



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside MGOI

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

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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INSIDE MGOI

September 2025

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Margaret LeSage

New Master Gardeners in Training

Cassie Russell

Sue Alderson

Tina Tregunna

Congratulations and Welcome!



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Kimberly Hutten

Congratulations Kimberly who officially became a Master Gardener in September 2025. Kim is the talented Master Gardener who has created and maintained the Grand Erie



Master Gardeners Website since she joined us 2 years ago. A passionate advocate for Gardening for Nature, among her many other accomplishments Kim works for the City of Guelph's Healthy Landscape Visits program.



Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Mike LaCelle

Please help me give a warm welcome to our newest member, Mike LaCelle. Mike lives in Whitby and is retired. His gardening interests include garden design, and he has a fondness for Asian gardens.

Mike has a Diploma in Project Management, and has already completed his Diploma in Horticulture and his Diploma in Landscape Design from the University of Guelph. Way to go Mike! Those skills and education will be put to good use.



Niagara Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversary

Jane Smale

Congratulations to Jane on receiving her five-year Anniversary pin!

Jane is a liaison between Niagara Parks and the Niagara MGs, organizing our 'Hands On' volunteer days at the Niagara Parks greenhouses in the spring and fall—always a good get-together and learning experience.



Jane Smale, right, receives her five-year anniversary pin from MG Lois Johnson



Board Vacancy—Vice President (VP)



MGOI is looking for 1 or 2 VPs to support the President. This 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

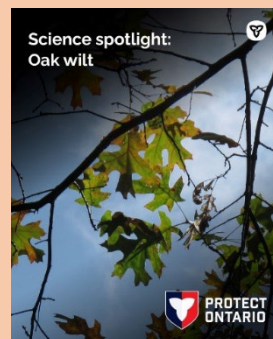


Posted on Facebook September 9 @2:10pm

Ontario, Environment and energy, Wildlife and nature

There's something shady about oak wilt (*Bretziella fagacearum*), and it moves fast! 🌳

- This invasive fungus can kill oak trees quickly — sometimes in just a few weeks.
- All oak species can be affected, but red oaks are most susceptible.
- Oak wilt is spread by tiny sap beetles and root contact between infected trees. 🐛
- Our science staff are studying sap beetle movement and fungal DNA found in infected trees to better understand how to detect oak wilt early and minimize its spread. Since the first detection in 2023, oak wilt has been found in the Niagara and Barrie areas.



How can you help prevent the spread of oak wilt?

- April 1 to November 30: avoid pruning oaks when sap beetles that can spread oak wilt are active
- mid to late summer: watch for trees wilting and shedding discoloured leaves
- don't move firewood
- report suspected infections to OakWiltReporting Ontario-Flétrissement Du Chêne@inspection.gc.ca
- CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) website: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt>; also includes info on types of oak tree and leaf decline not due to oak wilt



Learn more at ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt.



[#ScienceON](#) [#InvasiveSpecies](#) [#ForestResearch](#) [#ForestHealth](#)

Canada's oak wilt response framework is available here, through the CFIA: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/response-framework>

Now is a critical time to be on the lookout for **Spotted Lanternfly (SLF)** adults and know what to do if you find one...

Posted on [September 11, 2025](#) by Cassie Russell: <https://onnurserycrops.wordpress.com/2025/09/11/be-on-the-lookout-spotted-lanternfly-are-on-the-move/> — Spotted Lanternfly are on the move



While the SLF is still **NOT** established in Canada yet, there have been numerous interceptions and unverified sightings, with many being in August and September. At this time of year in the Eastern US states bordering Ontario, SLF adults can be found flying and feeding on trees. They also pose a threat to being accidentally transported over the border via personal vehicles, trucks, trains, and even boats! Recently, there have been interceptions on boats crossing the Great Lakes from infested US states that dock in provinces like Ontario and Quebec. If you are in Canada and think you have found a Spotted Lanternfly, **please ensure you follow these steps:**

- **Snap it:** Take clear photos of the specimen
- **Kill and/or catch it:** if you are able, collect the specimen or squish it and put it in a sealable container such as a small jar, vial or plastic bag. Live specimens can be placed in a freezer to be killed. Retaining the sample is important so that a positive identification can be made.
- **Report it:** Collect as much information as possible such as your accurate location and [report the find to the CFIA](#) (Canada Food Inspection Agency).



