



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

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

This Newsletter aims to be the voice for Master Gardeners—a 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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In This Issue

Master Gardeners

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

MGOI

- Board Vacancy: VP

INSIDE MGOI

June 2025

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

2025 Ontario Volunteer Awards

Gordon Ward

Catharine Cribbs

We were pleased to nominate two of our members for the 2025 Ontario Volunteer Awards. They were celebrated for their continued commitment and dedication to the community of Thunder Bay and the surrounding districts.



Gordon Ward, left receiving his award

Congratulations to Gordon Ward with over 30 years with Master Gardeners. A ceremony was held at Fort William Historical Park on June 9th.

Catharine Cribbs from Porcupine, Ontario was honoured in Timmins on June 11th for her 10 years of service and dedication.



Catharine Cribbs, right with her award

Congratulations to both for their countless hours of volunteering!



Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Aslam Hanief



by Norine Blyth

Please help me give a warm welcome to our newest member, Aslam Hanief. Aslam's interests include growing food sustainably in his home garden, and growing ornamentals (annuals and perennials). He has over 50 peonies in his gardens and will be planting that many dahlias this year. He is also interested in accessing community markets for garden products such as excess vegetables and cut flowers, and starting up garden clubs.

Aslam's skills include creating presentations, public speaking, chairing / facilitating meetings and demonstrating gardening and plant propagation techniques. His skills will be put to good use in this group. His enthusiasm is abundant!



Simcoe County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Tina Solem

Tina joined the Simcoe County MG group in September 2024. She is pursuing her coursework through Dalhousie University and is enjoying connecting with like-minded peers.

Tina developed the gardening bug about ten years ago and mostly learned from her mom Linda, who is an avid gardener herself. As a teacher, she believes in life-long learning and becoming a MG has been a goal of hers for years.





Tina, centre, with her mom Linda (left) and her Aunt Elaine (right) on their annual trip to Vandermeer Nursery in Ajax

Tina's current areas of interest include: native plants; replacing lawns with garden space; and supporting local schools to build their own pollinator gardens.

informative articles and dozens of full-colour photographs, the magazine makes a significant contribution to the Canadian gardening scene.

The Gardener has carried Cynthia's writing on the ravines of Toronto, the therapeutic garden, beneficial insects, the Miyawaki method, tree diseases, invasive species, and conifers. This fall and into 2026, the magazine will carry her stories on hardy fruit trees and shrubs, the tisane garden, viburnums, and sensory gardens.

For her research, Cynthia often contacts experts and gardeners across the country. For the food forest story, she communicated with Canadian gardeners literally coast to coast, from St. Philip's, a town near St. John's NL, to Galiano Island, BC. She even spoke with the gardener responsible for what must be Canada's most northerly food forest near Whitehorse, YU. For her article on Dutch elm disease, Justine Richardson, Director of the Arboretum at the University of Guelph, gave Cynthia a private tour of the young elms grown from seed at the elm recovery program. For the Miyawaki story, Cynthia participated in a tree planting event organized by Network of Nature and Canadian Geographic.

Finding the perfect photograph is another activity that Cynthia enjoys doing for each of her articles. "Photographs are an integral part of the story," she explains. "It's a thrill to discover gifted nature photographers who wish to share their work with the public."

In addition to *The Gardener*, Cynthia also writes for *Trillium*, the newsletter of the Ontario Horticultural Association/Gardens Ontario and distributed to about 278 garden clubs.

Cynthia's turn to garden writing coincided with her retirement as a sociology professor in 2022 and the year she became a Master Gardener. "What I like best about garden writing is the opportunity to dive into any topic I want to explore." For Cynthia, lifelong learning is what it means to be a Master Gardener. "At this time of my life, it is very rewarding to be doing work that I so thoroughly enjoy."



Member Profile

Cynthia Lauer

by Cynthia Lauer

If you happen to subscribe or otherwise come across the summer issue of *The Gardener* magazine, you will notice the attractive cover photo of a spider flower (*Cleome hassleriana*). The story on self-seeding annuals was written by Cynthia Lauer, member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners. A few pages along, you will find a second article of Cynthia's. That one is on Canadian food forests.



