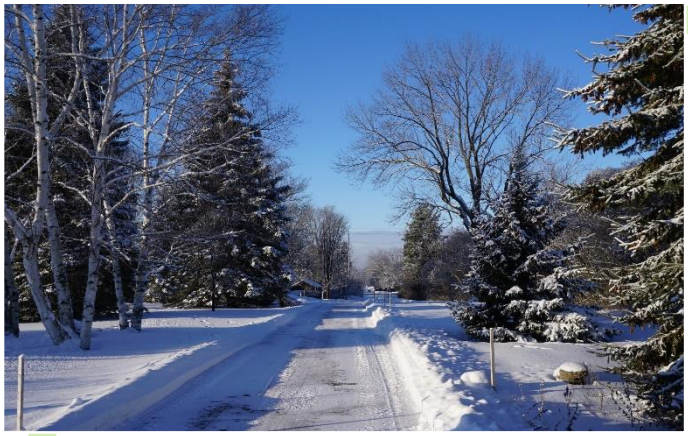

Inside MGOI

Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Happy New Year!

Welcome to the January edition of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc. (MGOI) Newsletter, and our third year of publication. Our focus is on you, Master Gardeners! This is your vehicle for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 31 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, new group projects, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and activities of our groups and our members. And pictures – please feel free to submit pictures!

Contributions to future editions of 'Inside MGOI' may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, newsletter@mgoi.ca.

MGOI Board Members:

President:	Claudette Sims, Halton
Vice President:	vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Terri Briggs, Lake Simcoe South
Treasurer:	Cathy Thompson, Prince Edward Cty
Director of Communications:	Kelly Noel, Ottawa-Carleton
Director of Education:	June Streadwick, Niagara
Director of Events:	vacant
Director of Membership:	Pam Love, Durham Region
Director of Operations:	Suzanne Zacharczyk, Etobicoke
Director of Relationship & Partnerships:	vacant
Director of Revenue Development:	vacant
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Director of East Region:	Sue Flinders-Adams, Peterborough
Director of North Region:	Kathleen Gorsline, Lake Simcoe South
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Co-Director of South & West Region:	Karen Sciuk, Kitchener

Committee Members

Recording Secretary/Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Kitchener
Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke newsletter@mgoi.ca
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
Facebook: Linda Hugli, Sudbury
MG Advice Clinic Manager for Canada Blooms: Christine Spence, Etobicoke
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Adrienne Hanbidge, Toronto

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INSIDE MGOI
Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.

January 2018

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Milestones

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved
Ren Duinker

Ren Duinker (right) with her mentor, Barb Stock
Photo: Linda Melady.

Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary
Mary Reid

New Master Gardener in Training
Sheila Currie

Stratford Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary
Janice Maciver

15 Year Anniversary
Penny Keegan
Don Farwell Co-ordinator
Jim Fitzgerald – Jim is marking his 10th year as Coordinator

5 Year Anniversary
Lesley Glover

New Master Gardeners in Training
Karen Potter
Nancy Burnett

Stratford Cont'd

Of Interest:
Anna Peterson & Dorothy Elliott, charter members since 1986, have been nominated by MGOI for Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary
Ron Rossini

Rhonda Persichilli, Coordinator presents Ron with his 15 year badge

10 Year Anniversary
Agnes Burroughs

Rhonda, left, presents Agnes with her 10 year badge

Lanark County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training
Wendy Coombs
Heather Phaneuf
Jo-Anne MacDonald

Ontario Volunteer Service Award Nominees

by Claudette Sims, President MGOI

Master Gardener Groups were asked to submit names to the Board of Directors recognizing dedicated Master Gardeners who have made a significant contribution to our MGOI organization. We received 8 names but we could only choose 6 people to be nominees. What a difficult decision! We were given glowing testimonials about the candidates and in the end it was hard to ignore a lifetime of service (20 to 30+ years!) to MGs and their communities. We also wanted to recognize those members who step up to take on roles on the Board of Directors and provincial volunteer work.

