



*A Master Gardeners of Ontario Newsletter*

# Inside MGOI

## *Happy New Year!*

As we welcome 2026 MGOI is thinking that it's time to revamp *Inside MGOI* with new ideas and insights—and perhaps a new focus. The current iteration of this newsletter has been around for 10 years. The results of the SWOT analysis last summer revealed that you are looking for change and more relevancy in the newsletter. We welcome your ideas moving forward on how to re-focus your newsletter. There are 28 Master Gardener groups throughout this vast province we call Ontario. How can we make the newsletter more relevant to you?

### **MGOI Board Members:**

President:	Anne Craig, Peterborough
Past President:	Karen Sciuk, Waterloo Region
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Director of South & West Region:	Lynne Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie
Advisor to the Board:	Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region

### **Committee Members:**

Webmaster: Sabine Behnk, Waterloo [sabine.behnk@icloud.com](mailto:sabine.behnk@icloud.com)  
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 MGOI Wear: Lynn Goulet-Smith, Grand Erie  
 Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County  
 Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton  
 Manager, MG Participation in the CNE & RWF: Kate Sault, Halton

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### **INSIDE MGOI**

**January 2026**

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

**Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton**

## Milestones

### Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

#### In Memoriam

Gillian Boyd

Gillian, a Master Gardener and mentor for 35 years, passed away on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gillian contributed many talks and articles on horticultural topics and grew native plants before it became a thing. Among many honours, she was awarded The Governor General of Canada Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers in 2021.



### Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

#### 5 Year Anniversary

Jennifer Ziorli



*Jennifer, left with Rosemary Fernandes-Walker, Co-ordinator*



### Tri-County Master Gardeners

#### Master Gardener Status Achieved

Krista MacMillan

**Krista** has been an enthusiastic and involved member of Tri-County Master Gardeners since 2023.

She has completed all the required courses at the University of Guelph, as well as the additional courses to complete her Horticulture Diploma. In addition, she has taken extra landscape design courses at Guelph, making her a valuable member of our group.



Krista brings a fresh, young perspective to TCMGs. She particularly enjoys the hands-on projects that we do and the many opportunities the Tri-County Master Gardeners offer to meet and chat with the public. She is always first to step up to be a part of these events. Krista has been active in helping keep our Facebook page current with interesting articles and information. Our Facebook followers have grown through her input.

Congratulations to Krista! She has completed her courses and two years of volunteer work making her a full-fledged, certified Master Gardener.

#### New Master Gardener in Training

Diana Reynolds



**Diana** is one of our new MGITs. She is currently enrolled in the Plant Identification course at the University of Guelph, as part of the Master Gardener certificate program. Diana also participates in the Market Garden Masterclass through the Market Gardener Institute, where she learns about small scale organic farming.

Diana is interested in landscape gardening, organic horticulture, and vegetable growing, as well as soil health and ecological amendments. She experiments with vermiculture and the use of biodynamic fertilizers.



Diana is busy planning the next crops to plant in her backyard garden beds.

We are delighted to have Diana in our group! Through the mentoring of her fellow Tri-County Master Gardeners, Diana has been able to expand her knowledge of native and invasive plants. We are always willing to answer any of Diana's questions and we know she will be an enthusiastic contributor who will help TCMGs grow in the future.



## **Etobicoke Master Gardeners**

### **Master Gardener Status Achieved**

Janice Lewkoski

### **New Master Gardeners in Training**

Tatiana Rafique

Kaye Puhlmann

Ralph Walton

### **Member Transfers**

June Too

Merryn Camphausen

June, Master Gardener in Training, transferred from Master Gardeners of Niagara. Merryn, Master Gardener, transferred from Haliburton County Master Gardeners.



## **Grand Erie Master Gardeners**

### **40 Year Anniversaries**

Nancy Lee-Colibaba

Len Cole

### **13 Year Anniversary**

Kevin Kavanagh

### **New Master Gardeners in Training**

Melissa Webb

Kailey Stewart

**Kailey** has 2 small children and is a florist working on her horticultural designation while working for a non-profit in communication, programming and grant applications.

**Melissa** changed careers from construction and is working towards her Horticultural Diploma in Landscape Design.

We extend a warm welcome to Melissa and Kailey!



