



*Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of
Ontario*

Inside MGOI

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

This Newsletter aims to be the voice for Master Gardeners—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
- Invasive Species Action Fund (ISAF) Open
- Master Gardeners Out & About
- Upcoming Events
- Resources—CFIA Digital Toolkit/CFIA Seeds Alert/Oak Wilt Disease/Spotted Lantern Fly

MGOI

- Board Vacancy: VP

INSIDE MGOI November 2025

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

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Mississauga Master Gardeners

Celebration of Life

Shirley Daniels



On Saturday, September 28th we said goodbye to our founder Shirley Daniels at Chappell House on the grounds of The Riverwood Conservancy.

Shirley was a volunteer extraordinaire! She

was instrumental in the MMGs, The Riverwood Conservancy, The Cloverleaf Garden Club and the Mississauga Symphony. She was a teacher at Mentor College and a beloved friend to many. A beautiful Celebration of Life was organized by Shirley's best friend's daughter. Several MMGs attended and it was good seeing past retired members there. David Pavanel, a retired MMG, gave a lovely speech about Shirley called "My Friend Shirley".



Left to right: Deirdre Walsh, Diana Westland, MJ Kucerak, David Pavanel, Jeanne McRight, Susan Quirk, Diane Rogers, Emma Chow, Ramona Christiansen, Alice Burr and Michelle Wilson

Durham Master Gardeners

New DMG Coordinator

Grace Wilton

Exciting News from DMG!

by Noreen Blyth

DMG is thrilled to announce that **Grace Wilton, MGiT**, will be our new **DMG Coordinator**, officially beginning her role on **January 1, 2026**! Grace joined DMG in 2024 and has been an active and enthusiastic member, contributing to a wide range of presentations and group activities.

Please join us in congratulating Grace and thanking her for stepping up to lead DMG over the next two years. We look forward to all the great things ahead under her coordination!



Simcoe County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Julien Ross

Profile

From a young age, Julien developed a love for gardening while his parents made him tend to their backyard plot. Julien tells us he is grateful to have brought that passion back into his work. After many years as a part-time Culinary Professor, Julien has seen firsthand how growing food connects people, builds community, and supports learning. In recent years he has taken on the management of over an acre of a market garden, herb garden, and a tiny orchard. While completing Guelph University's Horticulture program he has been learning how to incorporate permaculture and native pollination practices to promote sustainability and food security.

Julien says he wants to become a Master Gardener to deepen his knowledge, strengthen his community partnerships, and share the joy of growing with others. By combining his culinary background with his gardening experience, he hopes to help others understand where their food comes from and inspire a more sustainable, community-focused approach to food.



Simcoe County Master Gardeners is delighted to welcome Julien to the group, and we look forward to learning from and with him.



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carlton

New Master Gardeners in Training

Anna Roberts
Matthieu Morin
Nadia Koba
Joanne McRae
Marian Campbell Jarvis
Sarah Berglas
Iona Noranta MacDonald
Heather Bastian
Christine Edmonds

MGOC has a bumper crop of MG candidates for the class of 2026. Here are their profiles.

- **Anna Roberts** has long been connected to the farming and horticulture community. In the past few years, she acquired more formal training and expanded her garden to include vegetables and pollinators.
- **Matthieu Morin** pursues gardening projects year-round, from taking care of his tropical plants to growing seedlings. He is also a Canine Officer with Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and, with his canine partner, is an expert in intercepting threats to our agriculture.
- **Nadia Koba** loves sharing her love of plants. Her teaching experience makes her a natural for advising and helping neighbours and friends with their gardening challenges. She also speaks three languages.

- **Joanne McRae** has grown vegetables for 20 years, the last six in Ottawa, and previously in Atlanta, Georgia. Her vegetable garden is now over 2,500 square feet and includes a wide variety of edibles.
- **Marian Campbell Jarvis** has gardened for many years in urban Ottawa where she has created an inviting environment for all to enjoy. She wants to expand her knowledge and share her gardening interests with other passionate gardeners.
- **Sarah Berglas** developed her love for the outdoors in her native Australia. She now grows a variety of perennials and has created a garden that can be enjoyed year-round. She also enjoys creating seasonal planters and growing succulents indoors.
- **Iona Noranta MacDonald** describes herself as a lifelong learner. On her gardening journey she has learned about permaculture, native plants, planting for wildlife, rain gardens, and more recently Miyawaki-style tiny forests. Her garden is in Aylmer, Quebec.
- **Heather Bastian** is an experienced gardener and former English professor with a passion for growing native plants mixed with annuals, as well as vegetables in raised beds. She has gardened in Minnesota, North Carolina, and now in Almonte, Ontario.
- **Christine Edmonds** has a special interest in design and is determined to garden more ecologically. Her thirst for knowledge, especially when it comes to native plants and naturalistic gardens, seems to have no limit.