Cynthia with her cover story for *The Gardener*, summer 2025 issue

The summer issue of the magazine isn't the first time that Cynthia's writing has been published in *The Gardener*. Her first story pitches in the fall of 2022 were accepted in January 2023. Since then, she's become a regular contributor with at least one, and sometimes two, articles in every quarterly issue.

With a paid subscription of 10,000 and a pass-along circulation of 35,000 for every issue, *The Gardener* is Canada's only magazine of its kind. With its range of



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

New Master Gardener in Training

Kathleen Atkinson

Congratulations Kathleen!

2024 Ecology Ottawa Nature Champion Award

Barbara Long



Barbara Long (Photo by Caitlin Brookes)

MG Barbara Long is the 2024 recipient of the Ecology Ottawa Nature Champion Award. It honours someone who "inspires you to learn more about our ecology and protect biodiversity" in Ottawa.

Barbara was nominated by MGOC with endorsements from CAFES (Community Action for Environmental Sustainability) Ottawa and Louisa Battistelli, a grade 5-6 teacher at Connaught Public School who is working with Barbara to develop a school pollinator garden. "Barbara's enthusiasm is infectious, which encourages others to consider their own actions and to participate," said Belinda Boekhoven, MGOC co-coordinator.



Tri County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Carolyn Schmidt

Congratulations Carolyn for passing the certification exam and becoming a full-fledged Master Gardener! The self study program for writing the certification exam requires dedication and perseverance. Carolyn worked hard and read all the additional material recommended in our study sessions. She passed the exam quite handily, which is no

easy task.

We are delighted to have Carolyn as an official member of our team. She has extensive and detailed knowledge about native plants and pollinators. Carolyn has a fun-loving personality and a great sense of humour. She is very dedicated and always exceeds the required number of volunteer hours. Carolyn reads extensively, watches many webinars on native plants and is always up to date on the latest research. She keeps a cool head and is great at problem solving issues that arise within our group. We always enjoy seeing Carolyn's cats on her lap during our Zoom meetings.



TCMG Co-ordinator Elizabeth Spedaliere (left) presenting Carolyn with her Master Gardener Certificate



Grey County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Tory Bowman



Tory achieved Master Gardener status last month and was presented her certificate by Chairperson Susan Cox, (left).

Congratulations Tory!



Mississauga Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Sanuja Jomal

Deirdre Walsh

Mary Lloyd-Clifford

We are very excited to announce some new members to the MMG team. We welcome Sanuja Jomal, Deirdre Walsh and Mary Lloyd-Clifford. Please enjoy reading about them!

Sanuja Jomal



Hello, my name is Sanuja (Sanu) Jomal. Originally from India, I have a diverse background, having worked as a Registered Nurse in both India and New Zealand.

I moved to Canada in 2016, where I discovered my true passion for the outdoors and plants. I pursued this passion by enrolling in the Horticulture Technician Apprenticeship program at Humber College, where I graduated with honours. Since then, I have worked in various roles, gaining hands-on experience and expanding my knowledge of landscape gardening and horticulture.

Gardening has always been a part of my life, as my late mom was a passionate gardener who inspired me deeply. I feel a strong connection to her whenever I'm surrounded by nature, and it's that connection that continues to guide me in my gardening journey.

In addition to my work, I actively volunteer in local community gardens and love helping my neighbours and friends with any gardening questions. It's truly rewarding, and they appreciate the advice I share with them.

I am excited to continue growing in this field and deepen my expertise as I work toward becoming a Master Gardener, with the goal of sharing my love for plants and sustainable gardening practices with the community.

Deirdre Walsh



Deirdre belongs to a family that loves gardens and nature—avid gardeners, environmentalists and an arborist. She has been gardening for most of her adult life. She loves the peace and quiet that gardening brings.

Deirdre is currently an MGIT taking her courses through Guelph University. She has a special interest in pollinator gardening with native plants and soil science.

Mary Lloyd-Clifford



Mary sent in this photo in her gardens taken that morning. Her cat, Clipper, was helping her ensure the Boneset and Hyssop plants were watered. These two plants have provided invitations to numerous pollinators to visit her garden for a few summers now. Becoming an MGIT is a dream come true, says Mary. She is looking forward to meeting other people who love learning about plants.