## **London-Middlesex Master Gardeners**

### **40 Year Anniversary**

Eva Norman Vestergaard

### **22 Year Anniversary**

Nancy Abra

Donna Slater

### **21 Year Anniversary**

Lynne Campbell

We are fortunate to have many long-serving members in our group. We celebrated and recognized them at our AGM.

### **Emeritus Status**

Linda Armstrong-13 years

Bob Worthy-20 years

Kim Pawley-15 years

Louise Nadeau-27 years

### **Master Gardener Status Achieved**

Pam Bushell



*Pam Bushell, right received her Master Gardener certificate at the AGM from Coordinator Sandra Elfman*





## Toronto Master Gardeners

### New Master Gardeners in Training



*Back Row: Kathy Martin (MGiT Program Co-Manager), Terra Donovan\*, Tina Cesaroni, Dianne Azzarello, Robin Smith\*, David Rosenblatt\*, Kwasi Kyei Mensah\*, Tanya Onieogou*  
*Middle Row: Shirley Winter\*, Joanna Blanchard, Afhseen Rane\*, Silvia Hernandez\*, Margaret Rousseau, Donna de Boehmier, Sandra Williams\*, Chris Hill\*, Wai Yeung*  
*Front Row: Betsy MacInerney\*, Dianna English\*, Alexis Yanaky, Janet Ahier, Ruth Weins*  
*Photo credit: Natalie Vompa*

Toronto Master Gardeners welcomed 14 new Master-Gardeners-in-Training (MGiTs) on January 1, 2026. The Welcome Event for new MGiTs and their Mentors was held at the Toronto Botanical Garden and is part of the onboarding process for new Toronto Master Gardeners.

This event is an opportunity for Trainees and Mentors to get together, receive information about the MGiT program, ask questions and meet other new members. We also have fun!

Thanks go to Natalie Vompa (Mentor and event facilitator) and Luiza Monteiro (facilitator and MGiT program co-Manager).

MGiTs are noted with an asterisk. Three MGiTs were unable to attend: Daisy Aranha\*, Donna Santos\*, Mija Bourque White\*.

Mentors who couldn't join us were: Morty Shapiro, Georgie Kennedy, Priti Rana.



*Brookmeade Park, Mississauga on 15 Jan. 2026*  
*Photo credit: Mary Lund*





## ***Board Updates***

Happy New Year Master Gardeners! It's a cold sunny day as I write this. This is the time of year that we can rest, reflect and plan for our 2026 gardens! I want to update you on the work of the board, as 2025 has also been a time of insight, reflection and rebuilding.

Here are some of the things we have been working on...and this is by no means a complete list. In 2026, you will start to see some results from these projects although we also have longer term objectives in our sights. The board hopes to build a framework that ensures that the Master Gardeners of Ontario continues to be robust and successful for the next decade and beyond.

**Strategic Plan** – Thank you to all who provided input to our SWOT survey or attended focus groups. The board is assessing this information under the leadership of Elizabeth Stewart (Toronto) who is our Director of Marketing. There will be more opportunities to provide input in 2026. We aim to finalize the plan later in the year.

**Education Committee** – Kate Sault (Halton Region), Director of Education has put together a team of MGs from around the province. They will be first tackling some quick wins such as an accommodations policy and a policy around accepting members from other jurisdictions. In the longer term, they will be looking at exams, education requirements, reference guide(s), etc.

**Coordinators Handbook/Policy Manual** – This is the boring stuff that makes the Master Gardener program work. It has been a long time since this has been comprehensively reviewed. A team will be reviewing all guidelines to make sure they are modern, easily understandable and work for all Master Gardeners.

**Financial Team** – Led by Gail Cocker (Simcoe County), Director North Region, this team is ensuring that the financial foundation of our organization is strong.

## **We Need Your Help!**

MGOI is run for and by Master Gardeners. If you would like to contribute, in a big way, by joining the board in the future or in a smaller way by helping with a special project, please let us know. You can reach out to your group coordinator or directly to me at [President@MGOI.ca](mailto:President@MGOI.ca).

Thank you.

*Anne Craig (Peterborough & Area)*  
*President, MGOI*



## Newsletter Working Group

We would like to put together a NL working group and are thinking of a brainstorming session as early as February. If you would be interested in joining in, or even just auditing a first meeting, please let me know and I will add your name to the meeting list.