Here are the Board of Directors nominees for 2018:

- Anja Lowrance (Simcoe County), Provincial Administrator for pins, badges etc., Registrar for the Coordinators' Conference, Administrator for the Awards of Excellence.
  - What her group had to say: deep critical thinker, whole hearted & enthusiastic participant; focused, efficient, task oriented.

Anja Lowrance

- Maryanne Weiler (Kitchener), 30+ years of service to MGs and the community.
  - What her group had to say: frequent speaker (100 + presentations); instrumental in forming Kitchener MGs in 1987.

- Shirley Daniels (Mississauga), 20 years of service, originating member of her group, mentor and valued volunteer.
  - What her group had to say: great mentor of future group leaders; facilitates group harmony.

- Anna Peterson (Stratford), 32 years of service, Charter member since 1986, served on the Board of Directors.
  - What her group had to say: outstanding and hard-working member; facilitates communication within the gardening community.

- Dorothy Elliott (Stratford), 32 years of service, Charter member since 1986.
  - What her group had to say: outstanding and hard working member; expert at plant identification which has been very useful at all Stratford Garden Festivals. Dorothy doesn't have email or even a computer, so does all her plant ID work using books!

Dorothy Elliot, right, with Anna Peterson

- Verna Beckenhauer (Grey County), 21 years of service, founding member (1996); valued and active volunteer.
  - What her group had to say: especially strong in activities involving children, early advocate of chemical free gardening.

Verna Beckenhauer

The viability of our organization depends on these outstanding members who volunteer in their communities, and especially to those who contribute to all groups by working on or with the Board of Directors.

All nominees will receive an invitation from the *Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat* to attend a ceremony in their community. During the ceremony, nominees are presented with a lapel pin for years of service and a certificate in recognition of their volunteer commitment and dedication.

Our sincere congratulations to these 6 worthy nominees as well as the other members whose names were put forward. You are an inspiration to us all!

If you haven't visited the MGOI website in awhile you're in for a surprise!

by Claudette Sims, President MGOI

Resources

The **Resources** tab on the public side of the website has been populated with useful links for both Master Gardeners and the public. Links are now organized by topic to help you research a garden question or copy and paste a link to send to someone requesting a reliable website. Look for information about **Plant Care**, **Gardens for Pollinators & Birds**, **Plant Identification & Plant Lists**, **Native Plants**, **Trees** and much, much more. Two of my favourite links are **Credit Valley Conservation** and the **Missouri Botanical Gardens Plant Finder** (under **General**).

Become a Master Gardener

When our webmaster Jim Cook heard rumblings that growing our membership was our priority, he took the initiative and added a "Become a Master Gardener" tab on the public side of the website. He also reviewed a number of our MG group websites and sent me links to the ones he thought were exceptional. So you might see phrases or ideas on the new tab "borrowed" from your local group! All groups are encouraged to add information about how to become a Master Gardener on their group website to attract new members. Feel free to "borrow" any of our ideas or link directly to the MGOI Become a Master Gardener tab. You can also link to our **Frequently Asked Questions About Master Gardeners** **on your group website.**

About Us

I just revisited the **About Us** tab and even I was surprised! Jim has totally redone this tab and added a very cool movable timeline! This is a must read for all Master Gardeners as it really helps to understand who we are and how we came to be.

Awards

In 2015, the Board started the practice of nominating members for the **Ontario Volunteer Service Awards**. This year, Regional Directors asked groups to send in names of dedicated Master Gardeners who have made a significant contribution to our MGOI organization. You can see the 2018 nominees as well as past nominees on the **Awards** tab. Did you know that groups can also nominate up to 6 members on their own? Volunteers can only be nominated every five years, whether at the Board or group level. It's really inspiring to be part of this wonderful celebration of volunteerism in Ontario.

