



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of
Ontario

Inside

MGOI

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

This 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.

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Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Vacant

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INSIDE MGOI

November 2024

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Lynne Campbell



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left presenting Lynne with her 20 year pin

Lynne started with the LMMG in 2004 and has been very actively involved with the group on all levels. She helped organize the group's first successful fund raiser in which we sold rain barrels to the London Community.

Lynne has worked in all positions of our executive over the years and has chaired our latest summer

Garden Tours which were very popular. Proceeds were donated to two local grass roots groups. Lynne is a Chartered Accountant and has been our Executive Treasurer a few times over the years. She is always willing to help out in various capacities when needed and we appreciate all her contributions through the years. Congratulations Lynne!

5 Year Anniversary

Barb Geddes

Congratulations Barb on her fifth anniversary with the London Middlesex Master Gardeners! Barb started with the group in 2019 and has taken on numerous roles such as Seedy Saturday committee member. She is our Volunteer Captain; as such she ensures that volunteers are recruited for any event that requires them and schedules everyone accordingly. As a very active member of the group, we really appreciate all she does to help make our team successful.



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, left with Barb



Lanark County Master Gardeners

20 Year Anniversary

Kathleen Lang



Kathleen Lang (left) receives her 20 year pin from Coordinator Gerda Fransen (right)

15 Year Anniversary

Paul Pietsch

Gerda Fransen

Victor Wark



Paul Pietsch (left) receives his 15 year pin from Coordinator Gerda Fransen



Dale Odorizzi (left) presents Gerda Fransen with her 15 year pin

Congratulations, and thank you all for your hard work!



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Diana May
Heidi Renkema



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Astrid Muschalla

5 Year Anniversaries

Gail Walker
Tracey Filson

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Cathy Christie
Nathan Nesdoly
Elsabe Falkson
Layla Mayboudi



Cathy, right & Nathan, left showing off their certificates

New Coordinator for 2025 / Profile

Tracey Filson

Of Interest

As founder and lead designer for Tracelements Landscape Design & Consulting (est. 2021), Tracey brings a passion for gardening, a keen eye for design and a wealth of life experience to every project. She is dedicated to creating ecologically sustainable spaces that reflect her clients' values and that nurture the natural world.

With a degree in economics from Queen's University, a diploma in Landscape Design from the University of Guelph and a professional background in business analysis and management consulting, Tracey leans on a collaborative approach and works closely with her clients to understand their needs, aesthetic preferences and budget constraints to deliver innovative, creative and sustainable solutions.

Tracey learned about Master Gardeners at a Seedy Saturday event in the spring of 2019 and joined 1000 Islands MGs (TIMG) in August 2019. She completed her Master Gardener courses in December 2020 and achieved certified MG status in August 2021. In April 2020, Tracey worked with fellow TIMG group members to launch weekly virtual "Ask A Master Gardener" sessions with the public and continues as co-host and committee lead. She has also been a contributing member of the Marketing and Website committees.

Tracey has always been happiest when exploring nature and playing in the mud, developing a love of nature from an early age. But it wasn't until she and her husband bought an old century farmhouse northwest of Kingston, formerly the Harrowsmith & Equinox magazines' publishing house, that her passion for sustainable organic gardening and environmental concerns grew.

Decades later, her zeal for organic gardening and ecological practices continues. Tracey brings a passion for learning and sharing her knowledge with others. When not working with clients or volunteering, she can be found on her paddle board or up to her elbows in her garden. Tracey looks forward to taking on the coordinator role with TIMG, knowing that she has very big shoes to fill!



Tracey Filson (left) replacing outgoing Coordinator Astrid Muschalla (right) who served for 7 years)



Member Transfers

June Croco, MG
Dale Smith, MGIT
Andrea McColl, MG
Andie Wiens, MG
Quentin Wyne, MG

Welcome to the 5 members who have transferred in from Prince Edward County! Sadly, the Prince Edward County MG group has closed.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Welcome Back

Alex Kucharew



We are delighted to welcome back Master Gardener Alex Kucharew to the Grand Erie Master gardeners after a medical hiatus from what was previously the Brantford Master Gardeners!

New Master Gardener in Training

Sue Sitki

Sue joins us as a new Master Gardener in Training from Norfolk County. She is a multi-talented professional photographer and she and her husband Eric have rescued and welcomed numerous needy felines into their home. Welcome Sue!