SLF – CFIA



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Murillo Fair

Details: The Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners attended the Murillo Fair once again on August 16th & 17th. This year our booth focused on how to identify different types of soil as well as samples for folks to look at and touch. We also had our popular garden pest display which always sparks conversation. Our free draw for the adults was a compost pail for the kitchen counter and a garden stepping stone kit for the kid's draw.

The weather was great and roughly 8,000 people attended. Special thanks to MGs Rosemary McNabb and Jack Van Gemenen for assisting Andrea Steinhäusser with manning the booth.



MGs Andrea Steinhäusser, left and Rosemary McNabb



L-R, MG Kevin Kavanagh and MGIT Dylan Cowan holding the bouquets they made, with Erin



MGs Lynne Goulet-Smith, left and Anne Saunders with their flower arrangements

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Cut Flower Workshop

Details: The Grand Erie Master Gardeners held a very successful, sold-out cut flower workshop on Sunday, July 23rd at The Garlic Shed in Norfolk County. The Garlic Shed is owned by MGIT Erin Casey who led the workshop by giving a lecture on cut flower arrangements. The lecture was followed by participants going out into her beautiful flower fields to pick flowers and then arranging them into their own magnificent bouquets. All participants also enjoyed home-made desserts provided by the Grand Erie Master Gardeners.



Erin teaching and demonstrating the art of fresh flower arranging





Workshop participants picking flowers in Erin's flower fields at The Garlic Shed

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Hybrid Meetings

Details: Since March 2025, MGOC has been exploring the world of hybrid meetings — blending in-person gatherings with virtual participation. This initiative was designed to offer greater accessibility, allowing members with young families or those who aren't feeling their best to fully engage in both the educational and business segments of our meetings. Bringing this vision to life took dedication: countless hours of setup and practice went into making the technology seamless and the experience enjoyable for everyone.

The photo below captures one of those early test runs, featuring (left to right) Co-Coordinator Belinda Boekhoven, Odette McIntyre, and MGITs Jacques Dufort and Ben Edwards who are assigned to bridging the gap between Zoom and the Room.



This month we were excited to host MG Cathy Kavassalis as our featured speaker. She joined us via Zoom, accompanied by several colleagues from the Halton-Peel MG group — marking a new "fusion-style" meeting that blends voices and perspectives across distances.

In February the roles will reverse: MGOCs own Lee Ann Smith will present to the Halton-Peel group, supported by several of our members. Thanks to Lee Ann for finding this great opportunity.

With this growing exchange, MGOC is expanding our reach and building stronger connections across the broader MG community. Doors are opening — and we're just getting started!



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Grow T.O.—Monthly Newsletter



Details: Sign up for *Grow T.O.*, Toronto Master Gardeners' Monthly Newsletter! Our **monthly newsletter** includes gardening information, tips, recent answers to your gardening questions, and upcoming events. [View past issues of our newsletter.](#)



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Fall Plant Sale

Details: Niagara Master Gardeners held their annual Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, September 6th at Vineland Research Centre. The sale features plants and other garden-related goodies donated by local nurseries and MG members. The September event gives customers time to get plants in the ground and somewhat established before the colder weather.

The event is always well attended, usually with a lineup outside before doors open. It is the largest fundraising event for the Niagara MGs each year.



A good group of volunteers helped man the tables on the day of the plant sale and with the set up the day before



London Middlesex MGs on tour with Brenda Gallagher, Thames Conservation Authority

Lake Simcoe South

Name: "Let's Get Gardening!"

Details: In September, Lake Simcoe South Master Gardeners began "Let's Get Gardening!", a five part workshop series in partnership with Family Service York Region's *Quick Action Grant* program, York Region Food Network and the Richmond Hill Public Library.

Lead by MG Cathy Nikolaidis, Lake Simcoe South MGs have developed a series of events to bring gardening to life for South Central Richmond Hill community members. The focus is on making the most of small space gardening, economic and ecological practices.



Cathy Nikolaidis at "Let's Get Gardening!"

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: September Field Trip

Details: We went on a field trip for our September meeting to visit forestry technician Brenda Gallagher with the Upper Thames Conservation Authority. We met at Fanshawe Conservation Area for a tree identification tour. Members learned a lot!



Name: Visit to Habitat Blooms

Details: LSS also had a beautiful visit to Chris Kingdon's spectacular property this month. Chris is the owner of Habitat Blooms, a garden design enterprise with a focus on wildlife gardening. She has previously spoken at an LSS meeting. Part social, part knowledge building and all thoroughly enjoyable, a great day was had all around!