Education

The **Education** tab has been completely redesigned and organized under headings. We hope this will make information more accessible to all members. Are you planning on taking the Certification exam? Then check out the **Requirements for Certification Exam (Basic Knowledge)** file. It has tips on how to take an exam, study topics, plant lists, pests and diseases as well as sample questions for practice. You can also consult the **Education page** in the public area of our website for additional information about Education.

CEU Information

If you were at the Coordinators' conference in October, you may have heard us mention that we were putting together information on alternative ways of achieving CEUs. This is especially important for geographically remote groups who don't have easy access to Tech Updates, but it will help all our members. Look for information about quality digital resources such as movies, TED talks, webinars and courses (free and for a fee) on this tab. Some resources such as TED talks and videos could also be used as the Education portion of your meeting, giving you inexpensive and good quality options.

The Board of Directors negotiated a special price and purchased 4 copies of the movie **Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees**, narrated by Ontarian **Diana Beresford-Kroeger**. Contact your Regional Director to borrow a free copy of this DVD – it also has a 2nd disk with amazing extras. Return postage is the responsibility of the individual or group. If you have an excellent digital or Internet resource to recommend, **let us know** and we'll add it to our list of resources.

Coordinators' Corner & Coordinator Conference & AGM

All the information and presentations from the Coordinators' Conference have been posted on these two tabs. The 2018 AGM and Coordinators' Conference will be held on October 13 at Landscape Ontario in Milton.

Annual Review/Documents

Coordinators: We are trying something different this year for the Annual Review and we're keeping our fingers crossed that it makes your job and ours easier. Groups will send information in two ways. Coordinators (or designate) will start with the usual online form and when member numbers are confirmed by Kelly Noel, our database manager, she will send a SurveyMonkey link through which you can submit the data and narrative section of the report. The survey information will be automatically tallied and rendered into a usable form for the Annual Report. This will save countless volunteer hours copying and pasting the information manually. Your **Director of Operations Suzanne Zacharczyk** has worked hard trying out this system and ensuring that it runs seamlessly.

Thanks Jim Cook!

A dynamic website full of great content is key for an organization to survive in today's digital world. Although many people help to make our website great, our talented webmaster, a.k.a. "Yoda", turns words into reality. He is a joy to work with and I don't know what we'd do without him! Let me finish with this data Jim generated about "unique" visitors to our website. A "unique" visitor is identified by an IP address, so that the same person isn't counted for multiple visits. Check out the 484% increase in June - we think it's because of interest in our national wildflower initiative. The increase in website traffic over the entire year is quite amazing!

Website Comparison of Unique Visits by Year (to Oct 2017)

Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change 16/17
Jan	1515	2033	1830	6967	281%
Feb	1647	1609	2075	8236	297%
Mar	1863	1990	2277	9626	323%
Apr	1908	2100	2818	6811	142%
May	1756	2048	2615	8787	236%
Jun	1581	1880	2236	13049	484%
Jul	1705	1664	1935	7908	309%
Aug	1414	1709	3048	8088	165%
Sep	1703	1636	2652	6157	132%
Oct	1750	1617	2741	4886	78%
Nov	1468	1451	3192	0	
Dec	1423	1444	3834	0	
TOTAL	19733	21181	31253	80515	

Master Gardeners Out & About:
Projects & Events

Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

Name: Christmas Potluck
Details: Members of the Ottawa-Carleton MGs gathered at the home of Anna Sipos to enjoy great food and conversation. At Anna's suggestion, members brought items to support Chrysalis House, Ottawa, a 25-bed shelter for women and their dependents – keeping them safe from violence and abuse. A portion of the many donated items is pictured below.

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Retirement of Marlene Phillips
Date: December 9, 2017
Details: Marlene has one of those smiles that light up a room. She was always the first one with an encouraging word or an offer of help. Always there at the Plant Sale, the Garden Show, or anywhere we were on hand, quietly listening and offering any advice that was needed.

