

Master Gardeners of Ontario

What's growing on?



Join the email list and have the newsletter sent to you directly. Send an email to the editors, Dianne and Gary Westlake at editors@mgoi.ca with your name, email and group.

Winter, 2010

www.mgoi.ca



Beauty After the Ban

E. Falconer, Ottawa

At the Central Experimental Farm where I volunteer in the Rose Gardens, the pesticide ban has not required major changes. CEF has for some time been reluctant to apply chemical solutions.

Insect enemies have included cane borers, aphids and Japanese beetles. Pathogens of notoriety are blackspot, powdery mildew and rust. Weeds and many aggressive cultivars will compete for adequate moisture, soil nutrients and sun, if given the chance.

Several kinds of cane borers burrow down the centre of canes thus destroying plant circulation. They are hard to get at. The best approach is to remove affected parts and dab cuts with Elmer's glue. Watch for two major symptoms – swellings on the cane and yellowing on part of the bush. The sooner you act the better.

This spring we water-bombed aphids and allowed natural predators to assist us. Ladybird beetle larvae are not nearly as cute as the adults. Watch for these little black globs with orange markings and hold that spray lest you slaughter your allies. Even permissible sprays kill indiscriminately. Our roses

continued on page 2

Message From the President

James Lee, President

As we begin a new year I want to thank all Master Gardeners and Master Gardeners in Training for their ongoing support of our valuable programs and activities.

It has been a rich and rewarding year for MGOI, which has provided us with many opportunities to build connections and partnerships within the gardening community in order to expand and develop the resources that we need.

MGOI's Educational programs are strong and vibrant, and provide the necessary skills for our MGIT's to become Master Gardeners. Your Board continues to take initiatives to strengthen the capacity of your organization. It is with that in mind that I welcome Charlie Dobbin to your Board. Charlie will be a Director at Large and has agreed to chair MGOI's Education Committee.

Charlie Dobbin is a well-known horticulturist and landscape designer with professional gardening experience world-wide. During her 18 year career in retail, she gave many seminars and demonstrations, wrote and edited articles for newspaper and magazines, had her own radio show, and made guest appearances on over a hundred television programs. Charlie's extensive radio and television appearances brings another level of expertise to MGOI.

I, and the rest of your Board, look forward to working with Charlie .



James Lee

In this Issue

- Beauty After the Ban
- Pruning Roses
- Bmeritus/Emerita
- Links to Rose Information
- Roses for Cold Climates

Beauty After the Ban from page 1

recovered nicely from the spring onslaught of aphids.

Japanese beetles emerge in late June and begin to feed on foliage and blossoms, roses being a favorite entree. They eat, propagate energetically and go underground to lay eggs in preparation for the next emergence. They can do this more than once before winter sets in. In Japan they are controlled by naturally occurring milky white spore which is not hardy in our zone. Nematodes offer limited assistance but are expensive and tricky to apply, especially in large public gardens. Pheromones are definitely counter-productive! At CEF we have been handpicking beetles by the jarful. By midday you need to be quick!

With two hundred roses in the Heritage Garden and seventy-some in the Explorer Garden it's important to have an efficient weeding system. Two years ago we purchased several push-pull hoes with adjustable handles. We weed and cultivate at the same time. Time is saved and so are backs and knees. We discontinued the use of mulch because it interfered with our cleanups. It was a trade off. We have an underground watering system.

Strategies that include choosing resistant roses, researching their insect and disease enemies, and intelligently controlling environmental variables stack the odds in your favour. The Pickering Nursery website offers a lengthy list of disease-resistant roses. The internet is invaluable in the study of your foes. Healthy roses are more likely to withstand insect attacks and diseases. Therefore purchase them on their own roots if possible, plant them where they are zone-hardy and provide them with a steady supply of moisture, good air circulation, six or more hours of sun per day, regular fertilization and good garden hygiene. In our zone if

you buy grafted roses it is a good idea to plant the graft at least 4" below the surface and all roses need winter protection in the first two winters after their planting.

What I've learned about pruning in five years on "The Farm" deserves a separate article that would deal with the pruning needs of different types of roses and appropriate timing of cuts in our zone. Done correctly pruning, including deadheading, is another essential activity. At the very least regularly remove dead, diseased and damaged canes. These cuts can be the "kindest cuts of all". Roses respond well to tough love!

Pruning Roses

Georgie Kennedy, Lake Simcoe South

Soon it will be springtime! Gardeners, amateur and expert alike, will be thrilled with the prospect of new growth. Few flowers are more anticipated than the rose. The mysterious folds of soft petals and spicy aromas make *Rosa* a garden treasure. Most of us admire beautiful rose shrubs or climbers, but are intimidated when it comes to the proper way to shape and prune them. I regularly pass a house where the owner has tied a single leggy stem to the gas meter. That's a shrub? The poor plant doesn't stand a fighting chance. Just as a lush head of hair needs to be trimmed and shaped, so do our roses. We want them to be best of show, abundant and full.

