



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

Welcome to the September edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter.

The Newsletter aims to be the voice for Master Gardeners! This is your venue for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 28 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. *Inside MGOI* features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as webinars/conferences – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome! Contributions to future editions of *Inside MGOI* may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

#### **MGOI Board Members:**

President:	Karen Sciuk, Waterloo Region
Vice President:	Vacant
Corporate Secretary:	Lynda Bobinski, Thunder Bay
Treasurer:	Sheila Campbell, Algoma
Director of Communications:	Vacant
Director of Education:	Kate Sault, Halton
Director of Events:	Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region
Director of Membership:	Lois Johnson, Niagara
Director of Operations:	Dianne Wheler, Stratford
Director of Marketing & Partnerships:	Kathleen Gorsline, Lake Simcoe South
Director of Central Region:	Linda Gordon, Etobicoke
Director of East Region:	Anne Craig, Peterborough
Director of North Region:	Gail Cocker, Simcoe County
Director of South & West Region:	Lynne Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie

#### **Committee Members**

Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region  
Webmaster: Jim Cook [webmaster@mgoi.ca](mailto:webmaster@mgoi.ca)  
Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton [newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca)  
Database/Supplies: Kelly Noel, Ottawa [database@mgoi.ca](mailto:database@mgoi.ca), [supplies@mgoi.ca](mailto:supplies@mgoi.ca)  
Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton  
Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Vacant

#### **In This Issue**

- Master Gardeners
  - Milestones
  - MGOI Webinars / Private FB Group
  - Master Gardeners Out & About
  - Upcoming Events
  - CFIA: Oak Wilt Disease & Spotted Lantern Fly; Digital Toolkit; Seeds Alert
- MGOI
  - Upcoming Board Vacancies
  - Webmaster Wanted

#### **INSIDE MGOI**

**September 2024**

**Newsletter of the  
Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.**

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Kelly Woodwark

Kelly has gardens everywhere from the front to the back, and all along the sides of her property. There are mostly perennials and shrubs like hydrangeas, peonies, and roses. This year Kelly is taking advantage of the vertical space with 2 raised veggie beds.

A member of the St. Thomas Horticultural Society, she is enjoying their meetings, especially the one on roses. Flowers make Kelly happy, and gardening is definitely good for everyone's Mental Health.



### Peterborough Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardeners in Training

Carol Ireland

Mary-Kathleen Dunn

**Carol** is a recent retiree and has experience working at Richter's Herbs as well as Griffin's Greenhouse just outside Lakefield. She is also a member of the Peterborough Horticultural Society. Welcome Carol!

Currently working as a manager, **Mary-Kathleen** has a keen interest in permaculture, pollinator gardens, fruit trees and vegetable gardening. Welcome Mary-Kathleen!



### Mississauga Master Gardeners

#### 30 Year Anniversary

Mississauga Master Gardeners

The MMGs celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a luncheon at the Mandarin Restaurant on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful time seeing past members and enjoying each other's company: A dedicated and hard working group who care about their community, pollinators, plants and nature.



*Back Row from left: MJ Kucerak (Emeritus), Catherine Fleming, Stuart Plummer, Martha Kantorczyk, Diana Westland, Donna Hormozian*

*Front Row from left: Jeanne McRight (Emeritus), Emma Chow, Michelle Acosta, Maureen Neglia, Susan Quirk*

*Absent: Karolina Marques, Jennifer Beale, Mohan Iyers, Ramona Christiansen*

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Michelle Acosta

The Mississauga Master Gardeners (MMGs) welcome our newest member to our community. Michelle joined our team after learning more about gardening and what a Master Gardener is during the pandemic to help keep her mom active outdoors.



One of her goals is to complete the Horticultural Diploma at the University of Guelph in 2025.

At the same time, Michelle is completing her Master of Education at the University of Toronto. Michelle plans to one day share her gardening and horticultural knowledge through online educational content. The MMGs are excited and happy to have Michelle join us!