Halton Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Grant Linney
Jennifer Blake (de Petrillo)

A very warm welcome is extended to our newest members, Grant Linney and Jennifer Blake!



Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Margaret LeSage



Margaret, left receiving her MG certificate from Danielle Gignac, Co-ordinator

New Master Gardeners in Training

Cassie Russell
Tina Tregunna
Sue Alderson
Ruth Anne Peller
Austin Azevedo



Grey County Master Gardeners

Member Transfer

Anja Lowrance



Anja comes to us with loads of experience and enthusiasm!

She joined her first Master Gardener group in 2012. Anja was already growing food in her backyard, and a neighbourhood gardener connected her to the Etobicoke Master Gardeners.

Anja has a background in science and enjoyed

transferring her focus from human biology to plant biology. She appreciates the role of all “creepy crawlers” in our garden mini ecosystems even if she is not always a fan!

Anja loves all plants but is aware of the threat posed by invasive exotic plants, and the importance now placed on restoring native species. Welcome to Grey County, Anja!



Tri-County Master Gardeners

Milestone—Community Recognition Award

On Tuesday, October 28th the Stratford City Council presented its Community Recognition Awards at the Stratford Rotary Complex Community Hall. The award for a Community Leader was given to Tri-County Master Gardener Don Farwell, in recognition of his *Contributions in Gardening and Environmental Projects*.

Don’s accomplishments in this category are far too many to list here, but they include: leading pollinator gardening educational sessions for children and youth; working on ReLeaf Stratford, a project to plant at least 2,022 native trees and shrubs in Stratford in 2022, the Year of the Garden, a goal which was exceeded; spearheading the replanting of the garden in front of Stratford General Hospital’s emergency department with native plants; and coming up with an initiative to donate native trees, shrubs and perennials to assisted living and long term care homes in Huron, Oxford and Perth Counties to give senior residents access to nature.

Tri-County Master Gardeners are very proud of Don’s hard work and his award. Congratulations Don!

TCMG Membership Changes—Transfer In Adrienne Hanbidge

Tri-County Master Gardeners are pleased to welcome Master Gardener Adrienne Hanbidge to the group as of October, 2025. After moving to our area, Adrienne transferred to TCMG from Toronto Master Gardeners where she was a very active member for many years.

We look forward to having Adrienne share her knowledge and experience with Huron, Perth and Oxford MGs in our future projects.



Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Profiles—New Master Gardeners in Training

The Grand Erie Master Gardeners have been very fortunate to have had five new master gardeners in training join us over the past few months. Our small group, spanning 3 counties (Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk) now has 20 members! Here is a little information to welcome them to the Master Gardeners! *Photo Credits: Laura Rodger*

Amy Sandy joined us this month in November. Amy has a special interest in gardening for food and in bringing back the Mohawk language when offering gardening advice to her community members in Six Nations. Some of Amy's work can be found on social media under "Longfish Gardens". She has completed her first year at Fanshawe College in the Horticultural Technician program and one month ago had her first baby! We are very glad that Amy has found the time to join us and we welcome her as our newest member.



Betty Goodfellow joined us in July 2025. She is interested in native trees and ornamental plants outdoors, as well as fun, interesting plants indoors.

Dylan Cowan joined us in May 2025. He is a passionate gardener, landscaper, naturalist and community member. Dylan owns and operates his own landscaping company "Erie's Touch Landscaping and Gardening", and also works as a landscape gardener at South Coast Gardens in Norfolk County. Dylan reports that becoming a master gardener was a superb next step for him and his involvement in the botany community!



Georgia McCormick joined us in May 2025. She is currently the secretary and community gardener/maintainer for the Port Dover & Woodhouse Horticultural Society.