Left to right, LSS MGs Frances Leung, Susan Sue-Ling, Carol Dowell, Sam Berman, Maria Shtemberg, Deborah Campbell, Sally Hossain and Julie Frend

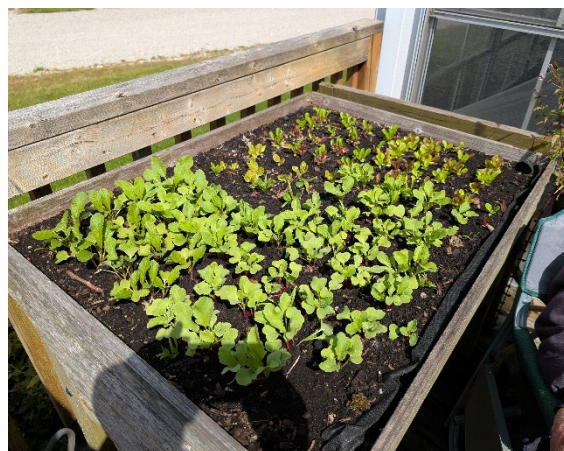


Kevin with his props

Kevin has two Veg Trugs that he uses to grow many of his vegetables—carrots, lettuce, radishes and more. One trug is made of wood and the other plastic. They both have legs making it easy for us older folks to garden. Each spring, he tops off the trugs with sheep manure to provide more nutrition. Kevin emphasized the need for regular watering.



Trug 1 with carrots



Trug 2 neatly planted

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening in Small Spaces

Details: For our September 8th meeting, our group met at the cottage of member Kevin Long, a Master Gardener since 2008. Our group had organized an Open House at Rockwall Gardens (owned by Judy Wall) and Kevin attended, wrote the test and was brought on board. When he first joined us, he lived on Sharbot Lake, slightly outside Lanark County; he had recently retired from teaching and had taken up gardening.

Kevin has led seminars and training sessions at Algonquin College. Recently he had been asked to do presentations on 'Gardening in Small Spaces'. While many of us have large gardens, small space gardening is becoming more important. He is also an active volunteer at the Perth Farmers Market. Kevin has a cottage on beautiful Mississippi Lake, and while he owns the cottage, the property is run more like a condominium with the landowners taking care of the property.





Seed Spacer template

you simply use the appropriate colour to plant your seed.

After Kevin's talk we retreated into his living room for our monthly meeting and sweet treats and cool drinks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Technical Update: The Wonderful World of Trees

Date: October 4, 2025

Time: 8:45 am - 3:00 pm EDT

Location: Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Dr., Ottawa

Cost: \$20 for all Master Gardeners (MGs) and Master Gardeners in Training (MGiTs)

\$25 for Master Partners

\$45 for members of the public

Includes refreshments and sandwich lunch

Registration Information / Further Details: Please register [here](#).

- Maximum Capacity: 100 Attendees.
- Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Payment is required to confirm and validate your registration.
- No refunds

Details: Learn what the City of Ottawa is doing to protect and grow our urban forest. Gain practical tips on how to plant and care for trees in your own garden. The event will include three keynote speakers in the morning and a guided tour of the Dominion Arboretum in the afternoon.

This will be a great opportunity to cross-pollinate ideas and share inspiration with Master Gardeners and other gardening enthusiasts.

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: EMG Talk Series at the Humber Arboretum

Next Date & Topic:

- 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.



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

Durham Master Gardeners

Name: Planting—Miyawaki Mini Forest

Place: Heber Down Conservation Area, 5000 Cochrane St., Whitby, ON

Date: Saturday, October 18th—9:30am – 12pm EDT

Details:

[Little Forests Durham-Mini Forest Planting @ Heber Down Conservation Area](#)



Come join us for a fun day as we plant 600 native trees and shrubs to create a Mini-Forest at Heber Down Conservation Area! You will not earn MG volunteer hours for this event however the experience will be invaluable. Not to mention fun!

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/little-forests-durham-mini-forest-planting-heber-down-conservation-area-tickets-1665790396919?aff=oddtcreator>



Toronto Master Gardeners

Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update 2025 Changing Cities, One Garden at a Time

Registration is open!

Visit the [TMG Technical Update page](#) to choose your breakout session preferences, then [complete the registration form](#).

Date & Schedule:

Saturday, November 8th

8:00 a.m.:

Registration opens

8:30 a.m.:

Continental breakfast

9:00 a.m.:

Welcome remarks

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. 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)

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 at the following coordinates:

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 Seeds Alert

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

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

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

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



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

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