Toronto Master Gardeners

At our June 2025 meeting, the Toronto Master Gardeners presented anniversary badges and pins to the following members in honour of their years of service:

25 Year Anniversary: Peter Cox, Catherine Peer



Photo Credit: Pat de Valence

20 Year Anniversary: Pat de Valence



Photo Credit: Tina Cesaroni

15 Year Anniversary: Abdullah Hamidi, Joanna Blanchard, Jackie Campbell, Tina Cesaroni



15 Year Pin: (l-r) Abdullah Hamidi, Joanna Blanchard, Jackie Campbell, Tina Cesaroni, Photo Credit: Pat de Valence

10 Year Anniversary: Donna deBoehmler, Doreen Hilliard, Veronica Sliva



(l-r) Donna, Doreen, Veronica Photo Credit: Pat de Valence

5 Year Anniversary: Lucy Saunders, Luiza Monteiro, Dorien Ruijs, Jane Humphreys



(l-r) Lucy, Luiza, Dorien, Jane Photo Credit: Pat de Valence



Graduating Class of 2025



(l-r) Margot Beech-Kennedy, Gilbert Gallaher, Priti Rana, David Morris; missing, Sharon Foster
Photo Credit: Pat de Valence

Congratulations to Toronto Master Gardeners' graduating class of 2025! At our June meeting, the Toronto Master Gardeners congratulated our new graduates, and thanked their mentors: Margot Beech-Kennedy and mentor Janet Gaisford; Gilbert Gallaher and mentor Dorien Ruijs; David Morris and mentor Desré Kramer; Priti Rana and mentor Joanna Blanchard; and (to be honoured in September) Sharon Foster and mentor Janet Ahier.



Niagara Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Heather Walton



Niagara MG coordinator Sue Lusted, left, presents Heather Walton with her MG certificate.

Congratulations Heather on receiving Master Gardener certification!



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved – May 2025

Joanne Whitfield

New Master Gardener in Training – May 2025

Liza Lawson

Member Profile—Joanne Whitfield

Joanne is a newly qualified Master Gardener with 1000 Islands MGs. She is grateful for the Indigenous mentors who have, over the years, helped her build a relationship with our plant kin. Joanne is a retired secondary school Teacher-Librarian. She is one of the co-founders of [Little Forests Kingston](#)



where she coordinates the [Plant the Seed Project](#) to create a dispersed plant nursery and introduce native plants to school-aged children and youth as they plant and nurture native herbaceous plants and trees.

As a Master Gardener, Joanne hopes to help people see the Land and its inhabitants as partners in the rehabilitation of our own attitudes. To that end, she continues to build her own knowledge about how plants work together in communities, how insects and birds are part of that, and how humans can support them.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Dylan Cowan

A big welcome to our newest (and youngest) Master Gardener in Training, Dylan Cowan!



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Master Gardeners Status Achieved – March 2025

Brenda Parsons
Sarah Thompson



New Master Gardeners Brenda Parsons (L) and Sarah Thompson

Since joining the Etobicoke Master Gardeners, Brenda and Sarah have been active contributors to the Plant Sale Committee as well as supporting the Humber Arboretum Workshop series, various Advice Clinics and Executive Committee activities.

Through personal gardening experience Brenda brings a special appreciation for shade gardening, and for Sarah it's the craft of the shaggy garden.



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Catherine McNerney

London Middlesex Master Gardeners are delighted to congratulate Catherine on earning her Master Gardener Certificate! Since joining the Master Gardeners in March 2023, she has demonstrated remarkable dedication to gardening education and community enrichment.

As a long-time member of the London Orchid Society, Catherine's passion for horticulture extends beyond expertise—she actively shares her knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

Her involvement in events such as Seedy Saturday, Earth Day, Every Day, and various community initiatives highlights her commitment to sustainability and outreach. Congratulations, Catherine, on this well-deserved achievement!



Coordinator Sandra Elfman, right presenting Catherine with her MG certificate





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

Board Vacancy – Vice President (VP)

MGOI would like to recruit 1 or 2 VPs to support Anne Craig in her role as President.

VP 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. Links are on the MGOI website: <https://mgoi.ca/>. Members' login is on the far right. Your Coordinator can provide you with the password.

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.'