## Halton Master Gardeners

### Member Transfer

Krista Elvey

Warmest welcome to Master Gardener Krista Elvey who joins us from the Toronto group. Krista's passion for gardening originates from her involvement with community gardens while a student at university. At present she has a special interest in houseplants as she believes that everyone deserves access to nature, and the easiest place to have that is in your own home.



We look forward to getting to know you better Krista!



## Prince Edward County

### New Master Gardener in Training

Dale Smith



PEC Master Gardeners welcome Dale as our newest member, and he has already started his first course at Guelph.

Dale is an avid birder and photographer, and he has amazing plant knowledge, especially wildflowers. He is retired, having worked in California for years as a scientist creating different strains of tomatoes!

We are very happy to welcome Dale to our group!



## Niagara Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Aleksia Shoalts



*Aleksia Shoalts, left accepts her certificate from membership coordinator Lois Johnson at our September meeting*

Aleksia achieved her Master Gardener certification this summer and took some time to write about her background and how her love of gardening developed.

### Profile by Aleksia Shoalts

I can't remember what my earliest gardening memory is, but ever since I was very little, gardening was a part of my daily life with my grandmother (or Babcia as we call her in Polish). Both of my parents are Polish, and growing big, bold colourful flowers next to fresh fruits and vegetables was just the way of life back home.

Babcia raised my sister and I while my parents worked, and we spent a lot of time at her house, or her friends' houses/farms. Everywhere we went, there were vegetable gardens and extensive flower beds that needed to be picked or weeded. I found it to be the most awful chore - what 5 year old wants to weed? I'd rather eat the raspberries than put them in a basket!



But with all the currants, raspberries and blueberries I saved, my Babcia would make the most delicious fruit syrup to add to our tea or pour over our crepes. With all the cucumbers I picked we enjoyed *Mizeria*, a traditional cold salad with sliced cucumbers and sour cream. And nothing could beat fresh sliced tomatoes simply sprinkled with pepper and salt. I also came to love the roses she grew for cutting, either for a vase, or to leave at the foot of Mary's statue in our church.



Most of my family back in Poland live on either a farm or in an apartment complex surrounded by vast fields subdivided into large 1/4 acre sized garden plots they call *Działki* (J-ow-key). I remember visiting my great aunt and paternal Babcia in 2012 and seeing these plots for myself. My great-aunt had 3 different massive plots she tended – one solely planted with potatoes! My Babcia's plot had multiple mature fruit trees, and rows of dahlias, roses and gladiolas as well as beets, beans, grapes and everything else you can imagine. All you saw for miles were huge gardens, with the residents tending them daily, sharing produce and chatting over their fences.



I remember being awestruck that these women in my life could handle all this on their own and relish it. But then they were a different generation that grew up without the convenience of large grocery stores and garden centres. Produce had to be grown and stored to last through the winter, seeds had to be saved to use for next year.

Fast forward to me as an adult. I couldn't wait to grow and tend my own plants and gardens. When I first met my husband, he was awestruck at my green thumb and how quickly plants overtook our houses and apartments as we walked through life. It was through him that I met Vivian Shoalts, MG, and found out about Master Gardeners. I always enjoyed talking to her at family get-togethers and exchanging stories. She would give me the greatest advice about growing anything I was struggling with. It was through her that my desire to achieve Master Gardener status was born.



Needless-to-say, my family is very proud, and I'm looking forward to my journey ahead, while I serve my community and teach my own children all about the wonders of gardening and stewarding the earth.





# MGOI Board Vacancies

A Message from Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

## Roles

Every Master Gardener needs to consider the possibility of taking on a future role on the MGOI Board, or a position on an organizing Committee such as the communications team. The public MGOI Facebook group always welcomes more MGs to take a turn as a moderator. A great learning opportunity! The position of Director of Communications has been vacant for three years, and in that absence the rest of the Board has stepped up to fill the gaps as best they could.