Here are some questions / ideas to ponder:

- What do you see as the function of the NL?
- How can it be made more relevant?
- Where do you see the NL going?
- What are the changes you would like to see?
- What should the look and feel be?
- What should the format be?
- How often do you want to read the NL?
- How long should it be?
- How often should it go out?
- Content – what should it include?
  - Annual TOCs?
- Name change – what is a more appropriate name?

Structure / content / delivery are all up for review.  
Sections of the NL – what headings s/b included.

Anything else?

We are looking for broad level ideas all the way down to logistics such as how often to publish, content, focus, layout, TOC, length, etc.

Other ideas:

- Annual content list, i.e. what to expect vis-à-vis topics a year in advance.
- Move to article-based.
- Vehicle for: exchange of best practices.

If you are interested, please contact me at:  
[newsletter@mgoi.ca](mailto:newsletter@mgoi.ca).

Thankyou, and looking forward to hearing from you.

*Isabel Belanger, Editor*



## Board Vacancy—Vice President (VP)

***The VP Position is currently vacant. MGOI is looking for 1 or 2 VPs to support the President.***



### The position entails:

- *Supporting and working closely with the President*
- *Monitoring the progress of the organization's goals and objectives*
- *Reviewing information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern*
- *Assisting Directors in resolving potential areas of concern, potentially bringing them to the attention of the Board of Directors*
- *Working with the Director of Membership and others to fill vacant Board positions*
- *Assuming the duties of the President in her absence; succeeds the President*





# Master Gardeners Out & About

## Projects & Events

### Halton Master Gardeners

#### Name: Building a Digital Community

**Details:** The Halton group is exploring the idea of creating a digital space for members to interact with each other between meetings, with the goal of sharing knowledge, interests and experiences. This would not be a replacement for our other activities such as the website, the newsletter (Cross Pollination) or our google drive, but an additional space to learn, get to know each other and share.



To that end a survey was conducted to understand which apps members currently use, how they use them and if a Halton MG chat space would add value to our current activities. A good app would be private, easy to sign up for, easy to sign in to, and free. It would also take minimal effort to set up and manage, and easy to move away from if we wanted.

A WhatsApp private group for HMG members has been created. A good number of members have joined and are exploring the space. At our next meeting in February, the entire group will discuss:

- How easy the app is to use
- If members want to continue using it
- Whether group administrators had any issues
- And finally, sourcing a permanent manager

Thanks to all members in the group for their time and effort.



### Grand Erie Master Gardeners

#### Name: Projects on the Go

**Details:** The Grand Erie Master Gardeners have been hard at work preparing for Seedy Saturdays, participating in workshops, and giving talks to Horticultural Societies, Libraries and other groups.

MG Nancy Lee-Colibaba delivered a presentation on herbs at the Brantford Horticultural Society on January 8<sup>th</sup>.



Nancy

MGs Kim Hutten, Kevin Kavanagh and MGIT Carolyn Bennett presented a workshop on *Gardening for Nature* to a full house with 'Brant for Nature' at the Brantford Public Library on January 10<sup>th</sup>.



Left to right, Kim, Kevin and Carolyn

MGs Anne Saunders, Lynne Goulet-Smith, MGIT Carolyn Bennett, MG Laura Rodger and MGITs Liz Hopkins and Marilyn Park (photographer) spent many hours organizing native seeds for winter sowing in preparation for our Native Plant Sale (tentatively booked for June 20<sup>th</sup>).



They also created native seed packages for seedy Saturdays and workshop events.



*MG Lynne Goulet-Smith with some of the jugs she has winter sown for our native plant sale in June!*

Look for our new banner at upcoming events!

MG Nancy Lee-Colibaba, with some assistance from MGs Laura Rodger and Kim Hutten, spear-headed the work to update our old banner. The background photo is from Laura's garden, featuring all native plants including Great Blue Lobelia, Boneset, Spotted Joe-Pyeweed and Virgin's Bower.



## Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

### Name: Seasonal Celebration

**Details:** On Dec. 14, some 30 MGOC members and family gathered at Barbara Long's penthouse party room for a potluck of savory and sweet temptations and to view Mary Anne Ambroziak's fantastic slide show of the year's activities.



