



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario*

# Inside

# MGOI

Welcome to the April 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](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

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## INSIDE MGOI

**April 2025**

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

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Halton Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardeners in Training

Jenn Dittrich

Mary Lloyd-Clifford

A very warm welcome is extended to our new MGITs!



### Lanark County Master Gardeners

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Nancy Barnard

We are very happy to announce our new member, Nancy Barnard. Nancy is currently working in the Cayman Islands but also returns frequently to her home in Lanark County.



She is well experienced with tropical plants but is eager to learn more about native plants in Lanark County. She and her husband are in the midst of planting an orchard, locally.



### London Middlesex Master Gardeners

#### 20 Year Anniversary & Emeritus Status

Bob Worthy

Bob joined the London Middlesex Master Gardener group in October of 2004. He is celebrating 20 years with the group and has recently become an Emeritus member!

Bob has always been very engaged with the Master Gardener group in various roles such as MGOI Director, overseeing four other groups and participating on the MGOI Board.

He is a Certified Accountant. Over the years Bob completed reviews of the Treasurer process to ensure compliance with requirements, and provided expertise where applicable. He has always attended our city-wide library plant exchanges and Seedy Saturdays, educating the public and working with our community partners. Congratulations Bob and well deserved Emeritus status!



*Bob, left with Sandra Elfman, Coordinator*



### 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

#### 10 Year Anniversary

June Crocco

Congratulations June!



*June Crocco, left with Tracey Filson, Coordinator  
Photo Credit: MG Anna Sadura Healey*



## Niagara Master Gardeners

### 5 Year Anniversary

Betty Knight

Congratulations to Betty on receiving her five-year pin!

Betty is much appreciated for her well-informed, active and energetic participation in our group since she joined in October, 2019.



*Betty Knight, right, receives her pin from membership coordinator Lois Johnson*

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Eva Weber

Lynn Fournier



*From left, Eva Weber and Lynn Fournier receive their newly minted certificates from Lois Johnson, our membership coordinator*

Congratulations to Eva and Lynn for becoming certified Master Gardeners. Lynn's gardening interests and background follow.

*by Lynn Fournier*

I had the very good fortune of growing up a farm-kid in Burlington. Back in the 1950's Burlington was still a fairly rural community, and I have fond memories of cutting asparagus and picking fruit for market. Although I never became a farmer, those early years imbued a love of gardening within me. There's something magical about gardens—thinking of them, planting them, caring for them, learning and sharing ideas, or just sitting within them. No matter what's happening to cause me concern or worry, I can always walk out into my garden, lose myself for a while and magically feel better. It's medicine for our souls.

Retirement left me with time to pursue my interests, one being to become a Master Gardener. I'll not forget the intimidation I felt walking into that first meeting, but of course I had nothing to fear. The group welcomed and mentored me throughout the MGIT period and I've never looked back. Thank you Master Gardeners for all your encouragement and support!



## Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Grant Murphy

Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners is pleased to announce that Grant received his Master Gardener certificate at our April meeting. After a career as a civil engineer in the municipal sector and water utility industry, Grant has fully embraced retirement and currently has over 300 tomato, hot pepper and other vegetable seedlings started this year. They will be moved out to a small greenhouse when they are ready; then Grant sells them locally in late May and June to many repeat customers.

Grant's area of expertise is vegetable gardening, and he's also very knowledgeable about irrigation methods, presenting to our local group about his rainwater harvesting and distribution system.

Grant is also our very efficient PMG Secretary and overall technology and audio expert.





Grant and his wife Emma (also a MG) have extensive perennial and vegetable gardens on their Lakefield property, and have hosted garden tours for several organizations.



Grant Murphy, left with Marilyn Homewood (Membership Chair)



## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### New Master Gardener in Training

Elizabeth Brown

Elizabeth, a graduate from the University of Guelph's Master Gardener program, received her MG certificate on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth has quickly become a cornerstone of our organization, taking minutes at the executive and member meetings; she also led an advice table for Earth Day on April 26<sup>th</sup>.



New MG Elizabeth Brown (centre) received her certificate from Co-coordinator Odette McIntyre (left) and Mary Crawford, who looks after membership and administration

## 10 Year Anniversaries

Gayle Singer

Marg Ryan

Congratulations and thank you!

## 5 Year Anniversaries

Adair Heuchan

Barbara Long

Penka Matanska

Anna Tjepkema



## Essex-Windsor Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Status Achieved

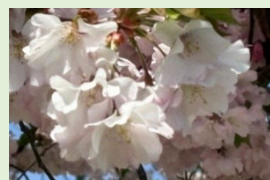
Christine Roath



Coordinator Pat Jeflyn, left presenting Christine with her MG certificate

Christine became a full-fledged MG in 2024. She received her Master Gardener certificate at the March 2025 meeting.