Most pruning is done in the spring when the buds begin to swell. I read a suggestion from a rose grower: the blooming of forsythias can be taken as a signal for the pruning season to begin. Who knew?

Continued on Page 3

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Landscape Ontario Rep: Denis Flanagan – dflanagan@landscapeontario.com

Thanks to Cooperators Insurance for their continued financial support.

Pruning Roses continued from page 2

Certain fundamentals apply to pruning all roses. The goal is to produce an open-centered plant, allowing air and light to penetrate easily. Wear garden gloves to protect yourself from thorns.

- Use clean, sharp equipment.
- Cut at a 45-degree angle about 1/4 inch above an outward-facing bud. The cut should slant away from the bud.
- Remove dead or dying canes, those that are shriveled, dark brown, or black. Do not put them in your compost pile as they can harm your garden.
- Remove thin, weak canes smaller than a pencil in diameter, damaged and crossed canes.
- You may seal the ends of the cuts to prevent the entry of cane borers. White glue works well.
- If roses are grafted and there is sucker growth, remove it. Dig down to the root where the sucker originates and tear it off where it emerges. Cutting suckers off at surface level only encourages regrowth of several suckers where there once was one.

To prune your hybrid Tea Roses, cut older stems back to about five strong shoots, cutting parallel to the ground, not at an angle, 8 to 10 inches from the ground. The first pruning of the year will seem harsh but will give the plant a chance to regain its strength and return to its former height. Shrub and species roses can be cut a little higher, at various heights for interest and strength (between 1 and 3 feet). A dear friend taught me this concept: think of a vase shape and keep the centre free of crossing stems, permitting new growth to go outward, not inward. Keep on the lookout for wayward canes in the summer.

continued on page 5

**Mystery Plant**

One of our MGs found this growing among her Sedums. Do you know what it is? You can see a larger version of this photo on our web site.

At about the same time, Ardele Brooks, Eloise Rodger, Diane Vaughan guessed correctly that the mystery plant last issue was *Uvularia*.

MGs in Action*Etobicoke*

2009 marked the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's book: "The Origin of the Species". In November, Professor Spencer Barrett who holds a Chair at the University of Toronto in Evolutionary Genetics spoke on "Darwin and Flora". Other M.G. groups in the zone to attended.

LSSMG

In September, we hosted a Family Night featuring guest speaker Paul Zammit, of the Toronto Botanical Gardens. We had great attendance and raised about \$400 from a raffle and tickets.

In October, several Toronto MGs to gave presentations on orchids, propagation by layering, and community gardens.

Lanark

In October, the Tri-Valley Conservation area held a Gala to present a major conservation award. Lanark County Master Gardeners had provided significant consulting assistance to the two finalists. Ankaret Dean consulted with the design, development and implementation of the MacDonald's Corners Recycling Programme and Dale Odorizzi worked for the past 3 years with the Rideau Valley Field Naturalists Butterfly Garden. Ankaret and her group won the first prize. Congratulations!

Each year Lanark County Master Gardeners have a fun project, "just for us". This year, we grew dried beans and the beans were the featured star at our year-end Pot luck. One member even brought beans from Italy for us to grow. We had Baked Beans, Chilli, Moroccan Stew and even Brownies made with dried beans. Fortunately, not everyone grew beans so we also had salads, breads and desserts. We also all brought greenery, seeds and cones and created Christmas centerpieces and wreaths. Visit our new website www.lanarkmastergardeners.mgoi.ca for photos of our event.

Toronto

Because of the increasing demand for presentations from our group, we are offering a series of three training sessions in March and April. Topics include Developing the Story line, Power Point and Presentation Skills. Toronto recently hosted another successful Technical Update with a focus on trees.

Roses on the Web

Societies, Nurseries and Breeders

[Canadian Rose Society](#)

[Rose Related Site List](#)

[Rose Database](#)

[Pickering Nurseries](#)

[Hortico Nurseries](#)

[Enderlein Nurseries](#)

[Palatine Nurseries](#)

[University of Illinois Rose Garden](#)

[The story of William Radler, the breeder of the disease resistant Knockout series of roses](#)

[Rose Links](#)

Videos (highspeed recommended)

[Virtual Tour of RBG rose garden](#)

[Virtual Tour of Niagara Parks rose garden](#)

[Video on Pruning Roses from Butchart Gardens](#)

[RHS advice on roses](#)

[Alan Titmarsh advice video on pruning roses](#)

Another Interesting Video

On the MG-List, Lynne Marie Sullivan of LSSMG suggests we watch [this one on Permaculture](#).



Ann Ironside congratulates Mary Beverley-Burton on becoming Emerita and her 15 year service.

Thanks for Years of Service to MGOI

We have decided to give a new badge for 20 years service now that some of our MGs are reaching that milestone.