*MGOC Co-chair Belinda Boekhoven celebrates with a garland (Photo by Pauline Yelle)*



*Past MGOC chair Rebecca Last never fails to bring treats (Photo by Pauline Yelle)*





**Name: Ruderal Native Plants Presentation**

**Details:** Well-known author and self-described “cultivation activist” Lorraine Johnson zoomed into the MGOC Nov. 27 meeting to talk about “Plants in Tough Places: Gardening as Repair.” She explored conditions with degraded soil, regular disturbances and other places where little else flourishes, and explained how nature’s “first responders” – a.k.a. “ruderal” native plants – take root and heal the land from damage.

**Name: Ottawa Citizen and Ottawa Sun Contracts Renewed**

**Details:** MGOCs contracts to provide articles to the two newspapers have been renewed. In 2026, lead editor Julianne Labreche and co-editor Barbara Sibbald will commission and edit 26 articles written by MGOC members. In 2025, MGOC provided 16 articles at a rate of \$200 each. All published articles can be found at:

[https://ottawacitizen.com/search/?search\\_text=Mast+er+Gardeners+of+ottawa+carleton&date\\_range=-365d&sort=desc](https://ottawacitizen.com/search/?search_text=Mast+er+Gardeners+of+ottawa+carleton&date_range=-365d&sort=desc).

**Name: Planning MGOCs 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026**

**Details:** To mark this milestone, we’re organizing a special event on April 26, 2026, featuring a look back at our history and a celebration of the people who have shaped our organization in its early days. A team has gathered under the leadership of MGOCs co-chair Belinda Boekhoven.

**Name: Talks**

**Details:** MG Barbara Sibbald presented her talk, “Notes on a Japanese Garden,” to the Old Ottawa South Garden Club on Jan 14.

**London-Middlesex Master Gardeners****Name: December Social**

**Details:** Our December meeting was a social potluck. Members shared gardening stories over festive dishes.

**Name: AGM**

**Details:** To start 2026, we held our AGM at *Growing Chefs* over a meal of locally grown produce. We honoured our outgoing executive members and welcomed new faces to our 2026 executive. Captains shared reports to summarize our year.

Our new educational thread for this year will be biodiversity, a fitting topic given our location in the heart (or would that be the phloem?) of Carolinian Canada! As a group we reflected on the previous year, our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and how gardening practices have changed based on science.

We are looking forward to 2026 with many community events already booked. Many members are in the final stages of planning Seedy Saturday and our 8 week course, ‘Seeds to Table’.

**Niagara Master Gardeners****Name: Amaryllis Greenhouse Tour**

**Details:** In December, Niagara Master Gardeners had a field trip to Prins Grow Greenhouse in Jordan Station for an inside look at their amaryllis growing operation. They grow this spectacular flower for cutting and selling from October to Valentine’s Day.



*Niagara MGs enjoyed the tour of the Niagara amaryllis growing operation hosted by owner Jan Prins, far right*

MG Marie-Claire Groulx asked owner Jan Prins some questions during the tour:

**What was one of the important changes in operations since beginning 25 years ago?**



Going hydroponic has helped in the better control of soil pests, temperature control and growing conditions in general.

### What are the greatest challenges in production?

Pest control continues to be an important concern, where daily vigilance is necessary to nip in the bud any pests, including mealy bugs that can stick to clothing and be easily dispersed. Chemicals are falling out of practice and creative non-toxic solutions are needed. Prevention and daily early detection remain essential.

### What are some challenges in the sales of the flowers you grow?

Timing of production for predictable flowers is crucial so that we can deliver a very high quality product on time (and sometimes ahead of competitors). Prins is always in competition with the Dutch market which has generations of expertise. It takes time to build a client base, and you need to deliver consistent quality across North America.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jan also said he has stayed open to working with consultants and local growers. He has invested time and resources into anticipating, adapting and responding to world trends in the flower market.

I left this greenhouse operation with such awe at the work and resilience of this family. It is a lifetime of commitment to learning the science of plant growth and production, the adaptive needs to ensure proper pest management and the timing of various species for marketing, space utilization and staffing for a flowing operation.

– Marie-Claire Groulx



A field of amaryllis stretches into the distance at a Prins Grow greenhouse in Vineland Station in Niagara. They are grown from October to Valentine's Day and sold mainly for cut flower arrangements.