Sue with Ralphie peeking out of the backpack



Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton

Tribute to Rebecca Last: Rebecca, who has been MGOCs enthusiastic coordinator since 2021, stepped down in November. She joined MGOC in 2005 and says the most rewarding part of being Coordinator was



“Probably just an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude to be associated with such an awesome bunch of volunteers. I love how MGs step up and make things happen. It’s kind of amazing to think

how much our relatively small group manages to accomplish, and how well we find do-able solutions to all the challenges we encounter.”

She was hard-pressed to say what she likes most about gardening, but did narrow it down: “I love the smell of fresh earth, the sensory input from a beautiful garden in bloom. I love how it’s an ongoing challenge to learn and adapt to new conditions every year (jumping worms, climate change, etc.). I love the science behind gardening and I love how generous Mother Nature is, even when we do everything wrong.”

MGOC thanks Rebecca for her generous and excellent leadership!

New MGOC Coordinators

Odette McIntyre
Belinda Boekhoven



Odette McIntyre



Belinda Boekhoven



Welcome Odette (meetings and events) and Belinda (administration and membership)! The coordinators plan to use their two year term to develop the organisation to support MGs as they serve the public. Here's a bit about them:

Following her passion for horticulture and ecology, **Odette** graduated in phytotechnology in the early '80s. She worked at the Montreal Botanical Garden for several years before relocating to York Region where she remained until retirement. She joined Master Gardeners in 2013. Odette's specialty is sustainability and cold climate production.

Belinda wanted to join MGOC for about 20 years and finally did so during COVID. Her international travels taught her that gardens and plants may vary widely, but creating and tending a garden is a worldwide pleasure. Belinda enjoys blending native plants into her garden.



Halton Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in training

Christina Bilobrk
Zeljka Burazin
Alina Nair
Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst

A warm welcome is extended to our new MGITs!

5 Year Anniversary Achieved, May 2024

Allyn Walsh

by *Hariette Henry*



Allyn

Allyn is an active member of the Halton group and works, among other things, on the education program for our members. She was also responsible, along with MG Bev Wagar, for planning and executing the open-garden event, "**Garden Journey's Open Days**" that took place in Hamilton in mid-August, 2023.

Allyn's family history does not include a long line of enthusiastic gardeners, nor does it include a history of farming. But from an early age she was keenly interested in plants and loved seeing things grow. "Watching bulbs emerge from the ground in spring was a source of fascination."

In addition to her medical school studies, she spent time learning about indoor plants and broadening her knowledge of gardening by investing in some good gardening books. But that wasn't enough and in 1979 at the age of 27, Allyn scraped together enough money to buy a house and achieved her dream of having an outdoor garden.

I asked Allyn what made her decide to become a Master Gardener. She explained that when she was contemplating retirement and preparing a plan for the future, the list included becoming a more knowledgeable gardener. She had read Lorraine Johnson's book, "The New Ontario Naturalized Garden" and she had attended some horticultural society meetings and participated in a few seminars at Mohawk College and the RBG. But when she considered the skills she developed in her life work as a family physician, educating and informing the public, diagnosing health issues, writing papers and articles, doing workshops, she found that she had many of the abilities that would fit well with being a master gardener. She was also attracted to the group by the notion that master gardeners give back, not only by answering questions and giving advice to the public but also in the work that we do encouraging gardeners and others to make changes in support of the environment in this era of climate change.

Allyn lives in Hamilton and spends time enjoying her family which includes her husband, three children and six grandchildren.



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Carol Anderson



Carol Anderson (right) receives her MG certificate from Membership Chair Marilyn Homewood

New Master Gardener in Training

Karin Bauer

Karin has been an enthusiastic gardener for more than 25 years, starting in Toronto, then for quite a few years in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

She's been in Lakefield (just north of Peterborough) for the past 2 years. As she says, three different locations and 3 distinctly different growing zones to learn from. Her gardening interests have been tied to birds and an interest in photography.

Sharing knowledge, helping others with their gardens and helping with community gardens have given her a feeling of enjoyment and accomplishment. Lately Karin's interest has moved towards native plants and trees and their role in supporting pollinators.



Retirements

Gary Westlake
Dianne Westlake
Margaret Higgins

After long service with the PMGs Gary and Dianne Westlake (both 23 years) and Margaret Higgins (16 years) are retiring.

Dianne was PMG coordinator for 9 years and **Gary** served as a MGOI Director for 2 years.



