



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of
Ontario*

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the March 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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INSIDE MGOI

March 2025

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Hedy Koski

Jack Van Gemeren

by Andrea Steinhauer

Congratulations to two Master Gardeners in Training on achieving Master Gardener status with the Thunder Bay & District group!



Hedy joined in March 2023 and has enjoyed the courses offered by the University of Guelph. She is an enthusiastic member, and she has travelled several times in the region to Nipigon to provide gardening presentations to the Nipigon Library. She also loves to share her flower arranging skills as well as gardening

knowledge. Hedy is actively working on our Facebook page.

Jack also joined in March 2023 and is an active member who volunteers at many of our events including the garden tour, plant sale and fall fairs, just to name a few. He has recently agreed to become our new Membership Coordinator.



We appreciate the knowledge these 2 members share with our group and their willingness to volunteer.



Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Jennifer Mitchell

Jennifer joined Lake Simcoe South in March 2025. Welcome Jennifer, we're so excited to grow with you!



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

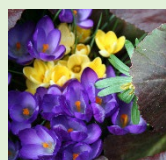
Lara Cochrane

Lara joined the London Middlesex Master Gardener group in October 2022. Since her time with the group she has been very actively involved in sharing her knowledge by writing blogs for our website, answering gardening questions via our Gmail account and participating on our Seedy Saturday committee.

Lara is a graduate of Ridgetown College with a diploma in agriculture and she works with OMAFRA updating the Ontario Agronomy Guide. She is an avid gardener and has "always been interested in feeding the people". Lara is continuing her studies to become a plumber at Algonquin College. Her goal is to buy a farm!



Lara, right with Coordinator Sandra Elfman



Lanark County Master Gardeners

Member Profiles

Sabina Barrett



Sabina, right with baby and husband



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Brandi McNeely

Brandi is the merchandising assistant store manager at the Peterborough Home Depot. When she is not working (which is often) or spending time with her family, she is usually tending to her houseplant collection or her garden. Brandi is relatively new to gardening; she started about 6 years ago. Every year she learns something new – often by reviewing the mistakes of the previous season.

Brandi has a passion for learning about plants and gardening. She enjoys sharing her knowledge with her associates and customers, and family – although they aren't usually as enthusiastic when discussing Latin names of plants and inspecting new flowers and blooms. Brandi is very excited to continue her educational journey and meet like-minded individuals who share her passion.



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Plant Name Honour

Kelly Noel

by Barbara Sibbald

Our MG Kelly Noel has been honoured with a registered daylily named after her: *Hemerocallis* 'Kelly Noel'. Is this even possible? Yes, it is, and we'll be unveiling this delicate looking daylily at our late March meeting, but here's a sneak preview.



Kelly

Kelly has been indispensable over the years to both MGOC and MGOI. It's lovely to see her receiving this honour. Pictures: Kelly Noel



*Hemerocallis
'Kelly Noel'
(Mussar, 2025)*

*Registered by
Dave Mussar, an
Ontario
hybridizer*

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Maryanne Ambroziak

Congratulations to Maryanne who graduated from the University of Guelph's Master Gardener program. Maryanne has quickly become a cornerstone of MGOC, actively contributing to recruitment efforts and creating the stunning *Memories of 2024* slideshow that we enjoyed at our Winter Party. She will be presented with her Master Gardener certificate at our March meeting.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

The MMGs are excited to announce they have a new member joining their team. We welcome Betty-May Evans.



In Betty-May's words:

"I first became interested in gardening when I got married and moved into my own place. Everyday after work I would run to the yard to see what had changed that day. I even tried my hand at starting my own seeds.

Before long, however, came the pitter patter of little feet and for

many years the garden took a back seat. As my children became more independent, I started taking more of an interest again. When Covid hit I started binge watching Gardeners' World and had more inspiration than ever to really dig in.

In 2023 I found myself in need of a job, and I decided to put my passion to work, helping people to tidy up and maintain their gardens. Over the past couple of years I have really enjoyed learning about pollinators and native species, incorporating them into my own garden, and those of my clients when possible."