Pat completed her own certification and received her certificate last fall. Pat is now the Essex-Windsor Coordinator.





## 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

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### 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.

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### 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.'

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## Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

### Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

#### **Name: Lunch & Learn Part 1—Growing Flowers in Northern Ontario**

**Details:** Hedy Koski and Jack Van Gemenen, our two newly certified Master Gardeners, were happy to do a presentation on “Growing Flowers in Northern Ontario” for a local Thunder Bay organization on March 20<sup>th</sup>. It was a well attended lunch and learn opportunity for their employees. The presentation included seeding, growing and seed harvest of annuals and perennials. It was a big hit! Everyone is motivated and excited to get out in the garden.



*MGs Jack Van Gemenen, left with Hedy Koski*



*MG Hedy Koski speaking at the lunch & learn*

#### **Name: Lunch & Learn Part 2—Growing Vegetables**

**Details:** MG Jack Van Gemenen and MGIT Laura Jones provided a lunch and learn presentation on “Growing Vegetables” for a local Thunder Bay organization for their employees on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This was part 2 of the series. Growing vegetables has become a very popular topic and it was a well attended. They also provided a selection of seeds to motivate the group to start gardening.



*Jack Van Gemenen, left and Laura Jones, right*



*Laura Jones with the class*

#### **Name: Seedy Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Details:** Master Gardeners Sylvia Goodheart and Jack Van Gemenen, as well as MGIT Laura Jones, were happy to represent the Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners at the Seedy Saturday & Market at the Nolalu Community Centre. Nolalu is approximately 48 km from Thunder Bay.

It was well attended and included information on native seeds, gardening advice as well as seed and seedlings to share and exchange. Local market vendors were also on hand.





Despite the latest snowstorm, everyone is looking forward to spring and getting out in the garden.



MGs Sylvia Goodheart, left, Jack Van Gemenen in back, and MGIT Laura Jones, right



MG Marg Stewart (L) and MGIT Paul Lander on Forcing Branches



## Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

### Name: Elora & Salem Horticultural Society Spring Event

**Details:** The Elora & Salem Horticultural Society Spring Event was held at GrandWay Events Centre in Elora on the evening of March 19<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker was Julia Dimakos who spoke on *Successful Vegetable Gardening*.

Master Gardeners Judy Brisson and Marg Stewart led a breakout session on *Forcing Flowering Branches*.



MG Lee Ann Lennox demonstrating microgreens



MG Judy Brisson (L) with MGIT Cathy McNab on Forcing Branches



MGIT Marcus Kotyk demonstrating pruning



## Tri-County Master Gardeners

### Name: "Climate Conversations" in Stratford

**Details:** Tri-County Master Gardeners are making concerted efforts to connect with other groups, who, though not necessarily comprised solely or generally of gardeners, have interest in what is going on in the natural world around them. One such group, based in Stratford, is Climate Momentum which focuses on climate change issues and has been sponsoring monthly "Climate Conversations" for the community. The "Climate Conversations" at City Hall have featured presentations on various climate topics, followed by attendees' sharing of concerns and ideas.

Our long time Master Gardener, Don Farwell, gave the March presentation at "Climate Conversations". He spoke on the important role of pollinators in the web of life and how we as gardeners/occupants of private properties can support pollinators. He gave his talk the playful title "Kiss a Bumblebee" to emphasize the idea of showing love for pollinators. Don provided a lot of useful information about why people should, and how they can, encourage pollinators onto their properties.

Fellow members supported Don's presentation by setting up a display which included information about native plants, and by handing out packets of native seeds to participants. In addition to providing information about planting native plants, on this occasion TCMGs had the opportunity to get exposure for the group and our aspirations for contributing to a healthy community. This year TCMGs have set goals for making efforts to recruit new members for our small chapter. This "Climate Conversations" event provided an opportunity for working on that goal.



TCMGs table at Don Farwell's presentation at Stratford's "Climate Conversations"

## Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners

### Name: Seedy Saturday

**Details:** After being postponed due to the ice storm, 670 visitors came to Pefferlaw for Seedy Saturday on April 12<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Cannington and Georgina-Brock Horticultural Clubs. Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners were there to talk about "Cost Effective Recycling Tips for Seed Starting."

Displays of three different types of container soil mixes caught visitors' attention; they also appreciated learning about recycling strategies: label making from plastic containers as well as using clam shells for seed starting pots. We also explained how to sterilize and reuse last year's cell packs. Sample seedlings were on hand as giveaways. It was a great day! Thanks to our LSSMG team!