Gary, left with Dianne

They both edited the MGOI newsletter for years and Gary served on the Education Committee that created the accreditation tests that some MGs use.

Margaret also made significant contributions including chairing the PMG Program Committee, co-chairing the Day for Gardeners Committee for 2 years, participating on our Membership Committee, and mentoring many members.



Margaret

We are so grateful for their many years of service and wish them all the best!



MGOI Board Vacancies



A Message from Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

Welcome Anne!

It is with great pleasure that I am announcing that Anne Craig, current Director of East Region, will transition to President in the new year. Stay tuned for more to come on Anne's profile in the January issue.

New East Region Director

Rebecca Last-Guenette of Ottawa-Carleton will become East Region Director in the new year.

Vacancies

MGOI still has vacancies. Every Master Gardener needs to consider taking on a future role on the MGOI Board, or a position on an organizing Committee. The public MGOI Facebook group always welcomes more MGs to take a turn as a moderator. A great learning opportunity!

MGOI welcomes a new Webmaster (profile next page) in January, and a Director of Communications! However, we still need candidate(s) to fill the role of Vice President. The VP will eventually transition into the role of President. This position provides a supporting role to both the President and the Board. We might also consider two VPs. Please read the VP job description, below.

Job Description – Vice President

- Supports and works closely with the President to assist with his/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

ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit and Charitable Corporations) guidelines (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/rules-not-profit-and-charitable-corporations>) stipulate that terms cannot exceed four years. Turnover is always important to keep ideas fresh. Without the dedication of new volunteers in these diverse roles, we will not experience another inspiring conference like the one we enjoyed in April. Bring your fresh ideas and make a difference! We need you!

All Board positions are 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.

All interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at: president@mgoi.ca or karenskiuk@gmail.com. Please also reach out if you have any questions or would like more information.

*Thank you.
Karen*

We



Need

You!!





AGM / New Webmaster / MGOI Webinars / MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 2024 virtual AGM will take place on January 11th, 2025.

New Webmaster

We are pleased to announce that Sabine Behnk will succeed James Cook as Webmaster as of January 1, 2025.

From Sabine: There will be very few visible changes to the MGOI website and the goal is to have a seamless transition. I have been a Master Gardener since 2019 and was a member of the Stratford and Area Master Gardener group, where I helped to develop and maintain their website. A large and bountiful perennial and mostly native garden was left in 2023, and I am now a gardener without a garden! A small balcony will continue to inspire a passion for container gardening, and a plot in a local community garden will satisfy the desire for growing vegetables. I still dream of the plants I left behind! I am currently a member of Waterloo Master Gardeners.

Although I do not have a technical background, I am confident in my ability to maintain and upgrade the MGOI website as needed. I look forward to the opportunity to serve MGOI!

Access to Past MGOI Webinars

All MGOI Webinars have been recorded, and the links are 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 for links to the following workshops archives: Summer 2021; Winter 21/22; Winter 2022; Spring 2023; Fall 2023; Spring 2024.

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: October Meeting & Flower Arranging Presentation by Hedy Koski

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners celebrated Thanksgiving with a light buffet at their October 7th meeting. MGIT Hedy Koski also provided a fun and informative demonstration on how to make a beautiful fall flower arrangement for the dinner table. Hedy has taken the Flowers Canada Floral Design course, owned a local flower shop for over 20 years and has worked at a local nursery for over 30 years.



Hedy Koski arranging flowers

She has a wealth of knowledge, and we are thrilled to have her share her expertise with our group as well as the public. Lynda Lahteenmaa won the beautiful arrangement that Hedy created.



Hedy's flower arrangement

Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton

Name: Canadensis Garden Fall Celebration

Details: On September 28, Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carlton participated once again in the Canadensis Garden Fall Celebration, offering a well attended advice table. Canadensis is the home of the future Botanical Garden of Canada on Prince of Wales Drive in Ottawa. The Fall Celebration offered lots of family fun including horse drawn wagon rides, children's activities and floral/botanical artworks. This is a great location for the public to learn about plants and trees indigenous to Canada and admire large scale sculptural art installations.



Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Year End Potluck

Details: Every year, Lanark County Master Gardeners wraps up with a delicious Potluck luncheon. We try, as much as possible, to make a dish using ingredients we have grown.