MG Betty Knight put together some information to ponder while possibly admiring your own amaryllis that may be brightening your home this winter:

### Fun Facts about Amaryllis...

Poets like Theocritus first used 'Amaryllis' as the name of an impossibly lovely shepherdess, a muse for smitten goatherds. She caused shepherds to forget their flocks, flutes, and possibly their common sense—on brand for a flower that hijacks many a mantelpiece during the holidays.

Later, Virgil borrowed her for his Eclogues, cementing her place in literary history as the luminous unattainable beauty of pastoral poetry.

When botanists in the 18<sup>th</sup> century began naming plants, they borrowed these mythic names like souvenirs from classical literature, and *Amaryllis belladonna* – the beautiful lady – was born. She is now a South African perennial blooming in late summer. Many of the red and white Christmas bulbs sold in garden stores are actually *Hippeastrum*, which I guess just doesn't sound as fancy and beautiful as Amaryllis.

– Betty Knight

### Name: Fall Flower-Arrangement Workshop

**Details:** Niagara Master Gardeners held a workshop last fall at Tabor Manor Long-Term Care Home in St. Catharines, helping residents to plant *Schlumbergera* (AKA Christmas cactus) and decorate the planters.



From left, Kendy Steeves, Sue Lusted and Marcey Leggett hosted a Christmas cactus planting activity





# Lanark County Master Gardeners

## Name: Looking Forward to 2026—New Year Kick-Off

**Details:** Lanark County starts our year with Zoom Meetings from January to April. Another advantage of a small group is we can comfortably sit around the Zoom table and all be actively involved. Our kick off meeting starts with a [2025 Year in Review.pptx](#) show to remind us of all we did in the past year. Click on the link above if you want to see how we keep busy.

In 2025, we added another Farmers' Market to our list of Farmers' Markets, bringing the count up to 3. We also added a Seedy Saturday or Sunday, and EarthFest. We were asked to present at various Horticultural Societies.

In 2026, we have been invited to even more locations, both in and outside Lanark County. We have even signed up for two presentations at the Trenton Horticultural Society. Isn't Zoom wonderful!

Tay Valley Township, located in Lanark County, is presenting a series of talks for seniors. They contacted us asking if maybe we could do one or two of the talks. We have signed up for three.

We have also created our own tri-fold brochure to give out at Advice Tables, and had it professionally printed.

### Free Garden Apps



#### Dragonfly Excellent for insect control

There are many free garden apps that work well with your phone. They can help you identify plants or insects.

These are a few that are highly rated by Master Gardeners. These are available on your App Store or by searching Google.

**iNaturalist**—Become a citizen scientist and use iNaturalist to identify plants and insects. Most highly rated app for accuracy.

**Google Lens**—Comes with most cellphones and is very accurate. Check the picture results. Can id just about anything.

**BugFinder** online or in an App. Can identify a wide range of insects.

**MyIPM** provides integrated approach to pest and disease management advice for fruit and vegetable growers. Starts with the least drastic method, cultural control and goes to the most

### What does a Master Gardener do?

- Master Gardeners:**
- Volunteer in the community.
  - Advocate to protect the environment.
  - Support diversity and inclusion.
  - Collaborate with others.
  - Embrace life long learning.

### How do I become a Master Gardener?

Contact our local group or MGOL

#### Education:

- Complete specific online courses from the University of Guelph or Dalhousie University.
- OR
- Pass the MGOL Certification Exam.

Every Master Gardener is expected to fulfill 30 hours of volunteer time. Complete at least 2 years as a Master Gardener in Training.

To apply, contact us at [lanarkmg@gmail.com](mailto:lanarkmg@gmail.com)

**Come Grow with us!**

For more information about Master Gardeners visit [www.MGOL.ca](http://www.MGOL.ca)



Lanark County Master Gardeners

#### Gardening questions?

We can help!

Visit us at Farmers Markets across Lanark County or Seedy Saturday or Sunday.

Follow us on Facebook or

Contact us at

[lanarkmg@gmail.com](mailto:lanarkmg@gmail.com)

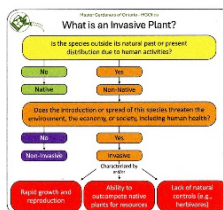
### Invasive Plants

To learn more about invasive plants, a great starting place is the Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

[www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)

Their website:

- Identifies invasive plants found in Ontario.
- Provides best management practices for many common invasive plants.
- Provides technical documents.
- Suggests plants to grow instead of the invasive species.
- Provides Fact Sheets about many invasive species.