By the end of 2024 we will also need a new Webmaster, and new candidates to fill the roles of President, as well as the Directors of Education, Events, and Marketing & Partnerships. According to ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit and Charitable Corporations) guidelines (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/rules-not-profit-and-charitable-corporations>) our four year terms on the Board are up! Turnover is always important to keep ideas fresh. Without the dedication of new volunteers in these diverse roles, we will not be experiencing another inspiring conference like the one we enjoyed in April.

Bring your fresh ideas and make a difference! We need you!

The VP position transitions into the President’s position; the job description follows below. All Board positions are now posted on the MGOI site at <https://mgoi.ca/>. Members’ login is on the far right (contact your coordinator if you need the password); scroll down to Board Vacancies and you will see all the Job Descriptions.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at: [president@mgoi.ca](mailto:president@mgoi.ca).



**Board Vacancy – Vice President**

I do not expect to continue my term past the end of 2024 and would like to find a VP to start as soon as possible so that they will be well aware of how the Executive functions prior to becoming President.

We like to appoint MGs interested in this position to the Board as VP before they transition into the President’s position.

Please read the VP job description and feel free to contact me, Karen Sciuk at [president@mgoi.ca](mailto:president@mgoi.ca).

- Job Description – Vice President**
- Supports and works closely with the President to assist with his or her duties, especially regarding governance
  - Monitors the progress of the organization’s goals and objectives
  - Reviews information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report in order to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern
  - Assists the relevant Director to resolve potential areas of concern, and if necessary, bring them to the attention of the Board of Directors
  - Works with the Director of Membership and others to fill vacant Board positions
  - Assumes the duties of the President in his or her absence
  - Succeeds the President



## Webmaster Wanted / MGOI Webinars / MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

### Wanted - Webmaster

Jim Cook, our webmaster is retiring at the end of 2024. We need a new webmaster! Jim is willing to provide support to ease the transition into the job. An individual (or group) with Wordpress knowledge will transition well. The candidate will be highly motivated and skilled.

If you have a passion for web development and are excited about the opportunity to manage and improve MGOIs online presence, we encourage you to apply.

### Job Summary

The MGOI Webmaster will manage everything related to the MGOI website to ensure it is running smoothly and effectively. The position works closely with MGOI Board members. The Webmaster:

- monitors performance – functionality, speed and design – and analyzes data to identify opportunities for improvement
- stays up-to-date with the latest web development technologies and trends
- provides technical support and creates content as needed
- manages website hosting, domain registration, and other technical aspects of website management
- creates and maintains website backups and disaster recovery plans
- performs other duties as required

---

### Access to Past MGOI Webinars

All MGOI Webinars have been recorded, and the link is on the MGOI website, <https://mgoi.ca/>; members' login is on the far right. If you don't have a password your Coordinator will be able to provide it. Once you're in the members' section, scroll down to the bottom and click on workshops/webinars.

---

### The MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

This is a private group: 'A discussion page for registered members of the Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc., Canada; this includes current active MGs and MGITs. To join, you must be an active member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario and belong to a local MG group.'

#### This group is:

**Private** - Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

**Visible** - Anyone can find this group.

**History** - Group was created on January 3, 2020. Name was last changed on October 12, 2023.

**See more** - May include flagged content. Admins may allow some posts and comments to be visible in the group even if they're flagged by Facebook's systems. [Learn more](#)

---



## Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

**Name:** Murillo Fair, August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** The start of the fairs is always a sign that fall is just around the corner. Thousands were in attendance for the Murillo Fair which is 20 km from Thunder Bay. The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were in attendance with a booth that focused on children with giveaways including insect stickers, lollipops and a free draw for a Miracle Grow gardening set. Our display this year for the adults highlighted popular garden pests which created numerous conversations. We also had a free draw for the adults which was a 3-piece hand garden tool set.

The weather was fantastic. Thanks to MGITs Laura Jones and Jack Van Gemeren for assisting MG Andrea Steinhaeusser with manning the booth.