Landscape Ontario Supports Master Gardeners

Landscape Ontario has continued to be a major supporter of Ontario Master Gardeners. MGs (but NOT MGITs) can take LO seminars and courses for member prices.

Events

February 13 and 14 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 30th – Annual Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden
www.soos.ca/index.htm

February 20 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Get the Jump on Spring at Toronto Botanical Garden.

March 17 – 21 – Canada Blooms at the Direct Energy Centre, Halls A & B, www.canadablooms.com

March 13 at Siloam United Church 1240 Fanshawe Park Road East, London. London Middlesex Master Gardeners 'Come Grow with Us - Seedy Saturday'. For more information contact Jennifer Grant at jgrantplants@sympatico.ca or Nancy Abra at aabra@gtm.net

March 18 – 21 – Successful Gardening Show at the International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Toronto. www.successfulgardeningshow.ca

April 9 - 11 - Peterborough Garden Show at Evinrude Centre - www.peterboroughgardens.ca

April 10 at 10:00 a.m. 'Plant Pollinators' at Knox Presbyterian Church, 55 Hincks Street, St. Thomas. Door prizes and Plant Auction. Bring a bag lunch. Refreshments will be provided. Tickets \$5.00. For information, contact Helen (519) 773-9621, Diane (519) 633-3213 or Richard (519) 633-3939.

April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Algonquin Theatre in Huntsville – Muskoka Parry Sound Master Gardeners annual fundraiser. Speaker is Paul Zammit – "Annuals and Perennials Worth the Hunt". Tickets are \$15.00

May 2 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Toronto Botanical Garden, Hardy Plant Sale sponsored by Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society. www.onrockgarden.com

July 17 - 18 - Summer Workshop. Niagara School of Horticulture.

Pruning Roses continued from page 3

Climbers: cut dead canes and those that have bloomed recently at ground level. Allow three to five strong canes to remain, pruning non-branching canes of their top few inches. In the fall, prune back to a healthy bud any branches that have flowered by about one-third of their length.

In the summer, all roses except Rugosa and other hip-producing roses need dead-heading, the removal of faded flowers before they can develop seed. Cut the flower stem back to an outward-facing bud above a five-leaflet or seven-leaflet leaf.

Roses for Cold Climates

Beryl Harris, Peterborough

The rose is considered the Queen of all the flowers, also the most cherished of plants down through the ages. Hybrid teas and the floribundas are amongst the best known, especially the "teas", but they are the prima donnas of the rose world and require a great deal of care and attention, if grown in our areas they must have winter protection....

This article was previously published in the Peterborough Examiner. The rest of the article along with many other useful articles written by Master Gardeners can be found on our [website](#).

Milestones

New MGITs

Haliburton – Sue Flinders-Adams

North Bay – Carol Walker

Peterborough – Jen Bird, Cathy Hooper, Cauleen Viscoff

Certification Exam (successfully completed)

Etobicoke – Anna Arabczuk, Lillian Brown, Marcia Barron, Anne Grgic, Karen Klar, Bev Sutton

New MGs

Haliburton – Liz Lilley-Case (certification exam)

Halton – Jess Cronin, Claudette Sims (certification exam)

5 Years

Halton – Joyce Killin, Maureen Millar, John Renaud, Claudette Sims

10 Years

Ottawa-Carleton – Bob Duff, Edythe Falconer

Thunder Bay – Wyoma Fauconnier, Donna Russell, Gordon Ward

Summer Workshop Planned

A summer workshop will be held this year July 17, 18 at Niagara School of Horticulture. Subjects include pruning trees and shrubs, plant identification, culture, use and pests. Stay tuned for updates.

Coordinators' Conference

Edythe Falconer and her committee organized another great day filled with activities, opportunities to renew connections and delicious food. Discussion topics included Sustainability for MGOI, The Pesticide Ban and Garden Ethics. Belinda Gallagher's talk was "Is Horticulture Dead?" The silent auction provides funds for the 2010 conference. The Cameos gave us all a better sense of the other groups across Ontario, what they are doing.



Belinda Gallagher

Our thanks go out to Edythe, who has decided to take a well deserved break from this activity in 2010. The conference will be held on October 2, 2010. Many people donated gifts for the silent auction in 2009. A list of the donors can be found on our [website](#).

15 Years

Halton – David Marshall, Sharon Paradis

Thunder Bay – Harriet Hansen, Ann Roddy

Emerita

LSSMG – Judith Rodgers

Peterborough – Linda Fierheller

New Coordinators

North Bay – Pam Hansen

Thunder Bay – Susan Jaward

Congratulations

Halton – Gerry Cragg received a Hamilton Trillium Award, a bursary given to the Mohawk College student who achieved the highest overall average in the Plant Identification Certificate Programme and Landscape Design Certificate Programme.

London Middlesex – A special Volunteer Award was presented to Eve Norman-Vestergaard and Jennifer Grant in appreciation for their endless work and dedication to the Master Gardeners and to their community.