Georgia has loved the outdoors all her life

and spent her childhood roaming the woods/creek/orchards near her home. She has always loved learning and sharing information on how plants enhance our environment and how we can sustain and protect them.



Lindsay Leitch joined GEMGs as a MGiT in September 2025. As a life-long garden enthusiast, she recently made the decision to incorporate more native plants into her gardens. This decision opened the door to focusing on gardening for nature, biodiversity and sustainability - areas which she is passionate

about.



Thousand Islands Master Gardeners

5 Year Anniversaries

Susie Everding

Anna Sadura Healey

Member Profiles—Our Two Newest MGITs

Barb Gosse - Barb's love of gardening was shaped by her parents and grandparents. She's working on transforming a 10-acre lakefront property in Prince Edward County with perennials and native species. She's passionate about natural habitats, supporting pollinators and wildlife, and managing invasive plants.

Tina Spicer - Tina learned a love of gardening early from her British father. She loves perennials and learning about new plants and native Ontario plants. Becoming a Master Gardener comes from a longtime desire to pursue horticultural training. Tina is currently working on her third course at Dalhousie.



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



Invasive Species Action Fund (ISAF)—Open



Applications are open for the 2026/2027 ISAF! The Fund supports projects that catalyze action on invasive species in Ontario. Please visit the Invasive Species Centre website for information:

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/grant-opportunities/>

Applications must be submitted electronically by Friday, January 9, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

There are two grants: one grant is for the Invasive Species Action Fund (ISAF), open now for applications and eligible for invasive species that are not phragmites; the other grant—The Invasive Phragmites Control Fund for 2026/27—will open soon.

The Invasive Species Action Fund (ISAF) is a grant program designed to facilitate on-the-ground management and monitoring of invasive species in Ontario. The program is supported by Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: November Meeting

Details: At our November meeting we were happy to host Erin Muscutt for another visit. On this visit, Erin took us on a learning adventure into the wonderful world of insects!



NMG member Claire Blahnik (left) poses with Erin Muscutt, with fossils and mounted insects

We learned about several new invasive species that may be making their way to Ontario, including the spotted lanternfly and the jumping worm (already here), to name just a few.

Erin had a Polyphemus cocoon for us to examine so we could see how

many of our beneficial pollinators disguise their cocoons. She also brought back her fossils and mounted insects for us to explore.



In this photo you can see how the Polyphemus moth cocoon is camouflaged

Polyphemus Moth
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antheraea_polyphemus



Erin has also designed a seed separating machine and will be attending our Seedy Saturday event to demonstrate the machine and sell seeds. See Upcoming Events, below.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Gardening Talks

Details: It's getting cooler out there, but the gardening talks are still heating up. MG Mary Reid delivered three talks in October: "Preparing the garden for winter" at the Eganville Legion on Oct. 20; "How to select bulbs for spring flowering and more" to the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticulture Society on Oct. 21; and "Berries and Fruit Trees" to the Gatineau Gardeners on Oct. 27.

MG EP Power delivered a talk on "What's bugging you? Integrated pest management for your garden" to the Gloucester Horticultural Society on Oct. 21.

Halton Master Gardeners



Name: 2025 Royal Winter Fair Advice Table

Details: The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2025 took place from Friday, November 7th to Sunday November 16th at Exhibition Place in Toronto. Master Gardeners / Master Gardeners in Training answered gardening questions at the advice table at the Enercare Centre. The booth was manned by members from Etobicoke, Mississauga, Toronto, Halton, Guelph and Peterborough.

Thank you to Education Director Kate Sault for organizing, and to the many members throughout the GTA, who volunteered for this event!



The following are pictures from the Fair.



Table set-up featured many new posters!



MGs and MGiTs answered questions from the public!

Our focus was to provide support for advice we give to home gardeners, including how to navigate unfriendly municipal bylaws, researching science-based information on the internet, wildscaping garden design, boulevard gardens, front yard food gardens, growing native plants from seed, and plant ID apps. But best of all was the opportunity to meet or re-acquaint ourselves, post-Covid, with our MG colleagues.

Participants were provided with copies of some presentations, and with ecological gardening resources available to home gardeners, to successfully negotiate with neighbours and bylaw enforcement officers. If you would like to receive these materials, please send your request to events@torontomastergardeners.ca.