*MG Andrea Steinhaeusser (left) & MGIT Laura Jones*

**Name:** Hymers Fall Fair, September 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Details:** The Hymers Fall Fair went ahead as planned despite a power outage and a tornadic event the evening before. Hymers is approximately 40 km from Thunder Bay and a true fall fair.

The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were in attendance with our display this year highlighting popular garden pests, which sparked numerous conversations. We had a free draw for the adults which was a 3-piece hand garden tool set. Our new signage attracted many people to stop and ask a wide range of gardening questions. We often had a lineup!

Thanks to MGIT Jack Van Gemeren and MG Rosemary McNabb for assisting Andrea in manning the booth.



*MGs Andrea Steinhaeusser (left) & Rosemary McNabb*

### Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

**Name:** University of Guelph Arboretum Expo

**Details:** On September 7<sup>th</sup> Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners held an advice clinic at the University of Guelph Arboretum. We plant and maintain a native plant garden called “Roots and Shoots” at the Arboretum. Attendees were invited to go through the garden and also attend the trial gardens for tours.



*Some very chilly Master Gardeners: l-r, Margaret Stewart, Inger Knudsen, Lee Anne Lennox*



## London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

### Name: September Meeting Field Trip

**Details:** Our September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was a field trip to MG Beth Warner's place. She has worked with ALUS (where agriculture & nature meet), Ducks Unlimited, and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority to construct the wetlands. Members collected seed from native plants that she has planted as part of the restoration.



*MG Beth Warner discussing the newly constructed wetlands*



It is a beautiful place!



## Waterloo Region Master Gardeners

### Name: August Field Trip

**Details:** Since we don't have our regular meetings in the summer, we always go for an outing in August, usually someplace local. This year we enjoyed an excellent field trip on Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> to two sites located near Wellesley, only half an hour away.

At the first stop we visited Catherine Young at the Backyard Beekeeping Supply Store. As we walked around her property admiring the many native gardens she has created to support the bees, we learned about honey production, bee responsibilities inside the hives, and lots more regarding the habits and social lives of these wonderful creatures. It was amazing to see how she has transformed this completely wooded property into a habitat for bees and other pollinators and a home for herself and her family.



*Members of our group on a tour of the wetlands*



*A New Wetland*



*Everyone in the Tree Field*





After a delicious lunch and social time at Schmidtsville, a Mennonite-owned restaurant in Wellesley, we visited Silver Creek Nursery. The owners, Steph and Zack Muma, believe in natural, sustainable farming; in their own words they “support a polyculture ecosystem and [their] farm teams with biodiversity, from the chickens running around the yard to the worms crawling through the soil.”

They showed us their operation where they produce hand-grafted fruit trees. After a walk around the property, they gave us a hands-on workshop on grafting. This was a new skill for many of our members, and hands-on is always fun! We were excited to have the opportunity to learn more about this field of horticulture.



*MGs Karen Sciuk, left and Erin Thomson grafting*



*MG Lynn Foerter at the Grafting Workshop*

All-in-all, our summer outings provide us with a great day of learning and socializing!

## Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

### Name: Monarch Festival at Millenium Park

**Details:** The Monarch festival on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> presented an opportunity to fundraise for the conservation of Monarch butterfly sanctuaries in central Mexico. This event was held in collaboration with our Mexican partner Nacion Verde to support reforestation efforts in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. The festival includes a charity race, both 1km and 10km long.

The Peterborough & Area MGs had a volunteer booth providing information and advice.



*From the start of the run*

### Name: Social Gatherings throughout the Summer

**Details:** A few Peterborough MGs invited the group to their homes for social gatherings over the summer.

Members got to tour the beautiful gardens, eat, chat, and get to know each other better.



