

Garden Pests and Diseases – February 5, 2015



On February 5th, **Diane McClymont Peace**, Master Gardener, spoke to the Greely Gardeners Group on the subject of "**Garden Pests and Diseases**". She began by noting items that she generally uses to deter and eliminate pests from her garden. These include the use of row covers, dormant oil and regular inspection of plants in her garden. She always takes along a soap spray (natural soap only, not dishwashing detergent); baking soda spray (for fungal infections) and some form of disinfectant (whether hand sanitizer or alcohol). The latter is particularly useful to clean tools if used after cutting diseased plants.

In her talk, Diane walked through the calendar year as a way of presenting insect pests and diseases that occur during the different months. She covered an amazing array of insects, viruses and diseases and that affect trees and plants from spring through to fall, including new pests and diseases that are just arriving in our area.

Diane presented practical ideas for preventing and remediating many common and some less common pests and diseases. She dealt with viburnum leaf beetle, European pine sawfly, gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, spruce budworm, iris borer, diplodia tip blight, cytospora canker, cutworms, flea beetles, stink bugs, spotted and striped cucumber beetles, aphids, cedar apple rust, fire blight, milkweed bug, box-elder bug, squash vine borer and earwigs. She also talked about slugs and snails, Colorado beetles, rose chafers, black spot on roses, powdery mildew, Japanese beetles, tomato hornworm and the sunflower moth. She noted viruses such as the hosta virus, tar spots and black knot, and finished by mentioning moles and voles. The latter, also known as meadow mice, are the culprits that chew grasses and bark and can girdle trees and shrubs under the snow in the winter.

Diane's presentation was so detailed and illustrated that we requested a copy of her notes and she has graciously provided her presentation slides to us. During the 'questions and answers' following her presentation, a question on carpenter bees was asked by one of our members and Diane has provided an information sheet on these insects. Both of these documents have been posted on the GGG website on the "Meeting and Special Events" page.

<http://www.greelygardeners.ca/mtgs%20events.html>