Please take a look at the video interviews with some of our speakers:

Patricia Landry, City of Toronto Parks & Recreation Division – *Supporting Biodiversity in Toronto by Creating Ecological Gardens*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcffN14EtdM&t=39s>

Robert Mays, City of Toronto Transportation Division – *How Boulevard Gardens Create Greener Cities*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gED9zYXshwo&t=32s>

Nina-Marie Lister, Toronto Metropolitan University School of Urban Planning & Director of the Ecological Design Lab – *Habitat Gardens: A Gift to the City, Your Neighbourhood and Our Environment*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf0psXFdSmM&t=76s>



Photo collage - Credit: Jes Watson, Toronto Master Gardeners

Toronto Master Gardeners

Thank you to all who attended the Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update 2025!

by Judith Lavin

Name: Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update

Details: Toronto Master Gardeners hosted their first in-person Technical Update in 5 years. It was a lively event! Master Gardeners came from 19 different groups across Ontario to participate. We very much appreciate your support for our event.



Name: Seed Collecting Workshop

Details: On October 25 Toronto Master Gardeners held a workshop on Seed Collecting at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), the first of a three part Native Plant Series TMGs are holding at TBG. Topics covered included ethical seed collecting, how to determine if seeds are ready to be collected, and cleaning and storing seeds. After the classroom session, the approximately 25 participants were able to collect a variety of seeds in the gardens of the TBG to take home, clean and store, ready for the next session on Winter Sowing in January 2026.

These three pictures show scenes from the workshop.



Grey County Master Gardeners

Name: Annual Strategic Planning Meeting

Details: On November 2nd Grey County Master Gardeners held their annual Strategic Planning Meeting. We combined our meeting with a potluck lunch and a fun, flower-arranging activity. A dried flower arrangement was given to each of the local libraries involved in our 'Gardener in Residence' program this year.



L to R: members Karen Newark, Vicky Thompson, Anja Lowrance and Shirl Thorn



The meeting portion of the afternoon began with elections for next year and reflections for this past year. The reflecting piece was valuable for individuals as well as for the whole group. Members shared their various backgrounds and reasons for getting involved in the Master Gardeners' organization.

Understanding the strengths, challenges and viewpoints of others is essential to the overall success of the group.





L to R: members Carole Warren, Vicky Thompson, Karen Young, Shirley Thorn, Ann Joyner, Tory Bowman, Elizabeth Brims, Stephanie Fletcher, Susan Cox, Jennifer Deeks

We aligned the main body of our strategic planning meeting to that of MGOIs, using the SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) methodology where each coordinator discussed the successes, challenges and next steps of their respective committees. Overall, we agreed that our objectives for the past year were met, especially in the areas of education, online accessibility, and in various forms of community engagement (Gardener in Residence programs, winter seminar series, Seedy Saturdays, farmers' markets, annual plant sale, etc.).

Like other rural counties, we experience many of the same challenges and threats:

- 1) our geographical area and winter weather limit in-person gatherings;
- 2) there's difficulty attracting and/or keeping new members;
- 3) core memberships are aging with increasing physical limitations; and
- 4) member burnout is real!

Our underlying reason for becoming involved is, of course, our shared passion for gardening! Working together as a group is many things.....communicating, exploring, learning, sharing, sometimes challenging, and always evolving!



Lanark County Master Gardeners

Name: Blakeney Garden Project

Details: For the past four years, Lanark County Master Gardeners have worked with the Lanark County Food Bank (Hunger Stop) to grow food for the Food Bank. MG David Hinks is the project manager and MG Gerda Franssen is his right hand (wo)man. They work with a team of volunteers to plant, tend and harvest vegetables for the foodbank. Gerda and David and other experienced volunteers work five days a week to care for the gardens. This year, the Blakeney Garden produced 11,559 pounds of food for the Food Bank—Hunger Stop. Well done team!



Artichoke flower at the Blakeney Garden

Name: Final Meeting, 2025

Details: Our final meeting for 2025 was held virtually. We started off with an excellent presentation by MGIT Tim Desilippe on *Gardening and Mental Health*. Tim is a registered Social Worker / Psychotherapist and is working on his final course at Dalhousie; he will soon be a full-fledged Master Gardener. At his first meeting with us two years ago, Tim said he would like to do a presentation on *Gardening and Mental Health*, and by June he was delivering it to one of our Horticultural Societies. As he talked, we all thought about how much better our outlook is after a walk through the forest or smelling the air after the rain. Now we knew why.