*May Social at Emma and Grant Murphy's: L to R, Beryl Harris and Dianne Westlake*





July Social at Anne Craig's – Arbour with bench seat and Hostas



August Social at The Luloff Farm: L to R – Thom Luloff (host), Chris Tewsley, Chris Freeburn, Jennifer Guertin, Sue Lajeunesse, Gladys Fowler, Anne Craig, Lois Scott, Emma Murphy – Charlie the dog in front

She herself was struggling to control purple loosestrife on her own property. She was given a couple of potential reasons for the spread. Maybe the beetles were victims of their own success and they had removed all their food. Maybe the heavy rain this year was enough for the plants to explode in population?

Better go to the source, so she contacted the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) and asked if the beetles could be released again in our area. They were unsure but would look into it. The OIPC did get back to Judy with the contact information for the person responsible for the actual release of the beetle, Donna MacKenzie (<http://www.ontariobeetles.ca/>) who indicated that there had been no release of the beetles in Lanark County since the 1990's, but that if someone came up with \$1,700 for 5,000 beetles she would be happy to work with us on a re-release of the beetles in areas the County designated.

Judy stopped into the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority who advised this was not part of their mandate. However, they indicated their phones and email were inundated with calls about Purple Loosestrife and its spread. They provided the contact of our Lanark County Environmental Coordinator. This week Judy had a very productive meeting with two folks from Lanark County, the Climate Environmental Coordinator and her co-worker. They had a very productive meeting and agreed to take the lead and pursue funding, as they know what groups to approach and how to apply for funding for environmental concerns. They would make no guarantees, but they are both very interested in pursuing this matter within Lanark County. It was nice to talk to two young folks whose educational background is in Environmental studies, and who are very concerned about our pollinators, controlling invasive plants and planting native plants. They will work with their counterparts in each township and town within Lanark County for their feedback as well.

As Master Gardeners we are the folks who meet with residents within our County at various advice clinics and within our gardening networks and at horticultural groups. We have been asked to encourage people to contact these people in the county; emails from the public will be used to support requests for funding. We agreed that as the County proceeds with requests they will keep Judy informed.

## Lanark County Master Gardeners

### Name: Purple Loosestrife Investigation

**Details:** This summer at our advice clinics, we had many questions about Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Purple Loosestrife had all but disappeared in our area with the release in the 1990's of the *Neogalerucella* Beetles. Suddenly, this beautiful but very invasive plant was taking over our wetlands this year. What had happened?

Lanark County Master Gardener Judy Wall started her search to see what could be done about it.



Judy will be our champion to encourage all our Master Gardeners to help in communicating that we are all concerned and need the public's help as we proceed with the request for funding for another release of the beetles.

We certainly hope that Master Gardener Groups across Ontario can work with their municipal and county governments to help stop the spread of this terribly invasive plant.



## Grey County Master Gardeners

**Name: Plant Sale, Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Details:** Our annual fall plant sale has been put to bed for 2024. This was our second year at the Rotary Harbour Pavilion on the shores of Georgian Bay, in Meaford, and once again the venue and the beautiful, summer-like weather didn't disappoint. We all know how much work goes into one of these events – the months of planning, propagating, dividing and potting up a wide variety of plants, coaxing them along so that by the time of the sale they're primed and ready to go to their new homes. But it's also a lot of fun: working as a team; the adrenaline rush of putting together what is in effect a pop-up nursery; seeing happy gardeners lining up (and sometimes trying to sneak in) half an hour before we opened the metaphorical door. One couple made the 2.5 hour trip from Huntsville just to see what we had.

A couple of take always this year:

First, people are particularly interested in native plants. And they're becoming more educated about them. "Is that a native or near-native?" "I really need some anise hyssop. Do you have any?" (Yes – about 100 and we sold them all!) Based on this year's experience, we're considering selling only native plants at our 2025 sale.

The other eureka moment came on the payment end. For years, this has been a cash-only sale, with the odd check and e-transfer. This year, thanks to an easy-to-use payment app, we included debit and credit cards. Of the more than \$4000 in sales, close to \$2500 was through the app. It was our best sale ever!



