid out and easy to read. It has all the varieties you know with some unusual, rare and exotic. [Amazon](#) sells it for \$27.30; [Indigo/Chapters](#) for \$29.95.

PS: If you have a topic or anything you would like to know or see in this newsletter please let us know and we will endeavor to include it! Keep Calm and Garden on!

Trivia Answers:

1. Its grown inside. When the fruit is small the bottle is affixed to the tree branch, and the pear grows to maturity inside the bottle.
2. Cabernet Sauvignon, with more than 700,00 acres worldwide.
3. About 800 gallons of wine.
4. Blackthorn bush berries. They are also used for wine making and preserves.
5. Yup, even if you mess with them, they will still unwind and go back to clockwise position.



*** From now till August we will have a question related to hops so when you take the tour in August, we will have a quiz and whoever gets them all right they might win something!!! (probably not a beer, sorry)