Past Issues of MGOI Newsletters

Past issues, including archival issues, of MGOI Newsletters can be accessed via the MGOI website: <https://mgoi.ca/>. Newsletters are the 7th item across.



Master Gardeners Out & About Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Look, Listen & Learn Presentations

Details: In conjunction with our annual plant sale on June 7th, we also held our Look, Listen & Learn gardening presentations. This year our theme was “Up Your Growing Power”.

Andrea Steinhäusser and Rosemary McNabb did the first presentation on “Container Gardening” which was well received and went over the allotted time with so many questions. Seeds were given to participants to start their own vegetable containers.



MGs Rosemary McNabb, left and Andrea Steinhäusser

Laura Jones and Jack Van Gemen provided an educational presentation on “Get the Dirt on Soil” with demonstrations of the various types of soil and how to identify them.



MGs Laura Jones, left and Jack van Gemen

And finally, many were interested in Sylvia Goodheart’s presentation on “How to Make Calendula Salve”. It was a wonderful day of learning and meeting new fellow gardeners.



MGs Sylvia Goodheart, left, and Lynda Bobinski

Name: Annual Plant Sale, June 7th

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners held their annual plant sale, our major fundraiser for the year, on June 7th. Members donated hundreds of hardy perennials for sun and shade, houseplants, a wide assortment of veggies that had been patiently started from seed as well as gently used gardening books. We also sold tickets for two gift baskets.

The event is a great opportunity to work together potting up plants in advance as well as being connected as a group on the event day. It was well attended by the public and a huge success.



Group Shot—Annual Plant Sale





Plant Sale 2025

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Garden Tour

Details: June 14th was a plant-packed day for 23 participants who visited Cobden and Eganville area gardens and nurseries. They admired Blaine Marchand's three-acres of 900 peonies (600 varieties); Terry Yuk's fascinating garden of unusual plants, including an impressive display of cacti; and Tom Adamchick and Susan Taylor's amazing selection of trees, including an Englemann spruce and pecan trees, as well as gorgeous perennial borders. They also visited Horseshoe Gardens and Nursery. Special thanks to organizers Gayle Singer and Gail Labrosse.



Tour leader MG Gail Singer, left with peony master Blaine Marchand. (Photo by Barbara Sibbald)

Name: Other June Activities

Details:

- **Daily media contract:** MGOC signed a contract with the *Ottawa Citizen* and *Ottawa Sun* to contribute two articles per month.

- **New fact sheets:** MGOC released six new fact sheets online on the Colorado potato beetle, flea beetles, cucumber beetles, soil health, mycorrhizae and native plants in containers.
- **Advice clinics galore:** MGOC held advice clinics at Ottawa's Pollinator Appreciation Day, Barrhaven Market, Beechwood Market, Carp Farmers' Market, Westboro Market, Main St. Farmers' Market, Manotick Watson's Mill Farmers' Market, Ottawa Farmers' Market (Lansdowne) and Parkdale Market.
- **Lectures delivered:** Presentations during June included: Judith Cox on "How to grow tomatoes: From seeds to salsa" to the Ottawa Public Library's Blackburn Hamlet branch; Nancy McDonald on "What's this in my garden? Friend or foe?" to the Ottawa Horticultural Society; Rebecca Last on "My big fat reno" to the Hudson Garden club; and Judith Cox on "Promising you a Rose Garden" to the Kemptville Horticultural Society.

Tri County Master Gardeners

Name: Connections in the Community

Details: During April, Tri-County Master Gardeners attended AGMs of Garden Ontario Districts in their counties and set up information tables at these meetings.

The District 8 meeting was at Hensall in Huron County on April 12th and the District 10 meeting was at Stratford in Perth County on April 26th.



*MGs Aline Kouhi-Klemencic (left) and Leslye Glover at Garden Ontario District 8 AGM
Photo: Jim Fitzgerald*



TCMGs were also present at an Earth Day event April 27th organized by Stratford's "Climate Momentum" and were at the Garden Stratford's plant sale held on May 31st.



left to right: MGIT Diana Reynolds and MGs Carolyn Schmidt, Leslye Glover and Aline Kouhi-Klemencic at Garden Stratford's Plant Sale



Helen Halpenny (l) and David Hinks (leader)



Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Farmers Markets Lanark County

Details: For over 25 years, Lanark County Master Gardeners have volunteered at 2 Farmers' Markets (Perth and Almonte). This month, we are adding the Carleton Place Farmers' Market to our repertoire.



left to right: MGs Helen Halpenny and Jordan Scott-Richer at Almonte Farmers' Market

Name: Bird Walk

Details: For our Month of June meeting, we gathered for a bird walk along the beautiful Mississippi River. In addition to interesting bird spotting we were all enamoured to encounter a Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). One of our members, Judy Wall, immediately went home and tracked down a local Nursery that had 5 in stock and of course purchased one. MG David Hinks led us on our walk.