## Niagara Master Gardeners

**Name: Annual Plant Sale, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Details:** This sale is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our group and features a variety of plants from members' gardens as well as from local nurseries who are kind enough to donate many beautiful end-of-season plants. The plant sale was held at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre. The good people at Vineland clear out a large garage space for our sale every year, which is always much appreciated. There is always a lineup of people outside waiting for the event to open, and once inside there are lots of opportunities for MGs to offer advice and for everyone to swap gardening stories.



*L-R, Kit Thompson, Jennifer Qusen and Barb Large (plant sale coordinator) work to get plants organized and laid out on tables for the sale*



*GCMGs annual plant sale at the Meaford Rotary Harbour Pavilion/photo by Jennifer Deeks*



## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

### Name: Dahlia Garden Party

**Details:** Every once in a while an amazing new member joins a group and adds so much, each one of us is enriched and the group becomes better. Sam McColl is one of those people. Sam has an amazing garden just outside Stirling, ON and she invited our group to come and see her dahlias on September 1<sup>st</sup>. We all had a wonderful day, thanks Sam!



### Name: Community Tree Planting

**Details:** On September 21<sup>st</sup> PEC Master Gardeners, in partnership with the County Garden Club, the PEC Field Naturalists, Quinte Conservation and municipal staff as well as a representative of Tree Canada, planted 42 trees in Demorestville Park to help increase the County's canopy.

The planting was made possible by a grant received from Tree Canada and applied for by Wellington Home Hardware. All trees planted are native to our area. The trees were supplied by Lockyer's and Edwin County Farms.

Thanks to MG Susan Warrack and Lise Bois for the photographs.

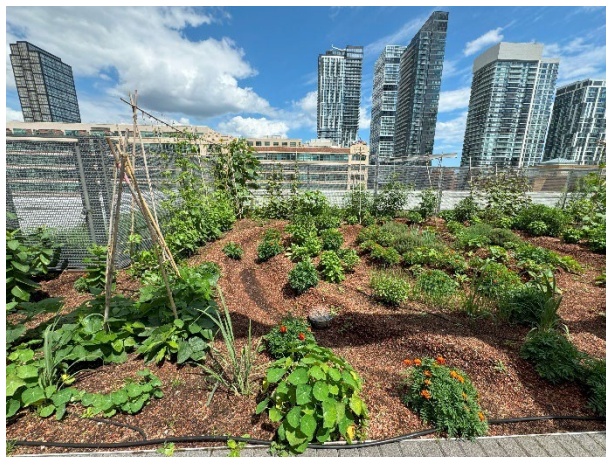
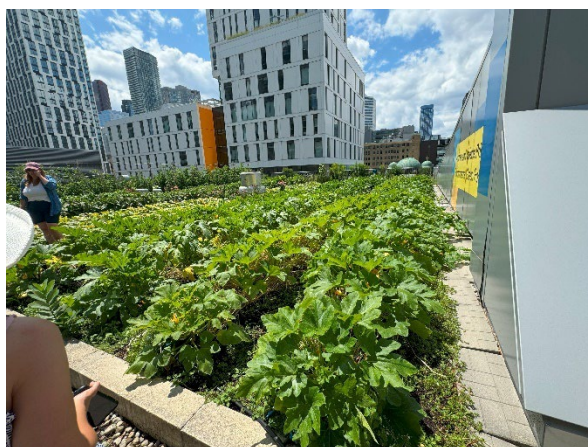


