



# Greely Gardeners Group

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## *Newsletter* April 2002

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### GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

*Note - there will be no Monday night meeting this month...*

Saturday May 11, 10:00 a.m. Greely Community Centre

A change from routine this month... instead of our usual Monday night meeting we'll meet out front of the Community Centre on Saturday morning to participate in a hands-on demonstration of flower bed design. Planting and maintaining this bed is how we pay for our meeting room in the Community Centre, and this year Alison is going to show us how to do it right. Come prepared to do some gardening, and we'll be done by noon. Coffee and muffins will be provided, don't forget to bring a mug.

Monday June 3, 7:45 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Gardening that you can eat.

Saturday June 22, 10:00 a.m.

Members garden tour.

August - date to be arranged

Field trip.

Monday September 9, 7:45 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Members' Flower Show and Annual Meeting.

Monday October 7, 7:00 Greely Community Centre

Plant Swap and Sale.

Monday November 4, 7:45 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Birds in the garden.

Monday December 2, 7:45 Greely Community Centre

Christmas Pot Luck Dinner.

### Other Upcoming Events

Saturday and Sunday, April 27 & 28, 10am to 4pm. Craft Tea and Bake Sale presented by Friends of the Farm craft group and other area artisans at Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm.

Wednesday May 8, 7:00 p.m. Greely Community Centre. COGG (Community Organization Greening Greely) monthly meeting. New members always welcome.

Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day) 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rare and Unusual Plant Sale presented by Friends of the Farm and specialty growers and nurseries, in the parking lot of the Neatby Building, Carling Ave and Maple Drive.

Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. Tomkins Hall, Church Street, Manotick. Manotick Horticultural Society monthly meeting.

## Tip of the Month

THERE ARE THREE REASONS FOR DIVIDING PERENNIALS – to control their size, to propagate new plants, or to rejuvenate old plants. Most perennials can be divided in early spring as they start to produce new growth, or in the fall after the first heavy frost. Some perennials need splitting every couple of years to stay healthy, while others can be safely left alone for many years.

Which method you use for dividing plants depends on their root structure. Large plants such as delphiniums grow in clumps. The original plant grows outward forming an ever expanding, tight root ball. Eventually the centre part of the plant will die leaving a number of smaller plants around the perimeter. Dig up the root. Using a sharp spade cut the root in half and cut the halves into smaller sections each with two or three shoots and a mass of roots attached. Replant these as soon as possible. Ground covers and other plants that creep across the ground root where the stems touch damp soil. Divide these simply by digging up small sections complete with roots. Place the new plants in shallow holes and press a little soil on top. Plants that send out thin underground runners or rhizomes can be hard to control. Digging around the main plant and removing the wandering rhizomes at least twice a year can help to keep them in check. To propagate, plant any of the rhizomes that have small hair roots.

Irises have thick rhizome roots. Try separating them by gently tugging them apart. If this doesn't work, take a *sharp* knife and cut them apart at their narrowest point. Remove any parts that are soft or damaged. Replant the healthy rhizomes, ensuring that each has one or two "eyes". Plant bearded irises in shallow holes with just the tops of the rhizomes exposed. If you plant them too deep they won't flower. Bulbs should be dug up carefully and gently separated. Discard any damaged bulbs. Dig spring bulbs after they flower and the foliage has begun to die down, but while they are still easy to locate. Lilies are best moved in the fall.

*Adapted from an article in Ontario Gardener*

## The members' garden tour

June 22 is the date for this year's tour. It's an opportunity to visit other people's gardens, compare notes and pick up ideas. It's also a lot of fun – even in the rain, as we found out a couple of years back. We have a maximum of six gardens on the tour to keep the time down to about three hours, so get your name in early if you'd like to show us your half acre. And don't be shy just because your garden isn't "perfect" yet – let's face it, most gardens are a work in progress. To get on the list, call Bob or Alison.

## Summer outing suggestions

Every year we try to organize a day outing for club members to visit a garden of special interest. Last year we had to cancel for lack of interest, but we're trying again this year. So far we have two suggestions: the Governor General's grounds (always worth a visit, even if you've been before) and Gardens North, a unique location just outside North Gower. If you have any other ideas for a spot the members might like to tour, call Bob as soon as possible. We'll finalize the details at our Monday night meeting on June 3.

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**Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee**

President ~ Bob Stanley 821-1847

Activities Director ~ Alison Whitlock 821-4469

Secretary/Membership ~ Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816