Fringe tree spotted on our bird spotting walk

Name: In praise of Small Groups

Details: A few days ago, at 8:30 am, we received a request for information about a Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) that had a healed over scar. By 9 am the request was forwarded to one of our members, Paul Pietsch. By 10 am, Paul had visited the home and diagnosed the problem. Well done Team!



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Speaker Series for the Credit Valley Horticultural Society

Details: MMG Michelle Acosta presented her informative topic, **GMO vs Hybrid vs Organic**, to a great crowd of gardeners at the Credit Valley Horticultural Society's Monthly Speaker Series on April 9th. Interest in and lively conversations on this topic were abundant. It was good to get clarification on these terms especially when purchasing seeds.



MG Michelle Acosta

Name: Presentations, Demonstrations, Advice Clinics Galore

Details: As always, June is a very busy month for Toronto Master Gardeners—everyone wants to know about growing in containers, growing veggies and even ferns! Perhaps the most fun and rewarding was a planting workshop with 50 kindergarteners!



Planting Workshop for Kindergarteners. TMG Margot Beech-Kennedy presenting
Photos: Jen Morely

Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Newsletter Launch

Details: Our inaugural newsletter has bloomed, and we hope it will set seed as the go-to resource for Toronto gardeners! A huge thank you to Sarah Mulholland, 2024 MGIT, for creating this newsletter which has had fabulous feedback from external contacts and TMG members.

The Toronto Master Gardeners' mission is to help solve gardening problems, here in Toronto, with practical solutions that work in our climate, in consideration of the Ontario pesticide ban and in a way that supports the environment. We deliver our advice services based on current, science-based horticultural information to the gardening public—in person, in print, via media, and online. If you'd like to subscribe, you can sign up on the Toronto Master Gardeners homepage:

<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/>

Toronto Master Gardeners ran an **Advice Clinic** in conjunction with the Leaside Garden Society Garden Tour and started the busy summer season with the first Advice Clinic at the Withrow Farmers' Market.

Demonstrations and Presentations at Toronto Public Libraries continued to be popular throughout June, including Raindrops to Roots, a virtual presentation about being waterwise that was delivered on Environment Day.

Name: Another Fantastic Garden Tour: Toronto Botanical Garden's 'Through the Garden Gate 2025 – Hogg's Hollow'

Details: This year's garden tour was another resounding success with terrific feedback from guests who especially praised the glorious garden of Toronto Master Gardener Susan Lipchak. Susan and her husband were present all day both days, tirelessly answering questions and chatting with visitors who appreciated the humorous touches including the "rare brown needle pine" (which had died over the winter).



So many Toronto Master Gardeners give their all for this event, from scouting the locations to producing the brochure and the detailed plant lists which are so helpful. A special shout-out to Pat de Valence, TMG Co-Executive Coordinator, who made an excellent “one-pager” on each of the gardens so that the TMGs volunteering would have all the information they needed in one place.



I-r, TMGs Dianne Azzarello, Susan Lipchak and husband
Photo: Priti Rana

Essex-Windsor Master Gardeners

Name: Pollinator Garden, Ste. Anne's French Immersion School

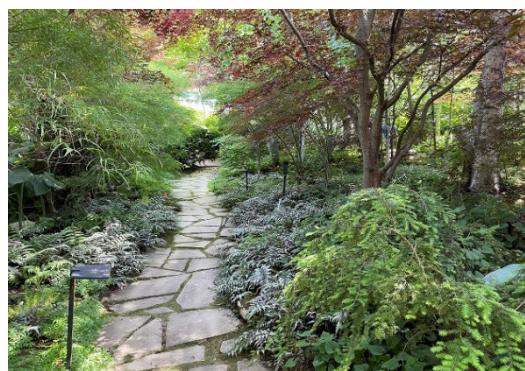
Details: MG Pat Jeflyn (in the red jersey) helped Madame De Cecco's grade 6-7 class plan and plant a pollinator garden at the school this spring. This photo was taken right after the native plants were planted in the raised bed on May 5th.