Marlene Phillips, right, with Maxine Thompson

Marlene joined the Quinte-Tweed group in 2007 and then, when that group disbanded, we were lucky enough to have her come into our group in 2015. Marlene was a huge asset to our group, and we are sorry to lose her. We were all delighted to have a chance to celebrate her years as a Master Gardener.

Front (left to right) Barb Stock, Marlene Phillips, Maxine Thompson, Marianne Malachowski, Alex Wiens, Sandy Goranson, Joyce Young
Back row: Ren Duinker, Linda Melady, Steve Storms, Susan Warrack, Virginia Mitchell, Susan Thompson

Name: Moving Homes & Gardens
by Cathy Thompson

In mid-October, my husband and I moved back to Prince Edward County from the Niagara Region. I moved to Niagara to learn more about gardening by attending Niagara College's Horticultural Technician program, something I wanted to do for myself. My husband stayed in Prince Edward County and adored and supported (his words!) me from afar. Well, he travelled almost every weekend from the County to Niagara to visit with me, so he had 2 homes for a few years.

I learned about Master Gardeners when attending a Canada Blooms show during that time. Once I finished at the College, I joined the Master Gardeners of Niagara as a Master Gardener in Training. The Niagara group is larger than I had expected with about 40 members, and is very active. I met some interesting people by attending their meetings and learned more about gardening and the Niagara community.

We bought a house in Fonthill and set about making it comfortable and potentially our retirement home. The garden was smaller than what we had in Prince Edward County but, as we age, they tell us smaller is better. The soil was a fine mix of sand and gravel with a thin layer of topsoil covering it, great for drainage but needing organic matter! We added gardens at the front of the house but just could not decide what to do with the backyard. In the end, we decided suburban life was not for us and decided to return to our 4 acres in the County.

Gardening in Niagara is a much more common activity than in the County area. I think the warmer, more humid climate, the fact that there is more soil than limestone, and the general horticultural aspect of the Region with fruit trees and wineries encourages more people to garden. The selection of plants that thrive in the Region is also more extensive than in the County.

So now I have attended my first meeting with the Prince Edward County Master Gardeners. I received a warm welcome from the group here and am looking forward to getting involved in the group's activities. We are a smaller group than Niagara but no less enthusiastic.

Our garden here is a challenge in that we have so much property, we hardly know where to begin. Our soil is clay-like and there are several areas that take a very long time to dry-out in spring or in wet summers. We're beginning to look at the native plants in the area to take our cue from them for designing the gardens. We're visiting local garden centres and their on-line catalogues, and will be talking to my fellow Master Gardeners for advice. Being a MGiT, I know that the knowledge held by the members of the group is vast, and they are more than willing to share that knowledge with others. I'll learn from them and, while I'm helping other gardeners in the community through Master Gardener activities, I will be learning from others as well.

Stratford Master Gardeners

Name: New Education Program – Anu MacIntosh-Murray, Chair
Details: With Anu as chair, a newly formed Education Committee is putting together an ambitious plan to offer more education for the general public, MGs & MGITs. Watch for details!

Thunder Bay Master Gardeners

Name: Donation to the Underground Gym
Details: To honour our late gardening friend, MG Janet McKay, our group made a donation of $250 to the Underground Gym in Thunder Bay. This club offers fitness, structure and support to children and youth in our community. Janet spent many hours at the gym establishing a community garden and teaching the kids how to care for it.

With MGs Hazel Baxter, Holly Rupert (in the white sweater), Tracy Rowe and Gwen Third (photographer) are Janet's husband Bill (far left) and Janet's daughter and son-in-law. The cheque was received by the gym director Peter Panetta (left of Holly) and some of the children.

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Technical Update 2018 - Another Sold-Out Event!
Details: Do you know the origins of the potato, carrot or onion? Toronto comedian Dena Jackson, MC for the Toronto Master Gardeners' Technical Update (TU) on January 13th, 2018, provided a light-hearted look at those edibles and more.