We followed Tim's presentation with a regular meeting where much of our time was spent on discussion of expanding our Advice Clinics and making them more attractive to our visitors. Tim, for example brings one of his many Bonsai plants to markets he hosts and people flock to our table to learn more about it.





Bonsai plant, front and centre, from Tim's garden

2025 has been a wonderful year for Lanark County Master Gardeners and we all look forward to 2026.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Port Credit Library - Speaker Series

Details: Our MGiT, Mary Lloyd-Clifford, did a talk on *Seed Saving* at the Port Credit Library. Armed with many bins of dried seed heads from her garden, Mary gave an informative step by step presentation to the attendees. As a new member of our team, Mary's enthusiasm and eagerness to present this topic was so exciting for our group!



Mary Lloyd-Clifford

Name: Technical Update, Changing Cities - One Garden at a Time

Details: We had a full table of MMGs who attended the Technical Update on November 8th, hosted by the TMGs at the gorgeous grounds of the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

It was a day of learning, socializing, walking the grounds on a sunny fall day and accumulating CEUs! A wonderful, packed basket filled with an assortment of gardening essentials was won by one of our members.



Left to right: Mary Lloyd-Clifford, Ramona Christiansen, Alyssa Pawlak, Susan Quirk, Diana Westland, Karolina Marques, Martha Kantorczyk, Sheelagh Rowland and Deirdre Walsh



Ramona Christiansen, winner of the basket of garden essentials

Name: The Royal Winter Fair, by Deirdre Walsh

Details: *Please read Deirdre's wonderful experience at The Royal Winter Fair!*

Notes from a MGiT on Her First Advice Table at the Royal Winter Fair

"As I arrived at the Royal Winter Fair for my first advice table at this beloved event, I wasn't quite sure what to expect.



I joined the Mississauga Master Gardener group a few months ago, and I was quickly learning how much I don't know!

I was partnered with Sean James, a longtime Master Gardener and well-known horticultural expert. Well, I shouldn't have been worried because Sean is a fantastic mentor and couldn't have been a more helpful booth mate.

The questions from the crowd changed from day to day. Sean said the big question on Saturday was, "How do I cope with the damage to my boxwoods?". The question on Sunday was, "How do I find more plants that are good for butterflies and the environment?"

Kate Sault, MGO's amazing Education Director, arrived towards the end of the day to prepare for packing up the booth for another year. She is the steward of the resources that so many of the public find valuable. Kate shared how many MGs have contributed to the selection of informational posters and handouts that we share with the people who stop by the booth.

I was pleasantly surprised by the quality and variability of the vendors at the Fair. Next year, I plan to make more of a day of it and do some quality Christmas shopping to add to the fun."

~ Deirdre Walsh



Deirdre Walsh, left with Sean James

Grand Erie Master Gardeners

Name: Presentations

Details: On November 6th Master Gardeners Kim Hutten and Lynne Goulet-Smith gave a presentation on Fall Garden Maintenance & Winter Prep to the County of Brant Library in Paris.

On November 20th Master Gardener Anne Saunders and MGIT Carolyn Bennett gave a presentation on Winter Sowing at the Burford Branch of the County of Brant Library.

Grand Erie Master Gardeners continue to prepare for new workshop and educational opportunities in the new year.



London – Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Hope and Action Festival

Details: On October 24–25, the London Middlesex Master Gardeners (LMMGs) participated in the *Hope and Action Festival* at Fanshawe Conservation Area, hosted by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

- **Friday, October 24:** Special Programming welcomed Grade 7 and 8 students from London for hands-on environmental learning. LMMG volunteers led an interactive activity where students matched pollinators to the plants they depend on for survival—sparking conversations about biodiversity and ecological balance.
- **Saturday, October 25:** The festival opened to families, offering more interactive experiences. LMMG volunteers staffed the Native Plant Seed Exchange Table, distributing native seeds and answering questions about growing native species.

This event was a wonderful opportunity to inspire both youth and families to take action toward a greener future.

LMMG also participated in the **London Hydro Wellness Fair**, sharing knowledge about gardening as a pathway to health and well-being.