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Shaw Garden Tour

Details: The Shaw Garden Tour took place on Saturday, June 14th, and featured beautiful gardens in and around the old town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The event is organized by the Shaw Theatre Guild, with input from Niagara MGs in preparation for the event and in answering questions on the day of. The weather was perfect for this year's event. The tour is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Shaw Festival.



Pathway lined with Japanese Maples and Painted Ferns

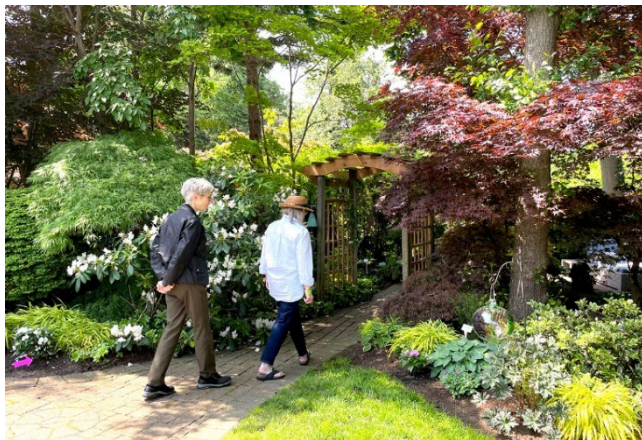


Photo: Dianne Azzarello

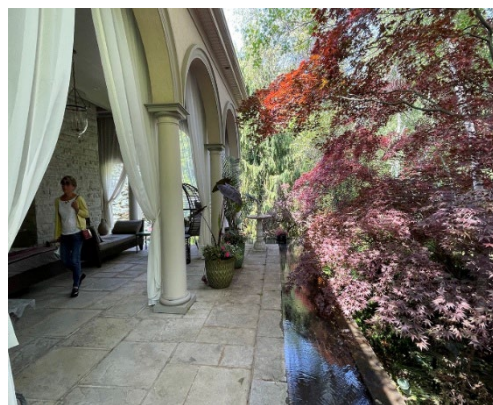


Photo: Dianne Azzarello

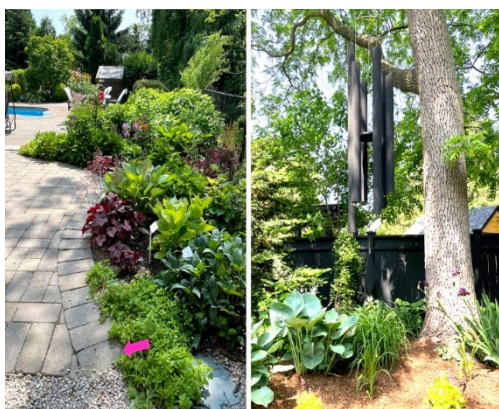




Hardscaping and garden structures fit into the greenscapes



An elegant outdoor room looks out onto water features and a forest of Japanese maples



Extra-large windchimes hang from the tree on the right



Some gardens featured showstopper poppies and roses

Name: Ask an MG at Rice Road

Details: Throughout May and June each year, Niagara MG volunteers offer 'Ask a Master Gardener' sessions at a local garden centre, Rice Road Greenhouses, which gives a donation to the group in return.

The volunteers walk among the plant displays and offer advice where needed.



From left, Rice Road advice volunteers Marie Clair Groulx, Pam Coring, Barb Large and Jennifer Qusen

Name: Floral Arrangement Workshop

Details: Niagara Master Gardeners held workshops in April and May at both Niagara Hospice and Tabor Manor Long-term Care Home. These workshops enabled residents to create some lovely flower arrangements.





Karen Epp and Kendy Steeves, right, hosted a planting activity at Niagara Hospice in St. Catharines



I-r, MGs June Crocco and Andie Wiens



From left, Sue Lusted, Kendy Steeves and Karen Epp at Tabor Manor in St. Catharines

Name: MG Field Trip

Details: 1000 Island MGs took an informational day trip to Perth Wildlife Reserve and Kiwi Gardens in Perth, ON on May 25th.