(left to right): Jen Hoekstra (MGIT), Sally Hossain (MG) and Debbie Coleman (MG)

## Halton Master Gardeners

### Name: Dundas Farmers' Winter Market 2025

**Details:** This is a new winter market, located in the Shawn & Ed Brewing Co., Hatt St. @ Sydenham, Dundas ON. The market took place every third Thursday from 12pm to 4pm, November to April. HMGs had a booth in March.

Many thanks to Master Gardeners Morag Johnston, Lynn Courtney, Diane Best, Kate Sault, Carol Tuck-Riggs, Harriette Henry and Allyn Walsh for manning the booth.





MG Allyn Walsh

## Name: National Home Show, March 2025

**Details:** The National Home Show took place at the Enercare Centre in Toronto from March 7<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>. Participants from Halton who manned the MGOI booth included Roseanne Nelson, Pam MacDonald, Janet Padiak, Carol Tuck Riggs, Kate Sault, Hariette Henry, Diane Best and Christine Scheewe.



Halton members: L to R: Janet Padiak, Hariette Henry



Halton members: L to R: Kirsten McCarthy, Janet Padiak, Allyn Walsh and Kate Sault

Many from our group also made presentations on various topics including: *Your Garden Through a Bird's Eye* – Pam Macdonald; *Container Gardening* – Allyn Walsh; *Identifying Invasive Plants* – Kirsten McCarthy; and finally, *Gardens That Give Back!* – Claudette Sims and Cathy Kavassalis.



Kirsten McCarthy presenting "Identifying Invasive Plants"



Pam MacDonald presenting "Your Garden through a Bird's Eye"

## Lanark County Master Gardeners

### Name: Garden to Table

**Details:** MG Kathleen Lang is working with a school in Smiths Falls to help families develop, create and maintain a vegetable garden.



## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

### Name: 2025 Winter Lecture Series.

#### The Arts and Crafts Garden: Productive, Functional, Beautiful

**Details:** At our final 2025 Winter Lecture Frank Kershaw gave an informative illustrated talk on the characteristics and history of the Arts and Crafts movement as reflected in the architecture and gardens found in the U.K., U.S. and Canada. Drawing from his personal slide collection and stories based on his long experience with design, architectural elements and plants, Frank shared examples of how summer houses, garden rooms, pergolas, rustic furniture and water features were used to integrate the garden with the domestic architecture. He inspired the audience to look to the Arts and Crafts gardeners' use of local materials and artifacts, along with native and non-native plants, to create gardens that reflect a respect for nature and natural landscape and plant forms.



## Grand Erie Master Gardeners

### Name: Community Events

**Details:** The Grand Erie Master Gardeners participated in several community events this month. On Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> the GEMGs had a table and answered many questions at Haldimand Seedy Saturday in Caledonia.



from left to right, MG and GEMG Coordinator Lynne Goulet-Smith, MGIT Erin Casey and MGIT Marilyn Park



MG Anne Sawyer speaking with lifetime member Larry Dickie (standing) who was visiting the show

### Name: A Bite of Brant

**Details:** The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual "A Bite of Brant" event was held at the Burford Fairgrounds on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. A number of GEMG members participated. Not pictured is retired MG Eva Koehler who also volunteered.



MG Christa Hunter



left to right are MGITs Marilyn Park, Carolyn Bennett and Liz Hopkins





## 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

**Name:** Communities In Bloom, Napanee Garden Expo, April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Details:** TIMG representatives were on hand to answer questions. The event was very well organized and attended, with a variety of vendors and service groups present. Roughly 500 people came through—the organizer was surprised at how far people came from: Kingston, Belleville, a few from the Ottawa region and even the GTA!

We took the opportunity at this in-person event to finally present MG June Crocco with her 10 year pin (see Milestones, above).



Maarty told us the pepper plants will grow to 4 metres (!!) by the end of the season, which is in October. Production is about 140 peppers per square metre.

It was a fascinating look at how some of our food is grown in a greenhouse setting.



*A few pecks of picked peppers are transported to the packing warehouse by an autonomous trolley*

## Niagara Master Gardeners

**Name:** Greenhouse Tour

**Details:** Niagara MGs headed out on a road trip to St. David's Hydroponics (Plant 2) on April 1. Chief Grower Maarty Hendriksen gave us a tour of one of the pepper greenhouses. (They grow several kinds of peppers and also eggplants, most of which are exported to the U.S.)