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversaries

Cathy Christie
Marie McKenna
Bev Wagar

New Master Gardener in Training

Kay Langmuir

Kay's Profile

Kay joined 1000 Islands MGs in January, 2025. Kay says, "How one develops as a gardener involves both luck and choice. I was riding ponies before I started school, and by

the time I sold my last horse 50 years later, I'd spent tens of thousands of hours training on roads and trails in wild green places from Nova Scotia to Alberta. There's nothing I'd rather do.

So not surprisingly, nothing is more exquisite and instructive to my eye than the natural or naturalized world, and how and where, and with whom, plants choose to grow. Today, I'm a re-wilder, an un-gardener, pulling out the undesirables, letting the good stuff fill in. But then there are the invasives. Once you know them and see them, you can't unsee them. They're everywhere, starving songbirds and choking out the native plants that feed native species. Why is the horticultural trade allowed to freely sell invasive plants without warning tags so people know what they're buying? We're behind the States in this respect.

I've only just started as a MGIT, and I look forward to gaining more knowledge in areas where I have less experience, such as growing vegetables, and putting my skills as a journalist and editor to use producing some articles, or possibly even presentations for schools, or whatever else my MG friends might need help with." – Kay

Member Transfers

Bev Wagar

Bev has transferred from Halton Region MGs to 1000 Islands MGs.



Toronto Master Gardeners

Toronto Master Gardener of the Year Award, 2024

Dianne Azzarello

Congratulations Dianne! The Toronto Master Gardeners recognizes the second annual recipient of our Master Gardener of the Year Award. Our inaugural 2023 recipient, pictured in the photo with Dianne, is Tena Van Anandel.

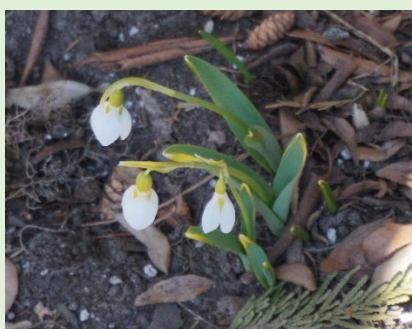
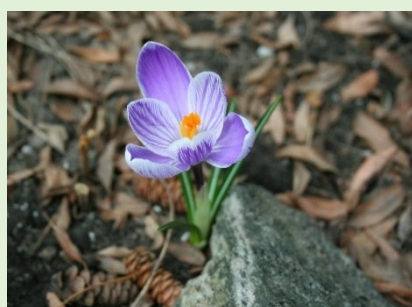
Congratulations and thanks to both Tena and Dianne for their impressive contributions to our group!



We instituted this award in 2023 to recognize an individual who has made a material contribution to the success of the Toronto Master Gardeners group in its mission and goals. We look to recognize TMGs who have, for example, successfully delivered a key project; been instrumental in helping us meet one or more of our strategic plan goals; made a measurable contribution to the success of a partner such as the Toronto Botanical Garden or Toronto Public Libraries; successfully established a relationship with a new partner; and/or made an outstanding contribution in delivering engagements.



Toronto Master Gardeners of the Year – Tena Van Adel (2023) left, and Dianne Azzarello (2024), right



Message from Anne Craig, President

Hi Master Gardeners. It's that wonderful time of year when we can start really thinking about our gardens – although as of a few days ago we're picking up after the devastating ice storm here in Peterborough.

One of my big goals for the time I'm president is to leave MGOI strong, going into the future. I want to make sure the organization is thriving during the next years, and decades. As part of this, we will be developing a new strategic plan. Every member will have a voice in developing this plan. The board is in the process of figuring out how we will do this. Start thinking about what you want the MGOI future to look like and stay tuned....

In the meantime, here are some more of the board members who are working on your behalf.

Director of Operations – Dianne Wheler Tri-County Master Gardeners



My first gardening memory - My grandparents owned a farm, and my grandmother had a huge vegetable garden. I remember at 5 or 6 years old going out to the garden with her to pick dinner and have her explain to me how vegetables grow.

