

Low Maintenance Gardens – June 5, 2013

On Wednesday June 5th, Mary Reid spoke to the GGG members on the subject of low maintenance gardens. Mary had a power point presentation as well as a few props that entertained the members.

A group of the members were asked to stand up and hold photographs of various flowering plants and the audience was asked to put them in order of flowering throughout the season. It was a fun activity that illustrated the flow of flowering plants from early spring to late fall.



Mary provided tips on the type of plant to grow, on fertilizing, the use of corn gluten (especially on lawns to prevent the germination of weed seeds), the use of soaker hoses and mulching to cut down on watering. She also talked about when to cut back perennials and when to prune flowering shrubs. She talked about wrapping trees in the winter, especially the lower trunk to prevent damage by rodents, notably mice and rabbits. The product “scoot” is also useful particularly to deter rabbits and deer. Mary also emphasized the need to water evergreens before the onset of winter and to add compost to the garden in the fall so that it is already worked into the soil come the following spring. She also talked about a relatively new top dressing product called “Time Sav’r” that can be a useful replacement for purchased top dressing both in terms of amount, time spent and cost especially if you are trying to manage a fairly large area of lawn.

Her phrase “Little Red Flower” was a useful reminder of the particular value of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) the three nutrients in commercial fertilizers; the Little for leaves, the Red for roots and the Flower for flowers and fruit.

Mary also mentioned the OMFRA website that has information on common weeds, if you want to check what is growing in your garden.

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/weedgal1.htm>