## Toronto Master Gardeners

### Name: Visit to Toronto Metropolitan University's Urban Farm

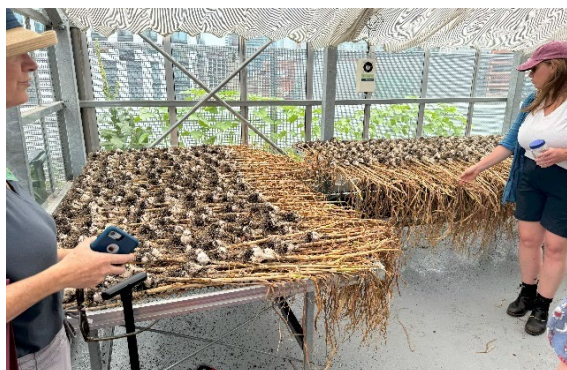
**Details:** As part of an ongoing series of social events with an educational angle, Toronto Master Gardeners had the opportunity this summer to visit one of Toronto's best kept secrets. Our tour of the rooftop Urban Farm at Toronto Metropolitan University was designed specifically for the TMGs and was a Q & A about the farm's operations with the Urban Farm Manager Arlene Throness, who provided in-depth information on its design, operation and best practices.

This amazing initiative grows 3,000 kg of ecological produce in a season, with more than 80 crops in production annually. Comments from our members stressed the fantastic stewardship of green roof gardening, the innovative growing practices, and effective methods for soil health and irrigation, not to mention the overarching integration into TMUs programs of study and community.



An inspirational day out – and also a great opportunity for Toronto Master Gardeners to introduce Arlene to our own web-based advice forum for residents of the City of Toronto, “Ask a Master Gardener”, that she will be recommending for visitors who want to know where their gardening questions can be answered.

Photos courtesy of Toronto Master Gardener Sarah Mulholland



**Name: A Huge Thank You to Cathy Kavassalis and Claudette Sims**

**Details:** Halton Master Gardeners Cathy and Claudette were guest speakers at the September 2024 meeting of the Toronto Master Gardeners, presenting to us on the current status of invasive species, how Master Gardeners can communicate strategies for addressing this challenge, and the important work of the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (<https://ccipr.ca/>). It was an evening of insights and fantastic discussion for us all.

A very big thank you from all of us in the Toronto Master Gardeners to two phenomenal members of MGOI who are always so generous in sharing their knowledge and helping us all to better understand and more clearly communicate this complex part of our educational mandate.



*L-R, MGs Minh Do, Elizabeth Brown and Shelley Pelkey braved the cold to answer questions during Bug Day*



**Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton**

**Name: August Advice Clinics**

**Details:** MGOC ran three well-attended advice clinics at the Carp Garlic Festival, and another at the Barrhaven Farmers’ Market.

At the Barrhaven Farmers’ Market, on August 25<sup>th</sup>, typical questions concerned mould affecting cucumbers, squash and even tomatoes, likely due to all the rain and warm weather in July and August.

**Name: Bug Day at the Central Experimental Farm**

**Details:** Cold weather and nearly continuous rain didn’t deter visitors from attending the annual Bug Day at the Central Experimental Farm on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 70 people stopped by the Master Gardener’s booth to ask questions.

This event is hosted by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to highlight its research and activities such as the National Collection of Insects, Arachnids, and Nematodes that is of foundational importance for gardeners.

Other exhibits at the Central Experimental Farm event included a selection of farm equipment, soil profiles, a corn maze for children and a pollinator garden demo. Cricket ice cream in various flavours was for sale!



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**1000 Islands Master Gardeners**

**Name: Volunteer Opportunities**

**Description:** Volunteer opportunities continue to include presenters for Ask A Master Gardener on Thursdays @ 1:00 p.m. via Zoom; sessions are 30 minutes.

**Details and Contact Information:** Please visit our website for topics, details and contact information: <https://1000islandsmastergardeners.ca/upcoming-events/>



## Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

### Oak Wilt Disease

**Reminder – Do Not Prune oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) until November:** winter pruning needs to be the new norm.



*Calling everyone who deals with oak trees including nurseries, garden centers, homeowners, [Master Gardeners], and tree professionals! This is a friendly reminder to hold off on pruning your oaks until November to protect trees from oak wilt disease.*

The pathogen that causes oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is now present in the Ontario environment; prevention is key to defend against oak wilt. All ages and sizes of oak trees are susceptible to oak wilt.