My favourite garden tool - My battery-operated pruning saw. I have a lot of trees and mature shrubs. This tool makes pruning and winter clean-up so much easier.

My favourite plant - Although I have developed a deep appreciation for native plants, Hydrangea will always be my favourite.

My gardening nemesis - I have been fighting garlic mustard for years as well as a new nemesis the Squash Vine Borer. Gardening always has a new challenge to keep things interesting.

Director North Region – Gail Cocker Simcoe County Master Gardeners

My first gardening memory - My Mom balancing while weeding her rock garden.

My favourite gardening tool - My hori hori knife.

My current favourite plant - *Cercis canadensis* (Eastern Redbud).

My gardening nemesis - Just one? Keeping quack grass out of my *Hemerocallis* bed, keeping deer out too, getting the natives to outcompete the grass in the meadow....



Director South Region – Linda Gordon
Etobicoke Master Gardeners



My first gardening memory - Designing and digging a rose garden when I was 16 years old.

My favourite gardening tool - Hand weeder and snug fitting garden gloves to pull out weeds.

My current favourite plant - *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer' as a contrast plant for its sword-like leaves and delicate hanging flowers.

My gardening nemesis - Raccoons. They are constantly squishing my plants, particularly the sedums which they have found to be the perfect circular shape when flattened forming a comfy bed.



**Board Vacancy: VP / MGOI Webinars /
MGOI Members Facebook (FB) Private Discussion Group**

Board Vacancy – Vice President (VP)

MGOI is looking to find a VP as soon as possible, or potentially 2 VPs, to support our President, Anne Craig, in her new role.

The position:

- Supports and works closely with the President
- Monitors the progress of the organization's goals and objectives
- Reviews information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern
- Assists Directors in resolving potential areas of concern, potentially bringing 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 her absence; succeeds the President

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.

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. To join, you must be an active member of the Master Gardeners of Ontario and belong to a local MG group.'



Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

Tri County Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Sunday

Details: The Local Community Food Centre, Stratford ("The Local") was the venue on February 23rd for Seedy Sunday. The Tri-County Master Gardeners were there, offering advice, information about winter sowing, and information about their upcoming Native Perennial and Shrub Sale.

It was a wonderful morning with speakers, crafts people, seed sellers, and the local library and other organizations having booths.



L to R, TC Master Gardener members Nancy Burnett, Carolyn Schmidt, Leslye Glover and Maureen Cocksedge (standing)

Name: Winter Sowing of Native Seeds Workshop

Details: On a cold January morning, Tri-County Master Gardeners' member Michele Young led a 'Winter Sowing of Native Seeds' Workshop in Goderich, Huron County. In total, 24 participants completed planting 48 containers of a variety of native seeds.

On May 24th these participants will return with one of their germinated containers to learn how to separate and "pot up" the seedlings. (These participants are able to keep one of their containers to finish up at home and possibly share plants with their neighbours.) Many of the newly potted-up seedlings will be destined to be transplanted to sensitive areas that have had common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) removal completed, while other plants will be sold to the general public in a plant sale that will support the ongoing invasive species removal efforts.

Michele says, "It is such an honour to be able to serve our community with educational opportunities AND to ensure that more native plants find their forever homes in our own neighbourhoods."



TCMG Winter Sowing Participants: Learning, Having Fun, Expanding Native Plant Populations!

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday, March 1st

Details: Despite the blizzard conditions outside, Seedy Saturday was a resounding success! Over 1,000 attendees from London and the surrounding areas gathered to hear inspiring talks from MGs Heather O'Shea on 'Climate Smart Gardening', Jennie Girrard on 'Bees in Your Garden', and special guest Kevin Kavanagh on 'Birds and Natives'. The event featured numerous vendors and local exhibitors showcasing a variety of nature, environmentalism, seeds, and gardening products. The seed swap table was bustling with donations and eager participants, fostering lively discussions and the exchange of gardening knowledge. It was a fantastic day, made possible by the unwavering dedication of the planning committee.