From left: Master Gardeners Teresa Roseboom, Dianne Huddle (Emeritus), Joyce Hostyn, Joanne Whitfield, Tracey Filson, Nancy Shepherd, Bev Wagar and Carol Hegadorn (former MG)

This was the first in a series of planned field trips for the 1000 Islands Master Gardeners. The next field trip will take place on June 28, to a seedling sale offered by the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library.

Name: Lemoine Point Native Plant Sale

Details: The Lemoine Point Native Plant sale was held on the morning of June 21st. MG Jane Bailey was on hand to provide advice on a variety of topics.



1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Wellington Market & The Eddie Hotel and Farm – Bloomfield—Advice Tables

Details: TIMGs Dale Smith, June Crocco and Andie Wiens answered questions at the Advice tables at the Wellington Market and the Eddie Hotel and Farm in Bloomfield. Clinics were held Saturdays, 9a.m.-1:30p.m. from May 24-June 14.

The first of four planned advice tables at the Wellington Market saw cool, wet weather and limited attendance, but despite the poor weather, our volunteers were able to talk with several market attendees and answered questions on diverse gardening topics including: solutions to boxwood issues; dog-strangling vine control; where to plant rhododendrons; how to protect Fringe trees from ash borer; and the cause of brown spots on cactus. The weather was much more cooperative on June 7, as seen in the photo.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Native Plant Gardening Workshops

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners participated in two Native Plant Gardening workshops by the Long Point Basin Land Trust at South Coast Gardens on Sunday June 15th.

Presentations were led by MG Kevin Kavanagh while MGs Dylan Cowan, Erin Casey and MGs Nancy Lee-Colibaba, and Laura Rodger all participated by speaking on specific native plants. The weather was perfect and there was a good turnout.

Laura Rodger



Erin Casey



Nancy Lee-Colibaba



Dylan Cowan



Kevin Kavanagh



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society: "The Plots" Community Garden, May 16 - 17

Details: This year we are investigating the specific gardening needs and interests of community gardeners with a view to developing educational materials we could make available to a wider community gardening audience. As part of this project three EMG members joined new and experienced community gardeners to answer questions as they dropped in to weed and prepare their beds for spring planting.

Name: Annual Spring Plant Sale, May 24

Details: With our cold, wet spring we had fewer plants for our sale than in previous years, but we were very pleased to be offering more native than non-native plants for the first time. Sales were brisk and we sold a high percentage of our stock. Plans for next time include increasing engagement with members to support plant donations – and hoping for a warmer spring.

Name: Tour of James Gardens with Frank Kershaw

Details: Well-known plantsman, garden designer and educator Frank Kershaw led EMG members and friends on a tour of James Gardens on May 31st, sharing the history of the site's development and original owners, the gardens, and the plants. James Gardens is located on the west valley wall of the Humber River, on the southside of Edenbridge Drive—a pleasant place to walk in all seasons.



London-Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Seeds to Table

Details: This month the LMMG concluded another successful Seeds to Table class with 21 students from the public and two of our trainees. In its 13th year, the class is widely popular with the public, selling out every year.

It covers a broad array of relevant vegetable growing topics including soil types, weeds, hands on planting and more. This year's students are moving on with confidence to growing vegetables in raised beds, plots and containers, with a solid backing of science-based knowledge.

Name: Western University Employee Health Fair

Details: The LMMGs were among the many community organizations that participated in Western University's 2025 Employee Health Fair, held on May 14 at Alumni Hall. We offered gardening tips and resources to promote mental well-being through horticulture. Our presence highlighted the therapeutic benefits of gardening.



Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Name: Wednesday Peterborough Farmers' Markets

Details: The Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners are back at the Wednesday Farmers' Market in Peterborough for the first half of the market season. We offer advice and answer questions for the market patrons and other locals.



Sally Rye (l) & Gladys Fowler at the Wednesday Peterborough Farmers' Market

Name: Monthly Booth at Peterborough Home Depot

Details: A new venture for the group this year is a Saturday morning table once a month at Home Depot Peterborough.