### Native Plants

Native Plants occur naturally in a particular region, where they have evolved in concert with other species.

Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) is a national non-profit organization that works to preserve Canada's Wildlife and Habitats through education, research and direct conservation.

Their **Native Plant Encyclopedia** provides lists of native plants suitable for your region. You can also search on wildlife benefits for plants in your region. Certify your garden as a "Wildlife-friendly habitat and proudly display your sign. They also provide a list of Native Plant suppliers in your region.

Visit [www.cwf-fcf.org](http://www.cwf-fcf.org)



### Planting Seeds and Plants

When can I start my seeds and plant out my seedlings?

The Old Farmer's Almanac is a trusted source for gardeners when planning their garden or starting seeds. Visit [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com) and enter your gardening zone. Their site contains:

- Garden Planner
- Planting Calendar customized to your location
- Growing Guides
- Garden pests, plants and diseases
- Gardeners Toolbox for timing, tending and trouble shooting by season.



For seed starting success, use the best seeds you can find. If you have stored seeds from previous years or purchased seeds @ 3 packs for \$1, test the seeds for viability. To do this, place a few seeds on a damp paper towel and fold over. Place in a plastic bag and put in a warm spot (top of the refrigerator is good). If in a few days they have not sprouted, they are not viable.

Seeds are available at local hardware stores, grocery stores or seed catalogues. Seed catalogues have very useful information. Catalogues we like are: William Dam Seeds, Vessey's Seeds, Richter's Seeds

All in all, we are looking forward to a very exciting year in 2026.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Halton Master Gardeners

**Name:** Hamilton Seedy Saturday 2026 Advice Table

**Date & Time:** Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Place:** Hamilton Central Library Branch (4<sup>th</sup> floor),  
55 York Blvd., Hamilton

**Details:** Green Venture, in partnership with Hamilton Public Library, will launch the 15<sup>th</sup> 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



### Toronto Master Gardeners & Toronto Botanical Garden

**Name:** Growing from Seed Webinar

**Date:** February 11, 2026

**Details:** Toronto Master Gardener in Training Ginnie Venslovaitis will be leading this webinar, sponsored by Toronto Botanical Garden, on seed starting. This is an online event, open to all for registration:

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/event/online-growing-from-seed-webinar/>

Photo courtesy Toronto Botanical Garden



**Name:** *Get the Jump on Spring*

**Place & Date:** Toronto Botanical Garden, Saturday, February 21, 2026

**Details:** Toronto Master Gardeners will be out and about, hosting advice clinics and garden chats at Toronto Botanical Garden's popular annual event, *Get the Jump on Spring*.

- 11 am - Favourite Pollinator Plants
- 12 pm - Favourite Garden Tools
- 1 pm - Favourite Plants to Grow from Seed
- 2 pm - Favourite House Plants

<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/event/get-the-jump-on-spring-2026/>

### Niagara Master Gardeners

**Name:** Seedy Saturday, 2026

**Details:** The Niagara MGs are hosting a Seedy Saturday event again this year. The event includes speakers, vendors and family activities. Coffee and snacks will be available. Don't miss it!

**Date:** Feb. 14, 2026

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More details in poster below.



**HUNDREDS OF VARIETIES OF SEEDS FOR SALE!**

All seeds are cleaned, dried and non-hybrid types.

- Seed Swap Table
- More than a dozen vendors
- Speakers TBA
- District 9 OHA & Societies
- Bulbs & tubers for sale
- Free draw - \$50 Gift Card for Participants & one for Volunteers
- Free draw on Facebook
- Ask a Master Gardener Clinic / Becoming a Master Gardener

**\* NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

Please bring a bag for your purchases



## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

### 2026 Winter Lecture Series

**Date & Time of 1<sup>st</sup> Lecture:** Tuesday, February 18, 7pm-9pm. Main glass doors open at 6:40pm.

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

**Admission:** by donation/pwyc

**Details:** Romantic Gardens for the Dreamer

Historic roots for the Romantic Gardens are found in the Arts & Crafts, Picturesque and Renaissance movements. Join presenter Frank Kershaw as we learn how the garden's elements, characteristics and plant material enable privacy, contemplation and beauty. The gardens are traversable, sheltering and often contain elevation changes. Water elements, bird song, and careful lighting work together to create a wonderful stage for romance and imagination. Plant material figures prominently in the theme of romance and fancy: Forget Me Nots, Bleeding Hearts, Tulips, or is that two lips? Come and find out.