The MG help table with, from l to r, Anne Marie Allen, Beth Warner, Heather O'Shea and Sandra Elfman





Seed Swap Table with MGs and participants, bagging seeds and talking about gardening



The London Middlesex Master Gardeners jubilant after Seedy Saturday 2025 is in the (seed) bag



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Day In The Garden, February 23rd

Details: We had a sell-out crowd this year with great speakers, food and vendors offering plants, seeds, handmade cards, metal décor and beautiful resin jewelry using flowers from the garden. A wonderful start to the garden season. Thank you to those that attended this year. We appreciate your support!



Registration Desk - from left MGs Margaret LeSage, Bob Newman, Sharon Leggett, Chris Hamilton



Speaker MG Robert Pavlis



Speaker Arlene Hazzan Green, Co-Owner The Backyard Urban Farm Company



Vendors and Buyers





Participants milling around



Demos during breaks – MG Lee Ann Lennox (background right in purple)



Almonte Seedy Saturday: (l to r) MGs Helen Halpenny and Jordan Scott-Richer

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Lecture Series Continues!

Details: “Inspiration in the Garden” is the theme for the 2025 lecture series co-sponsored by MGOC and Friends of the Farm (Central Experimental Farm). There are three more lectures to come: “Nature’s Turf: Cultivating Eco-Friendly Lawns” by MG Maryanne Ambroziak; “Sowing the Inspired Garden” with MG Rob Stuart; and “Notes on a Japanese Garden” by MG Barbara Sibbald. The series launched March 4th with a talk from Judith Cox on “Growing Vegetables in Any Situation.” Lee Ann Smith spoke about “Wildscaping: Wild Planting in a Strong Design” on March 18th. More than 100 people registered for the online presentations which are MGOCs main fundraiser.

Name: Educational talks

Details: In addition to the lectures, five MGs delivered talks on a myriad of topics this past month: Odette McIntyre on “The Urban Potager: a Field to Table Experience” to the Greely Gardeners Group; Nancy McDonald on “Digging in the Dirt” at the Cumberland branch of the Ottawa Public Library; Judith Cox on “Seed Starting for the Upcoming Season” to the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society; Candace Dressler on “Seasonal Colour Using Native Plants” at the Kemptville Horticultural Society; and Judith Cox on “Growing Vegetables in Small Spaces” to the Nepean Horticultural Society.

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday / Sunday Days

Details: March has been a busy month for Lanark County Master Gardeners, with 3 Seedy days. The events were very well attended and we had great visits to our tables. We have even received a few inquiries about becoming a Master Gardener.



Smiths Falls Seedy Saturday. (l to r) MGs Paul Pietsch, Gerda Franssen, Katrina Boguski



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Mississauga Seed Launch, Saturday March 1st

Details: The Mississauga Seed Launch was a great event on a cold winter day in March! MGs Stuart Plummer and



Ramona Christiansen were busy the entire 4 hours answering the many varied questions asked by the public. The renovated Hazel McCallion Library is a fabulous bright and spacious building. Wonderful vendors and great presentations were held in the media rooms.



MGs Emma Chow, left and Ramona Christiansen

Name: Brampton Seedy Saturday

Details: The Brampton Horticultural Society held their seedy Saturday at Century Gardens Recreation Centre on March 8th. Once again, MMGs had an advice table, answering questions and selling seeds collected from their members' gardens. All in all a busy day. Looks like the public is just as anxious to have spring arrive!



Diana Westland

Name: Toronto National Home Show, March 7-16

Details: The MMGs joined the TMGs (Toronto), EMGs (Etobicoke), Halton MGs and Guelph MGs in manning the booth at the Toronto National Home Show in the Enercare Centre on the Toronto Exhibition grounds. It was great working with other Master Gardeners from different groups. The booth had great information, and on behalf of the MMGs we would like to thank Halton MG Kate Sault for setting up a great advice table.