The volunteers were able to reach many beginner and casual gardeners at the booth, offering encouragement, answering lots of questions, providing good resources and as a bonus, advertising the Master Gardener name and program to a wider local audience.



Sally Rye (l) and Gladys Fowler interacting with clients



Sally Rye (l) & Marilyn Homewood



UPCOMING EVENTS

Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Mini Forest, Township of Uxbridge

Date (Revised) & Time: July 26th, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Details: Please join the Durham Little Forest group (comprised of Durham Master Gardeners) as they help prep the site for the second mini forest. The tree planting initiatives implement the Miyawaki method which was used to install the first mini forest at the Fields of Uxbridge in 2024. DMG members will be there and would welcome help laying down cardboard, compost, and mulch to prepare for the planting of 600 trees and shrubs later in October/November. Registration is necessary.

To Register / Further Information: Please scan the QR code on the poster.





Claudette Sims' Front Garden. Photo: Claudette Sims

Halton Region Master Gardeners

Name: Garden Journeys Open Days

—a free open garden event featuring gardens supporting biodiversity and the environment.

Details: Visit private gardens across the greater City of Hamilton and meet their gardeners.

Learn about the joys and challenges of creating gardens that support the ecosystem.



Poster Design: Janet Hughes-Mackey

As well as a few public gardens, open gardens feature private sidewalk "showcases" that can be viewed at any time from the street without the gardener being present. No need to sign up, just download the list of addresses and opening times, available in late July.

Dates & Time: August 8, 9, 10 and August 15, 16, 17. Gardens will be open at various times during these two weekends.

Tickets: No tickets, free to attend

Locations: Check our webpage for more details as well as addresses and times (available late July):

<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/garden-journeys-open-days/>

1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Converted Front Yard Garden Tour

Date & Time: Aug. 9 (rain date Aug. 10), 10:00-4:00

Location: Kingston and Area

Details: Coordinated by Master Gardeners Nancy Shepherd and Joyce Hostyn, 1000 Islands Master Gardener volunteers will facilitate tours of residential front yards that have been converted from turf grass to gardens.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: 2025 Fall Plant Sale

Date & Time: September 13, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: 6 Kingsway Crescent, Etobicoke

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

Name: EMG Talk Series at the Humber Arboretum Dates & Topics:

- September 20th – **Exploring Trees & Shrubs;** Presentation followed by a Tour of the Woodlot
- October 4th – **Supporting Biodiversity: The Power of Wetlands and Ravines**

Time & Place: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 205 Humber College Boulevard, Toronto

Details: Free Sessions. In person. Indoor presentation 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>



Lanark County Master Gardeners with Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Technical Update Wonderful World of Trees

Date: October 4, 2025

Location: Ottawa

Cost: TBD

Registration Information / Further Details: Coming Soon!

Toronto Master Gardeners

Technical Update Changing Cities, One Garden at a Time



Date, Time & Place: Saturday, November 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden

Cost:

\$65 for Toronto Master Gardeners

\$75 for other Master Gardeners

\$85 for members of the public

Includes a continental breakfast and boxed lunch

Details: We are excited to announce that the Toronto Master Gardeners will be hosting our first in-person Technical Update since 2020! Join us at Toronto Botanical Garden to explore how gardeners can support biodiversity in city gardens. The event will include a panel discussion, breakout sessions, and keynote speaker. The complete program and speakers list is now available on the TMG website:

<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/technical-update/>.

This will be a great opportunity to cross pollinate ideas and share inspiration with other Master Gardeners. We look forward to seeing you!

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. Oak Wilt (*Bretziella*

fagacearum) is a fungal disease that

can kill oak trees within one year. Red

oaks are particularly susceptible. 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:

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



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: Please share this message with the public and our MG 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

The Ontario government has posted in depth information on their website and 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.>



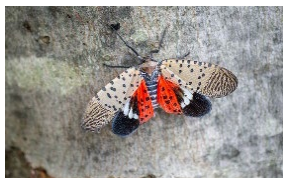
CFIA – Spotted Lanternfly

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. "Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive planthopper that threatens Ontario's agricultural sector." The Ontario government has more information about identifying and preventing the spread here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/spotted-lanternfly-prevention-practices-producers>.

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



SLF – CFIA

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! Please contact:

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

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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.



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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