



# Greely Gardeners Group

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## *Newsletter* May 2002

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### GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

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

Gardening that you can eat. There's more to gardening than lawns and flowers. This month we're going to look at the fruits and vegetables that are easy to grow in a Greely garden and give you some tips on how to ensure a successful crop.

#### Saturday June 22, 10:00 a.m.

Members garden tour. We're still looking for gardens to include on the tour. Don't be shy – even if your garden isn't perfect (yet) we'd still like to see it. And who knows, you might get some helpful suggestions from some of the members passing through.

#### August – date to be arranged

Field trip. We will finalize this event at the June meeting, so if you have a suggestion for a great garden to visit, speak up!

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

Members' Flower Show and Annual Meeting. This is your chance to show off the best your garden produced this summer. It's also the time to step forward and volunteer to help run the GGG. We'll be looking for volunteers in several areas, so be ready.

#### 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

Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 p.m. Tomkins Hall, Church Street, Manotick. Manotick Horticultural Society monthly meeting.

Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m. Greely Community Centre. COGG (Community Organization Greening Greely) monthly meeting. All welcome.

Run/Walk for Clean Air. Join Friends of the Farm, Sierra Club and Green Space Alliance in the Run/Walk for Clean Air on the rolling hills of the Central Experimental Farm Arboretum Sunday June 2. Cost for individuals \$25 in advance, \$30 on race day, families \$35. Race day registration time 8:15 am with run/walk at 9:00 am rain or shine. For information contact FCEF at 230-3276

July 1, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friends of the Central Experimental Farm Strawberry Social. Come and enjoy strawberry shortcake and juice at the Canadian Agriculture Museum on the Central Experimental Farm. Cost \$4. For information please call 230-3276

## Tip of the Month

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR BEDDING PLANTS YET? If you haven't it's not too late, but there are several things to consider before you plunk down your hard-earned cash at the most convenient retailer. The fact is that not all bedding plant outlets are created equal. While it's true that many local retailers buy from the same wholesalers, the difference is in how the plants are treated once they arrive at the retailer.

Here are 10 tips that will help ensure that you will go home with both good plants and good value:

1. Always count the plants in the pack. A plant should be growing in each cell, but that is not always the case.
2. Plants can't grow strong root systems in packs with very small cell volume. Four-packs allow more room for root growth than do six-packs. However, if you purchase small plants and transplant them immediately, six-packs can be a good value.
3. Look for plants that are stocky, dark green and uniform in size. Once transplanted, their growth will soon pass tall and spindly ones.
4. Buy "green plants"—ones that are not yet in flower. Plants that are not blooming will be more vigorous and will not suffer as much transplant shock, as do blooming plants that are putting most of their energy into flowering.
5. Plants in four-inch pots will cost considerably more per plant than those in packs, but they will have a better-developed root system, and may be well worth the extra cost.
6. Packs with root-bound plants often are very light, even after watering, because they cannot absorb and hold water—don't buy them, they are stressed.
7. Inquire about a discount when you buy several flats of bedding plants. Some retailers will give discounts even though they do not advertise the fact.
8. Most outlets receive new plant shipments every week or two during the bedding plant season. Ask when new shipments are expected. Even at seasonal outlets newly arrived bedding plants will be fresh and in their best condition.
9. Customers sometimes inadvertently mix the plastic plant labels after plants have been on display for a while. This is an additional incentive for shopping soon after a shipment arrives.
10. Drastically reduced bedding plant prices are often not a bargain. They are likely to be past their prime.

Taking time to discover the best place to shop for your bedding plants will be well worth your effort. You will get healthier plants and will most often receive helpful information from the sales staff. And your flowerbeds will be a delight rather than a despair this summer

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## The Community Centre Garden

As I write this newsletter, we still have not planted the garden at the Community Centre, a job that pays the rent on our meeting room for the year. Ten members showed up on May 11, but the weather was way too cold for planting tender annuals. So we weeded, edged and pruned, and left the garden looking much better than when we came. Thanks to all who helped. A second attempt on May 24 was cancelled because of frost warnings! With any luck the job will be done by the time of the June 3 meeting!

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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