Left to right, MGs Kate Sault, Karolina Marques and Diana Westland



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Get the Jump on Spring 2025: Toronto Master Gardeners partner with the Toronto Botanical Garden

Details: Once again this year, Toronto Master Gardeners were on the scene for the Toronto Botanical Garden's popular annual "Get the Jump on Spring" event. This year we staffed advice clinics, held casual garden chats about our favourite tools and growing our favourite vegetables, and gave a hands-on demo on growing microgreens.



L to R, Toronto Master Gardeners Adrienne Hanbidge, Beatrice Beaubien (MGiT 2024) and Joanna Blanchard
Toronto Botanical Garden photo © Arthur Mola Photography



Toronto MGIT Fernando Shanthilal, right
Toronto Botanical Garden, photo © Arthur Mola Photography

1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturdays

Details: On Saturday February 22nd, March 1st, and March 8th our volunteers provided advice tables at a record four Seedy Saturdays this winter. We were part of Belleville's first annual Seedy Saturday, and also attended Seedy Saturday events in Picton, Kingston and Brockville.



Belleville Seedy Saturday: left to right, MGITs Dale Smith & Andrea (Sam) McColl



Kingston Seedy Saturday: left to right, MGs Marie McKenna, Tracey Filson & Anna Sadura Healey



Picton Seedy Saturday: left to right, MG Andie Wiens, MGIT Dale Smith, and MG June Croco



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Etobicoke Master Gardeners' Landscape Technician Scholarship of Excellence

Details: EMGs are proud to be funding a \$1000 Scholarship to the student in Year 1 of the Humber College Landscape Technician Program with the highest academic grade in Plant Studies 1. The first recipient is Michelle Gauthier.



Michelle (middle) receiving the award on March 19 with Coordinator Janet Haynes Graham (left) and MG Leslie Ferguson (right)

Name: 2025 Winter Lecture Series: The Wonder of Trees – Choice, Care and Stewardship

Details: Our speaker Todd Irvine, MFC, MA and ISA Certified Arborist, Principle at City Forest, communicated his love of trees to an eager audience through an engaging, accessible and informative talk on March 18th. He shared how trees work, what they need, the challenges they face in urban environments, how we can nurture them to live long healthy lives, and more. Todd's goal was to have us leave the room knowing how to think like a tree. Judging from the enthusiastic response, he was very successful!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Haldimand Seedy Saturday

Date & Time: Saturday, April 5th from 9:00am to 2:00pm

Location: Riverside Exhibition Centre, 151 Caithness St. E., Caledonia

Cost: \$5., \$2. with foodbank donation

Details: Haldimand Seedy Saturday is hosted by the Haldimand Horticultural Society. GEMG will be among 60 vendors / participants.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: 2025 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series with the Humber Arboretum

Next Workshop: Choosing Your Champion: Picking Plants for a Healthy Garden

Date: Saturday April 12, 2025

Time & Place: 10:00am to 12:30pm at the Humber Arboretum, Back of Humber Polytechnic North Campus, 205 Humber College Blvd., Toronto

Details: EMG provides a series of virtual and in person gardening workshops in cooperation with Humber Arboretum between February and November. All are free and take place on Saturdays. In-person workshops are held at the Humber Arboretum and run from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 12:30 p.m., offering an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor walk. Virtual workshops in February and November take place over Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to noon (90-minute workshop plus 30 minutes for questions).

More Information and Sign-up: For details please see the attached flyer or go to

<https://humber.ca/arboretum/learn/adult-programs/etobicoke-master-gardeners.html>.



Winter 2025 Winter Lecture Series

Name: Lecture 3 – The Arts and Crafts Garden:
Productive, Functional and Beautiful

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 15th, 7pm-9pm.

Glass doors open at 6:40pm.

Location: Kingsway Lambton United Church, 85 The Kingsway, Toronto, Main Door. Street parking available.

Cost: donation/pwyc

Details: This is the 3rd and final talk of the winter gardening talks for the general public series.

Join our presenter Frank Kershaw as he shares his more than 50 years of gardening experience with design, architectural elements and plants, while providing insight, examples and techniques to incorporate some features of the Arts and Crafts Movement to your garden, or just to your imagination. All members welcome!