Name: Visit to Growing Chefs! Ontario

Details: In September, LMMG visited Growing Chefs! Ontario, an organization dedicated to food education and sustainability. Growing Chefs is utilizing a one-acre plot to grow vegetables for local families and to teach high school students about food production.

This initiative connects gardening with community wellness and education.



Gardens Program Coordinator, Ilana Guslits, explaining the gardening methods used



Name: Show-and-Tell Meeting— How Canada Determines Its Hardiness Zones

Details: Our November meeting featured a lively “show-and-tell” session where members shared topics they are passionate about from the past year. Master Gardener Heather O’Shea gave an engaging mini-presentation on how Canada determines its Hardiness Zones. Heather explained the science behind the zones and shared maps showing the entire country, including areas where zones have shifted over time.



Thousand Islands Master Gardeners

Name: Last Kingston Seedy Saturday Event of 2025

Details: The last Kingston Seedy Saturday event of 2025 was held November 8th for local gardeners to buy and swap seeds, from vegetables and perennials to native plants, shrubs and trees. In addition to the advice table, 29 people attended two hour-long workshops on winter sowing offered by TIMG member Nathan Nesdoly, during which participants planted several species of native and near-native plants, gathered by Nathan from local native seed gardens.

Name: Seniors Information and Active Living Fair

Details: TIMG volunteers were kept on their feet answering lots of questions during a busy scene November 13th at the Seniors Information and Active Living Fair at Lakeside Wellington (Lakeside Motel) in southern Prince Edward County.

“We were very well received,” Andie said. “We should try and do this event every year because it really raises the profile of master gardeners in the County.”



Left to right, Barb Gosse, Andie Wiens and Tina Spicer at the Seniors Information Fair



UPCOMING EVENTS

Halton Master Gardeners

Name: Hamilton Seedy Saturday 2026 Advice Table

Date & Time: Saturday, February 7th, 2026

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Place: Hamilton Central Library Branch (4th floor),
55 York Blvd., Hamilton

Details: Green Venture, in partnership with Hamilton Public Library, will launch the 15th annual Seedy Saturday, Hamilton. There will be a Vendors' Market, Speakers Series, Ask the Experts, Children's Activities, Silent Auction, Rain Ready Stormwater Rebate info, MG Advice Clinic and more! Free seeds + seeds for sale.

Cost: Free

Additional Information: to follow!



Cost: TBD (includes 3 speakers, vendors, demos, door prizes, catered lunch)

Registration Information: Please check our website for updates:

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

Speakers: Our three speakers include: celebrated author and community advocate **Lorraine Johnson**; well-known speaker **Sean James**; and **Matt Soltys**, "The Urban Orchardist".

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: 2026 Friends of the Farm and MGOC Lecture Series

Dates:

March 3	April 14
March 17	April 28
March 31	

Details & Topics: Based on last year's feedback, the five lectures in 2026 (March-April) will explore Edibles. Topics include Integrated Pest Management, Nurturing a Food Forest, Cold Frames and Cold Crops, Growing Unusual Edibles and Tiny Gardens, and Tiny Gardens, Big Harvest.

Cost: Members: \$10 per lecture or \$45 entire series

Non-members: \$12 per lecture or \$55 entire series

Registration: Early 2026 on the MGOI website.



Northumberland Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday Event

Date: Saturday, February 21st, 2026

Place: 54 Toronto Rd., Port Hope, Ont.

Details: NMGs Seedy Saturday event is happening at the Port Hope Masonic Temple (54 Toronto Rd., Port Hope).

Erin Muscutt has designed a seed separating machine and will be attending our Seedy Saturday event to demonstrate the machine and sell seeds.

Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

SAVE THE DATE

Technical Update: Day In the Garden

Date: Feb. 22, 2026

Time: 9am-3pm

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



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. Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Government of Canada: cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca
Tel: 613-773-6600

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The prime season for **Oak Wilt Disease** is over for another year. Learn more about oak wilt at: ontario.ca/page/oak-wilt. Visit Facebook at: [#ScienceON](#) [#InvasiveSpecies](#) [#ForestResearch](#) [#ForestHealth](#). Canada's oak wilt response framework is available through the CFIA: <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species/plant-diseases/oak-wilt/response-framework>

For information on **Spotted Lanternfly** please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/spotted-lanternfly-prevention-practices-producers>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-pests-and-plants/insects/spotted-lanternfly>