*Maarty Hendriksen, right, chief grower at St. David's Hydroponics leading the tour of a red bell pepper greenhouse at the company's Plant 2 in Niagara-on-the-Lake*

The plants are grown in rockwool and water that holds the macro and micro nutrients that the plants need to thrive.

**Name:** Ask a Master Gardener at the Library

**Details:** Niagara MGs Jennifer Qusen and Marie-Claire Groulx have been faithfully offering advice each month at the Dr. Huq branch in the St. Catharines' library system. They report that things can get quite busy, and they are getting some repeat customers. In April they also handed out free seeds left over from our Seedy Saturday event to help people get growing this spring.



*Jennifer and Marie-Claire, from left (behind table), talk to a couple of gardeners with questions*





## Name: 'Hands On,' at Niagara Parks' Greenhouses

**Details:** Niagara MGs helped out at the Niagara Parks' greenhouses on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The assignment was to plant up seedlings that will eventually be planted out in the Niagara Parks' gardens. It was an interesting and productive morning.



*Niagara MGs stand behind their work in one of the Niagara Parks greenhouses*

## Name: Floral Arrangement Workshop

**Details:** Niagara Master Gardeners held workshops featuring pansies and daffodils in flower arrangements for spring-themed activities in April at Hospice Niagara and Tabor Manor long-term care homes.



*From left, Kendy Steeves, Pam Coring and Karen Epp hosted a planting activity at Tabor Manor in St. Catharines*

## Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

### Name: Apsley Seedy Sunday

**Details:** Apsley Seedy Sunday was a fun event held at the Apsley Public Library. A great turnout with lots of interest and great questions!

The day featured door prizes, several seed vendors, and multiple presentations throughout the day of interest to gardeners. Peterborough & Area MGs were on hand to answer questions. Participants were able to relax with a book or seed catalog by the fireplace.



*MG Jennifer Guertin, left with MG Carol Ireland*



## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Name: Lecture Series Continues

**Details:** "Garden Inspiration", the theme for the 2025 Friends of the farm/MGOC lecture series, continued with Maryanne Ambroziak's talk on "Natures' turf: cultivating eco-friendly lawns" and Rob Stuart's presentation on "Sowing the inspired garden".

The final zoom lecture on "A Japanese themed garden" is on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Tickets are available at [www.friendsofthefarm.ca](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca).



## Name: Bumper Crop of Talks

**Details:** MGOC members gave 12 educational talks including:

- Judith Cox on “Growing vegetables in small spaces” for the Nepean Horticultural Society;
- Rebecca Last on “Bullies, thugs and sneaks” for the Pembroke Horticultural Society;
- Mary Crawford on “New York’s High Line Park: Bold vision, creative design” for the Ottawa Horticultural Society;
- Odette McIntyre on “The urban potager – A field to table experience” for the Kanata-March Horticultural Society;
- Judith Cox on “How to live with what lives in your garden” for the Greely Gardeners;
- Judith Cox on “Purple carrots, honeybees and magic: gardening with children” for the Cumberland Library;
- Lee Ann Smith on “High performance, low maintenance plants” at the CentrepoinTE Branch of the Ottawa Public Library;
- Nancy McDonald on “Culinary delights with herbs and edible flowers” at the Orleans Library;
- Claire McCaughey on Garden basics: gardening with a beginner’s mind” at the Kemptville Horticultural Society;
- Candace Dressler on “Gardeners’ dreams vs. reality” at the Nepean Horticultural Society;
- Nancy McDonald on “Paint with blooms” at the Nepean Horticultural Society; and
- Lee Boltwood gave a pruning demonstration for the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society.

## Name: Spring Cleaning!

**Details:** Major initiatives are underway to standardize our advice table binders and review our fact sheets.

## Name: Ottawa Home & Garden Show

**Details:** We were on site for 4 days from Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A big success with over 30,000 visitors for the entire show according to the show proponents! Not sure what our question numbers are yet!

The numbers have not been released yet but apparently there were lots of questions about Japanese beetles, rabbits, and growing veggies (indicative of the high price of fresh produce).



Left to right: MGs Amanda Carrigan, Sylvie Lapointe, Barbara Long and Claire Leduc at the Advice Table on March 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Toronto Master Gardeners

### Name: Urban Vegetable Gardening Workshop Series

**Details:** The Toronto Master Gardeners' annual *Urban Vegetable Gardening Workshop* series was again sold out this year. Held at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) over 4 successive weeks, it was a collaborative effort between the TBG and TMG. Once again, 30 participants received instruction, consultation and curated resources from a host of Toronto Master Gardeners. Here are a few quotes from satisfied participants:

*"Thanks to all the Master Gardeners and support staff. You were all great and made this an excellent experience".*

*"Workshop was very informative. Exciting and worth it. My balcony garden will do better this year because of the acquired knowledge".*

*"Thank you so much! You set the right tone and expectations for a new gardener".*

A huge thank you to all who presented, assisted and consulted to make the workshop a success – Gail Bebee, Tanya Onieogou, Tina Cesaroni (who also grew tomato seedlings!), Doreen Hilliard, Stanley Dsouza, Lucy Saunders, Nancy Durocher, Tena van Anandel, and Sid Sigua.