This year we were honoured to have Kathleen Lang's mother, Dorothy Ahern, join us and also celebrate her 90th birthday. We presented service awards to:

- Kathleen Lang 20 years
- Paul Pietsch 15 years
- Gerda Franssen 15 years
- Victor Wark 15 years was unable to attend

After lunch and the awards presentation, we held our regular meeting and a planning session for the upcoming year.



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Partnering with the City of Kingston: Natural Yards Bylaw Advocacy Group

Details: 1000 Islands MGs successfully worked to have the Yards bylaws updated (with the help of Lorraine Johnson) and developed an educational campaign with bylaw officers and the public, including a: ‘leave the leaves’ campaign; updating the bylaw for gardening on right-of-way’s; and advocating to become a [Bird City](#) – certification through Nature Canada.

The Pollinator Working group has implemented three differently sowed test plots on a major boulevard for pollinators; site preparation is the main difference.

Name: Mini Seedy Saturday,

Details: Hosted by [KASSI \(Kingston Area Seed System Initiative\)](#), on November 23rd from 10 am to 1 pm at Cooke's Portsmouth United Church, 1000 Islands MGs participated in KASSI's Mini Seedy Saturday. Attendees shared/swapped seeds. There were local seed vendors, taste tests, music and food. MGs manned an advice clinic and conducted workshops on local seeds and climate resilience, winter sowing of native plant seeds, and starting seeds indoors.

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: 2025 Workshops Planning Meeting Via Zoom

Details: In November Grand Erie Master Gardeners began planning workshops for 2025. Stay tuned for details on:

- A Spring Ephemerals Forest Walk at Ruthven in Haldimand County in early May 2025
- A Food Growing presentation at Red Fox Farm and The Garlic Shed in Norfolk County in early June 2025
- Bringing Nature Back – a workshop on reducing lawns and restoring ecosystems in Brant County

Our members will also be attending a number of Seedy Saturday events planned in Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties over the winter and spring as well as giving individual presentations at the County of Brant Public Library.

Name: Winter Seed Sowing

Details: Many of our members have been and are currently saving native plant seeds for our winter seed sowing packs and spring plant sale.



London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: November Meeting

Details: Our group held its annual members' presentation meeting. Three or four members share ideas and learning that happened during the year. This year, Chris Boyes shared his realization of the plastic waste in gardening, discovered after a volunteering event to gather plastic pots at a local nursery.

Kim Nikkel shared a book she read on plant adaptation to the environment.

Jennie and Pat Girard shared what they learned on spiders at a workshop and their garden discoveries.

Toronto Master Gardeners

Toronto Master Gardeners in the Community: Out and about in Toronto this month, here are a couple of examples of the Toronto Master Gardeners' outreach activities.

Name: Enbridge Garden Consultation

Details: The Enbridge Gas Green Team reached out to the Toronto Master Gardeners for our advice on renovating their existing garden beds into a native plant garden.



After a couple of consultations with TMGs Ginnie Venslovaitis and Tanya Onieogou, the Green Team and Enbridge employees came out in the rain to weed, remove invasives and plant natives under TMGs guidance. We will return in the spring for a follow-up.



Enbridge photos courtesy of TMG Tena van Andel

Name: University of Toronto Family Housing Workshop

Details: University of Toronto Family Housing know that they can turn to Toronto Master Gardeners for useful workshops for the families and students who live in their residences. Last year, our first working with this organization, we presented workshops on houseplants, growing in containers, and seed starting. The apartments are mostly north facing, so we had to adapt our advice to suit low light conditions.

This year, our second, our workshops covered growing microgreens, vermicomposting, and terrariums. TMGs involved are Maureen Hulbert, Cathy Kozma, David Mordecai, Tena van Andel, and some amazing assistants – Diane Bickers, Frankie Wright, and Fernando Martinez. All photos are courtesy of TMG Tena van Andel.



Some Participants



Tena demonstrating microgreens



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: November Meeting: Moths as Pollinators

Details: Sarah Jamieson of the Jamieson Urban Wildlife Ecology Lab at Trent University presented at the PMG November meeting with a fascinating talk about moths as pollinators. We learned about how little the science world knows about moths, their populations, and their importance as pollinators. She taught us some fascinating things and encouraged us to adjust our gardening practices and educate others to help preserve the many beautiful and useful moth species. You can learn more about Sarah's work with moths via her iNaturalist page: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/peterborough-moth-project-juwel>

Four things Sarah encouraged us to do as gardeners:

1. Plant strong smelling and white flowers, including those like *Nicotiana* that bloom in the evening
2. Don't use a bug zapper in the garden—a 1980s study counted 10,000 bugs killed in 1 night, but only 8 were mosquitoes!
3. Leave the leaves—a recent unpublished [study](#) found 45% fewer butterflies and moths and 37% fewer spiders in gardens where leaves were raked up
4. Participate in [iNaturalist](#) by uploading photos of moths that visit your garden.