#### Two more lectures will follow:

- **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>:** The Wonder of Trees – Pruning, an Exercise in Thought and Consideration with Todd Irvine.
- **Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>:** Gardening on the Edge – Adapting You and Your Garden to Climate Change with Frank Kershaw.

**Date, Time & Location:** same as the 1<sup>st</sup> lecture

## Grey County Master Gardeners



**Name:** Eco-Responsible Gardener Series:  
**"Weathering the Change: Climate Smart Gardening"**

**Details:** Happy New Year everyone! We have had quite a snowy winter so far here in Grey County! We are once again offering 3 online winter seminars in our Eco-Responsible Gardener Series.

#### Seminar Topics, Dates/Times:

- **Seminar 1: Past**

If you were lucky enough to hear our first speaker, Kimberly Bell, this past Saturday (January 17), you

would have thoroughly enjoyed her talk based on weather predictions for the next 25 years, and the risks to gardening associated with those projections!

- **Seminar 2: February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11AM**

Our speaker will be Ryan Godfrey, the Botanist in Residence with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada, speaking about some of the many stressors our plants are experiencing in the face of climate change.

- **Seminar 3: March 21<sup>st</sup> at 11AM**

This last presentation of the series will be by two of our Master Gardeners, Jennifer Deeks and Anja Lowrance. Join them as they provide the home gardener with practical techniques for growing more resilient plants in the face of changes in precipitation patterns, increased probability of drought and extreme weather events, and incoming pests & diseases.

**Registration:** For more information, and to register in advance, check out "Events" on our website: <https://www.greycountymastergardeners.ca/events>. Mark the dates on your calendar! We look forward to you joining us!

## Northumberland Master Gardeners

**Name:** Seedy Saturday

**Date & Time:**

Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 10am-2pm

**Place:** Masonic Hall, 54 Toronto Rd., Port Hope, ON

**Details:** Come and get ready for the 2026 growing season. There will be various seed vendors and a trading table.

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





## Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners

### Technical Update

#### A Day In the Garden

**Date:** Feb. 22, 2026

**Time:** 9am-3:30 pm; Registration opens at 8:30am

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

**Cost:** \$75 (includes speakers, vendors, demos, door prizes, catered lunch—no price increase)

**Registration Information:** See poster; please check our website for tickets:

<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".



Coffee to start,  
snacks + lunch  
to enjoy

Great door  
prizes

Shop local  
vendors

Interactive  
demonstrations

**A Day In The Garden**  
*Learn. Grow. Restore.*

Sunday, Feb  
22nd, 2026  
9:00 a.m. - 3:30  
Registration  
opens at  
8:30a.m.

Victoria Park  
East Golf Club  
1096 Victoria  
Rd S, Guelph

Sean James Lorraine Johnson Matt Soltys

Buy tickets at [www.gwmastergardeners.ca](http://www.gwmastergardeners.ca)

SEE YOU THERE!

## 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.



REGISTER TODAY!  
[www.friendsofthefarm.ca](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca)

**What's Bugging You? Integrated Pest Management for your Garden**  
With Master Gardener EP Power  
March 3rd, 2026

**Nurturing Your Own Food Forest**  
With Master Gardeners  
Andrea Knight & Angelina Singson  
March 17th, 2026

**2026 FRIENDS OF THE FARM LECTURE SERIES:**  
Members: \$10 per lecture or \$45 entire Series  
Non-members: \$12 per lecture or \$55 Entire series

**Cold Frames & Cold Crops: Extending the Season**  
With Master Gardener  
Odette McIntyre  
March 31st, 2026

**Growing Unusual Edibles: Successes, Failures & Learnings**  
With Master Gardener  
Claire McCaughey  
April 14th, 2026

**Tiny Gardens Big Harvest**  
With Master Gardener Judith Cox  
April 28th, 2026

Presented by:  
Friends of the Central  
Experimental Farm &  
Master Gardeners of  
Ottawa-Carleton

Master Gardeners of  
Ottawa-Carleton





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca)  
Tel: 613-773-6600

#### Follow:

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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](https://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>