Save the Date – Saturday May 24th

Name: Annual Spring Plant Sale

Time & Place: 8:30am to 12:30 pm, 6 Kingsway Crescent, Etobicoke



2025 Annual Spring Plant Sale – Saturday, May 24, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
6 Kingsway Crescent, Etobicoke



Free Advice Clinic, native plants for native pollinators, herbs, tomatoes, houseplants and more!



www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca

Details: Free Advice Clinic, native plants for native pollinators, herbs, tomatoes, houseplants and more!

Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

Name: Easterpalooza 2025

Date & Time: April 19th, 9:30AM-12:30PM

Location: 251 John West Way, Aurora ON

Details: This event features a variety of family focussed indoor and outdoor activities, including interactive pollinator activities provided by LSSMG. Here are photos from last year's event, Easterpalooza 2024.



LSSMG Colleen Jones demonstrating a pollinating activity with a pipe cleaner, bees, and chalk dust pollen



Bee life cycle display including nesting materials and a peek-a-bee nesting box with cocoons nestled inside

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: A Day for Gardeners

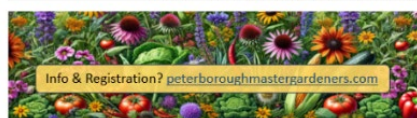


Saturday April 26, 2025

Westdale United Church
1509 Sherbrooke St, Peterborough, ON
9:30am to 3pm (estimate)



Four Seminars, lunch & door prizes	All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners
Cost: \$60 early bird \$75 after Apr 1	Session 1: ♦ Composting & Soil OR ♦ Beyond Bee Hotels: Creating Habitat for Beneficial Insects
Come join us for a fun day of learning, lunch and friendship!	Session 2: ♦ Trees & Shrubs for Small Urban Spaces OR ♦ Shade Gardens
	Session 3: ♦ Vegetable Edible Gardens OR ♦ Harvesting Rainwater: Our Gardener's Experience
	Plenary: Friends, Enemies and Frenemies: A Wildlife Guide for Gardeners



Info & Registration? peterboroughmastergardeners.com

Date & Time:

Saturday, April 26th, 2025; 9:30am – 3pm

(approximate)

Cost: \$60. early bird, \$75 after April 1

Location:

Westdale United Church, 1509 Sherbrooke St., Peterborough



Details: The day will include 3 seminars with a plenary session at the end. Topics and further details follow. All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners. Lunch is included, and there will be door prizes.

<p>Four Seminars, lunch & door prizes</p> <p>Cost: \$60 early bird \$75 after Apr1</p> <p>Come join us for a fun day of learning, lunch and friendship!</p>	<p>All seminars are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners</p> <p>Session 1: ❖ Composting & Soil OR ❖ Beyond Bee Hotels: Creating Habitat for Beneficial Insects</p> <p>Session 2: ❖ Trees & Shrubs for Small Urban Spaces OR ❖ Shade Gardens</p> <p>Session 3: ❖ Vegetable/Edible Gardens OR ❖ Harvesting Rainwater: One Gardener's Experience</p> <p>Plenary: Friends, Enemies and Frenemies: A Wildlife Guide for Gardeners</p>
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Join us for a fun filled day of learning, lunch and friendship!

Questions? **Call Anne at 705 991-2971** or email peterboroughmastergardeners@gmail.com

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Workshop: Stuck in the Mud? Embracing Native Plants in Gardens with Clay Soil

Date & Time: Sunday, April 27th, 2025; 11am – 4pm

Location: Ruthven National Historical Site at 243 Haldimand County Hwy 54, Cayuga, ON



GRAND ERIE MASTER GARDENERS ARE HOSTING A **GARDEN Workshop** **Stuck in the Mud? Embracing Native Plants in Clay Soil**

APRIL 27, 2025 11AM-4PM

\$55 per person

Ruthven Park National Historic Site, 243 Hwy 54, Haldimand, ON

Register at <http://www.granderiemg.org>



- Presentation highlighting native plants suitable for clay soil in sun and shade
- Tasty lunch provided by local eatery Carolinian Cafe
- Hands-on experience planting native plants
- Guided forest walk learning the trees and shrubs that thrive in the park with hopes of seeing spring ephemerals and early migrant birds
- Guided tour of the historic Ruthven mansion



Details: This is our first workshop of the year. Join us for an informative and hands-on Gardening Workshop where you'll learn how to successfully grow native plants in clay soil.