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: November Meet

Details: Niagara MGs enjoyed a talk on daylily hybrids by Paul Gellatly, aka The Tattooed Gardener, in November.

Gellatly is a former director of horticulture at Toronto Botanical Garden and former curatorial gardener at the Toronto Zoo. He shared photos of many daylily varieties, which showed a fascinating variety of traits and colour combos.



*Paul Gellatly,
the Tattooed Gardener*

Some tips for hybridizing: Label the flower that you just pollinated with a tag identifying the pod parent first and the pollen parent second. Hang the tag from the base of the flower and wait to see if a seed pod forms. If the pollen was accepted, a pod will form, which means your cross was successful.

You can find out more in [this newspaper article](#). You can visit Gellatly's website at: <https://thetattooedgardener.ca/>



Gellatly spoke about some of the daylilies he has developed and named for well-known people. Above, left: a daylily named for Oscar Peterson and, at right, one for Jane Goodall.

A few of Gellatly's varieties he calls 'colour changers' since they change dramatically from one colour combo in the morning to another by evening.



Hybridized daylily seeds from a single pod can produce very different looking flowers



Cathilily
(Gellatly, 2021)
A daylily named for Cathy McLean, who recently retired from the federal public service. This registration honours her 33 years of service.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday, 2025

Date & Time: February 15th, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Meridian Community Centre, 100 Meridian Way, Fonthill

Details: Niagara members are busy packaging seeds for our big **Seedy Saturday** event. The event includes speakers, vendors and children's activities. Coffee and snacks will be available. Do not miss it!



The poster features the Niagara Master Gardeners logo at the top left, a QR code at the top right, and illustrations of various seeds and seedlings in the center. The text is as follows:

Seedy Saturday
SEED SALE & SWAP
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2025
Meridian Community Centre
100 Meridian Way, Fonthill
Free admission & parking
10 am - 3 pm

HUNDREDS OF VARIETIES OF SEEDS FOR SALE!
Please bring cleaned & dried non-hybrid seeds to swap

- More than a dozen vendors
- Speaker **Sean James**
- Children's Activities
- Bulbs & tubers for sale: Canna Lilies, Peruvian Daffodils, Elephant Ears, Gladiolas & Dahlias
- Free draw - \$50 Lee Valley e-Gift Card
- Ask a Master Gardener Clinic

* **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS APPRECIATED**
Please bring a bag for your purchases

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/>

Technical Update

Topic: Biodiverse Garden Tour 2025 – Transitioning to Turf-Free Yards

Date: TBD

Location: Kingston and Area



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE

Name: Day In The Garden

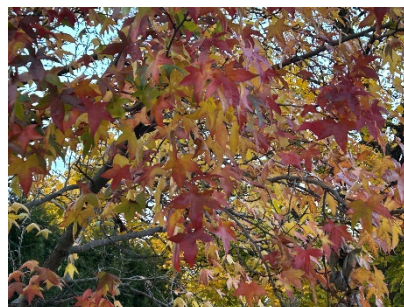
Theme: FROM THE GROUND UP - Soil to Soul

Date & Times: February 23, 2025; 9:00 am-3:00 pm (approximate times)

Location: Victoria East Golf Club, 1096 Victoria Rd. S., Guelph

Details: Featuring two speakers and a panel discussion. Included are: lunch/coffee & tea break/vendors.

Cost: to be determined. Watch for details on our Facebook page/Website/next newsletter.



Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Oak Wilt Disease

Reminder – Do Not Prune oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April until December: winter pruning when the tree is dormant 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 the end of 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 1 and November 30, 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



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.



SLF – CFIA



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, 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

Here is a link to the CFIA's 1 page infographic:

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/insects/spotted-lanternfly/infographic>

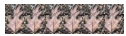


CFIA Digital Toolkit

[International Day of Plant Health](#) was on May 12th, 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!

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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.

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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)

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