TMG presenter Kathy Martin, Urban Vegetable Gardening Workshop, Toronto Botanical Garden.  
Photo credit: Sig Sigua.

### Name: 62 speaking engagements and counting!

**Details:** The Toronto Master Gardeners are having a very active spring! By the end of June we will have fulfilled a total of 62 engagements, to a diverse audience, including:

- 6 Advice Clinics for five different organizations, including 2 days at Evergreen Brickworks
- 22 presentations and demonstrations - direct engagements for a variety of organizations
- 1 presentation and 3 Advice Clinics through our partnership with Toronto Botanical Garden, including Advice Clinics at the TBG Plant Sale
- 16 presentations and 14 demonstrations through our partnership with Toronto Public Libraries



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Lanark County Master Gardeners

**Name:** EarthFEST

**Date & Time:** Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11-3

**Location:** Market Square Pavillion, 7 Beckwith St., Carleton Place & the Grand Hotel, 7 Bridge St., Carleton Place

**Details:** Lanark County Gardeners will be joining groups across the county in a celebration of spring and the garden.

“This is a free event celebrating our beautiful world, with many fun, sustainable things to do and so very much to learn about, for the whole family!”

We will have an advice table. Two of our Master Gardeners will host “Gardening Woes and Hoes”. For more information visit: [3rd Annual EarthFEST 2025 - Town of Carleton Place](https://www.earthfest.ca/2025/town-of-carleton-place)

### Etobicoke Master Gardeners

**Name:** Free Workshop—Making the Cut: Pruning

**Date, Time & Place:** Saturday, May 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 205 Humber College Boulevard, Toronto

**Details:** At this hands-on workshop you’ll learn about the importance of pruning, proper pruning techniques, and get tips on how, when and what to prune. We’ll talk about some of the common tools used for pruning, and how to care for them.

The workshop is followed by an outdoor tour. Wear your walking shoes and dress for the weather to take the learning outside and enjoy the gardens and woodland.

**For More Details and to Sign-up** please visit:

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

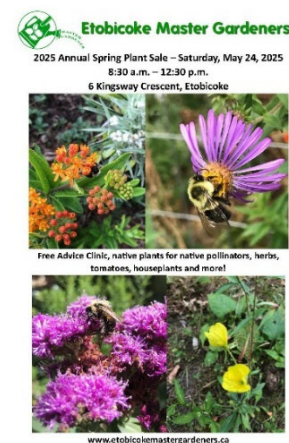


**Name:** 2025 Annual Spring Plant Sale

**Date, Time & Place:**

Saturday May 24, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,  
6 Kingsway Crescent,  
Etobicoke

**Details:** Free advice clinic, native plants for native pollinators, herbs, tomatoes, house plants and more!





## Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

### Name: Annual Plant Sale

**Date & Time:** Saturday May 17, 2025 from 9 am – 1 pm

**Place:** Harcourt United Church, 87 Dean Ave., Guelph

**Details:** Shrubs and trees, perennials, vegetables, and native and pollinator plants will all be available for purchase.



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 TBGs 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

### Name: Quinte Field Naturalists Plant Sale

**Date:** May 17, 2025

**Details:** 1000 Islands Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions at this fundraising event hosted by Quinte Field Naturalists. 100% of the funds raised will be invested in tree planting.

## 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.

## Toronto Master Gardeners

### 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.

## 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.



### 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.



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.

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

### Oak Wilt Disease

**Reminder – Do Not Prune Oak Trees (*Quercus* spp.) from April 1<sup>st</sup> until December:** winter pruning when the tree is dormant needs to be the new norm.

*This is a friendly reminder to hold off pruning your oaks 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.

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

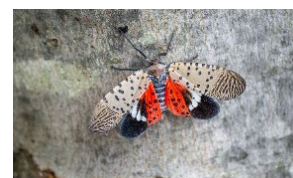


*Oak wilt disease in an oak tree.*  
Photo credit: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak\\_wilt\\_diagnosing\\_and\\_preventing](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oak_wilt_diagnosing_and_preventing)



### CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

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 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 both 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

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Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

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The CFIA has spokespersons 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

## 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.

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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