MG Kevin Kavanagh will speak on the topic of gardening with native plants in clay soils. A complimentary lunch will be provided by a local café with Canadian-sourced food. The lunch will be followed by a Guided Walk in the Woods to explore local native plants in their natural Carolinian Forest Habitat. End the day with a Tour of the Historic Mansion on-site.

Cost: \$55 per person

Registration: Registration is now open! Please see the link on our events page at <https://granderiemg.org/events> to register. Seats are limited to ensure all registrants have an enjoyable learning experience.

Toronto Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE: THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE
The Toronto Botanical Garden's Annual Tour
Saturday and Sunday, June 7 & 8, 2025

Details: One of the highlights in the Toronto Master Gardeners' year is the premier garden tour, *Through the Garden Gate*, sponsored by the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG). In partnership with TBG, Toronto Master Gardeners scout possible gardens more than a year in advance. For each day of this 2-day event, we staff every garden with one or more Master Gardeners to help guide visitors through the garden, safeguard the garden on behalf of the homeowner, and answer any questions from visitors about plant material or design elements in the garden. Many thanks to the Etobicoke Master Gardeners who helped us with this staffing at last year's tour in Swansea, in southwest Toronto.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8 in the Hogg's Hollow neighbourhood at Yonge Street & York Mills Road. It's worth the trip!



Photo: TBG -

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/through-the-garden-gate/>

Check out the event description on TBG's website. In the lead photo from last year's tour in Swansea, on the left is TMG Nicole Leaper in one of the gardens.



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Technical Update

Biodiverse Garden Tour 2025 – Transitioning to Turf-Free Yards

Date: August 2025

Location: Kingston and Area

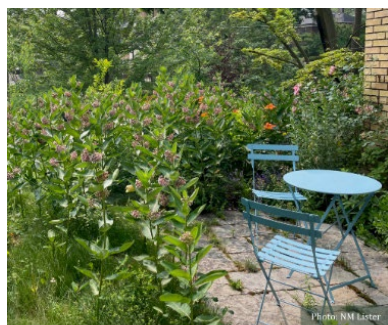
More information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE – UPCOMING EVENT

Toronto Master Gardeners

Technical Update – November 8, 2025

Details: The Toronto Master Gardeners (TMG) will hold its first in-person technical update in 5 years following the pandemic. More details will follow in the MGOI Newsletter, and on the Toronto Master Gardeners website and social media.



Changing Cities, One Garden at a Time

Technical Update

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Toronto Botanical Garden

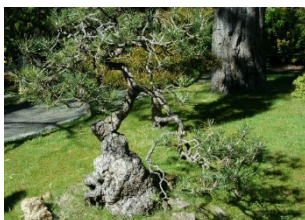


Toronto
Master
Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE

Date, Time & Place:

Taking place Saturday, November 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden, the event will be open to TMGs, other Master Gardeners (MGs) and interested members of the public.



Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Oak Wilt Disease

Reminder – Do Not Prune Oak Trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April 1st 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 pruning your oaks from now until the end of November to protect trees from oak wilt disease.

The pathogen that causes oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*) is present in the Ontario environment, and 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 Digital Toolkit

The CFIA is looking for 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

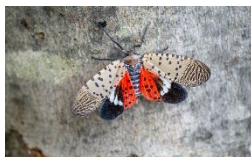
Marketing and partnerships / Marketing et partenariats
Communications and Public Affairs Branch / Direction
générale des communications et affaires publiques
Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
343-542-3856

Maria.kubacki@inspection.gc.ca

CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

Canada is preparing for the potential arrival of the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), present in the United States and getting closer to the Canadian border. The SLF 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://canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly).

The **SLF 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 one page infographic:

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

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
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)

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