<https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2024/04/02/reminder-no-pruning-oaks-from-now-until-november/#more-6673>

Oak Wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is a fungal disease that can kill oak trees within one year. Red oaks are particularly susceptible. The Ontario government advises ‘you should not prune or wound oaks between April and November, when the sap beetles that spread the disease are active’.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt#:~:text=Oak%20wilt%20is%20an%20introduced,Falls%20area%20of%20Southern%20Ontario>.

This disease can cause serious damage to Canada's oak tree population. Pathways by which oak wilt can spread include:

- **root grafting**, where the fungus travels through the interconnected roots of infected and healthy trees growing in close proximity;
- **insects**, such as sap and bark beetles that carry spores of the fungus from an infected tree to a healthy one; and
- human-assisted spread through the **movement** of things such as firewood and **pruning** during high-risk periods.

**How You Can Help:** The CFIA would like Master Gardeners to share this message with the public and our members.

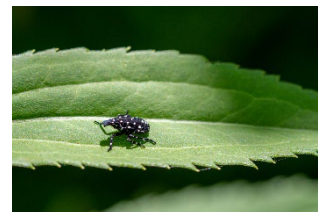


*Oak wilt disease in an oak tree.*  
Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak\\_wilt\\_diagnosing\\_and\\_preventing](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing)



### CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

Also check for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). Canada is preparing for the potential arrival of the SLF, present in the United States and getting closer to the Canadian border. The Spotted Lanternfly would be devastating for Canada's wine, fruit, nursery and forest industries.



*early stage nymph*

The city of Philadelphia has excellent information including identification on their website:



<https://www.phila.gov/2020-10-13-stop-the-spotted-lanternfly-identify-and-destroy-their-eggs/>

For more information, also visit [Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly](https://www.canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly). The **Spotted Lanternfly Timeline is:**  
Sep to Nov – egg laying;  
Oct to Jun – egg mass;  
May to Jul – early stage nymph;  
Jul to Sep – late stage nymph;  
Jul to Dec – adult.



## CFIA Digital Toolkit

[International Day of Plant Health](#) was on May 12<sup>th</sup>, and the CFIA needs help and expertise to engage Canadians on how we can successfully keep Canada's natural landscape, bountiful plants, and beautiful gardens healthy and protected against the threat of invasive species. The CFIA has developed a user-friendly [digital toolkit](#) full of outreach materials in English and French, including posters, social media messaging and images, and more! Please use these and share freely. This toolkit includes extensive material on invasive species.

Feel free to bug us if you have any questions or would like to discuss opportunities to work together!

*Maria Kubacki, Manager / Gestionnaire*  
Marketing and partnerships / Marketing et partenariats  
Communications and Public Affairs Branch / Direction  
générale des communications et affaires publiques  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments  
Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada  
343-542-3856  
[Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca)



## CFIA Seeds Alert

**Canadians are urged to connect with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) before sending seeds abroad.**

As Canada's plant health regulator, the CFIA plays an important role in making sure seeds from Canada meet internationally agreed upon regulations. There have been notifications of non-compliance from foreign countries about seeds exported from Canada without proper phytosanitary (plant health) certification.

Seeds can potentially be invasive in some countries or spread plant diseases or other pests. Not meeting requirements has consequences such as the destination country destroying the seeds and issuing Canada a notice of non-compliance. All seeds, including those in small packets for gardeners, must comply with the import requirements of the destination country.

Please share this information with the Canadian public to increase awareness of the important steps to take when shipping or exporting seeds to protect international plant resources, our economy and the environment.

The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, people who are experts in plant health imports and exports. CFIA experts are also willing to write and submit a piece if that is of interest. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency /  
Government of Canada: [cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca)  
Tel: 613-773-6600

Additional Links & Background Information:

- [Shipping and exporting seeds from Canada](#)
- [Plant health at the CFIA](#)
- [Chronicle 360 plant health](#)
- [Canada's plant health hero challenge](#)
- [Join the plant health movement](#) (Chronicle 360)

### Follow:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