Always a popular speaker, Conrad Richter, Richter's Herbs, took us through his experiences growing and collecting seeds of his favourite exotic herbs and veggies. He presented interesting edibles from his travels in Africa, used for both food and medicine, some of which he has grown in his Ontario garden.

A surprise video appearance from writer and year-round veggie gardener, Niki Jabbour, started the afternoon. Her personal story of growing Lebanese crops for an overseas visiting family will hopefully provide the impetus for our TU attendees to reach past their comfort zone and try new edibles in 2018.

Viliam Zvalo, Vineland Station Researcher, took us into the scientific zone of trials with assorted veggies, including Okra and Eggplant. Understanding the limitations and adaptations of specific crops for food production will enable our researchers to move forward with better hybrids. Very interesting information!

Horticulturist and writer, Ken Brown, showed us his tried and true methods for growing backyard edibles using sub-irrigation containers. In his characteristically humorous manner, Ken had us entertained with the ups and downs of his personal attempts to grow unusual, not-your-average run-of-the-mill veggies.

from L-R: Lorraine Hunter, Dena Jackson, Veronica Sliva, Ken Brown, TMG MGiT Claudia Buchanan, Viliam Zvalo, Yang Qu, Conrad Richter, Aku Richter

Toronto Master Gardeners wish to thank everyone who attended for their support again this year. Our sold-out event was a huge success! Thank you to the Technical Update Committee headed by Gwen Rattle, Program Committee - Lorraine Hunter, Prize Committee - Josée Couture and Food Committee - Marjorie Lenz, all sponsors and donors including the Toronto Botanical Garden.

See you in 2019!

Full House!

Ticket Sellers for Donated Prizes

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: GTA Home & Reno Show at the International Centre
Location: 6900 Airport Rd. in Mississauga
Date: February 16th – 19th, 2018

N.B. We need volunteers for both the advice clinic and the children's garden. The time slots will run from 11AM to 1:30PM and 1:30PM to 4PM for the four days.

Details: The Mississauga Master Gardeners have been asked to participate in the GTA Home & Reno Show as part of Family Day. A sectioned area called 'Little Green Thumb Children's Garden' will include crafts for children. The main attractions will be making a craft using pine cones, growing a grass head, growing a bean plant, making a paper pot, planting seeds and more. Included will be a display table showing children how plants grow.

An advice clinic will be provided. Consider doing your volunteer hours and having fun at the same time. This event is being organized by Shirley Daniels and Michelle Wilson.
If you are interested, please email Michelle Wilson at mmg_michelle@rogers.com. A signup spreadsheet will be circulated in the near future.

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday In London Ontario
Date: March 3rd, 2018
Details: Come to Learn and Shop! This event is known for its reputation of inspiring a passion for gardening each Spring! Great vendors and educational exhibits, talks through the day, and a seed swap to get you growing for the season!

Stratford Master Gardeners

Name: Stratford Garden Festival
Date: March 1st to 4th, 2018
Details: Meet & chat gardening with Stratford & Area MGs in their new booth at the 4-day show. For more information, please visit: http://lungontario.ca/you-can-help/events/find-local-event/stratford-garden-festival/

Etobicoke Master Gardeners & Humber Arboretum

Name: Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series – Growing Your Own Food & Microgardening
Date: Saturday, March 31, 2018, 10 a.m. – noon
Details: Hosted at the Centre for Urban Ecology, Humber Arboretum.
To register please visit: humberarb.eventbrite.ca

Peterborough Master Gardeners

Name: The 2018 (and 18th Incredible) Peterborough Garden Show

Date: Friday, April 13th (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.); Saturday, April 14th (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Sunday, April 15th (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
Location: The Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough, Ontario
Details: The Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners are thinking spring! Pretty excited to announce the dates!

ADMISSION: Still only $8/day
WEEKEND PASS: $12
Children under 12, with adult: Free
Website: http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com/
For more info email info@peterboroughgardenshow.com or check out our Garden Show webpage or Facebook !

Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Name: Children's Garden Award
Deadline for Entry: April 15th, 2018
Details: Working with the PEC Horticultural Society, we have now officially launched our Children's Garden Award which will be presented annually. We will be using the award to seek new members and promote Master Gardeners. The award is open to all children between the ages of 8 and 12 who live in Prince Edward County.

M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop - 2018

Dates: July 14th & 15th, 2018
Location: Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture
Details: The three sessions being offered this year are:

1. Four Season Vegetable Gardening

Instructor: Tanya Blankenburg
Instructor/Curator of Rose and Vegetable Gardens, Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

This workshop will be a hands-on day of learning vegetable propagation techniques and planning your garden to get the most out of all four seasons. It will include how to select vegetables and herbs that you will use in everyday cooking, along with proper harvesting methods to make them last longer.

2. Climate Change – The Horticultural Implications and Approaches to Success

Instructor: Darrell Bley
Instructor/Curator of Woody Plants, Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

This workshop will focus on the current climate changes that are underway in Ontario and Canada. Climate change promotes discussion about the impact to our native flora and fauna, and the impact on native flora and fauna promotes discussion about plant migration and assisted migration. Assisted plant migration promotes discussion related to seed collecting and seed storage (this will be the practical portion of the workshop). Climate change and its implications promotes discussion related to stewardship and the future.

3. Practical Insect ID – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Instructor: Kris J. Mahoney, PhD
Instructor/Curator of Integrated Pest Management, Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

Join Kris as we profile pollinators and beneficial insects (Good) and how to foster them, learn about some major pests (Bad) and phenological observations, and explore topics on invasive insects (Ugly) that should be on your radar.

The Summer Workshop is designed especially for Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training. **Participants must choose two of the three sessions offered.** The fee for this two-day workshop is $260.

If you would like to receive more information on the M.G.O.I. 2018 Summer Workshop, please contact June Streadwick at streadwick@sympatico.ca, telephone 905-934-6137, or Yvonne Causer at ycauser@hotmail.com, telephone 289-969-6587.

To access all the information about the summer workshops, go to the member login area of the MGOI website. Under the Workshop tab at the bottom of the page, you'll find all the forms and information that you need! If this information does not display correctly, try refreshing your computer by pressing once on the F5 key at the top of your computer.

- Registration Information (.pdf file. Important Information/Contacts)
- Accommodation Information (.pdf file. Booking Instructions Niagara College Residence)
- Registration Form (.doc form. M**ust be mailed in**)
- NPC Credit Card Authorization (.pdf form. M**ust be mailed in**)
- Waiver Form (.pdf form. M**ust be mailed in**)

COORDINATORS – MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!
2018 Coordinators' Conference

Date: October 13, 2018
Location: Landscape Ontario, Milton ON

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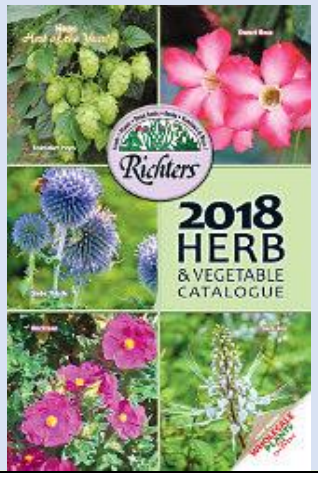
Richters Herbs

Location: 357 Highway 47, Goodwood, ON L0C 1A0; Tel. 1.905.640.6677 Fax. 1.905.640.6641
Details: Richters Herbs offers seminars at their greenhouse location throughout the year. For more information visit: https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=./events/events.html&cart_id=2154123.16186

Richters also offers free on-line seminars at: https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=events/events2016.html. The 2018 Richters catalogue, filled with culinary, medicinal, and aromatic herbs and seeds, is available.



Just because there's room and I like this picture ….. Pollinator on Heptacodium Kelly