



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

June 2004

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

Saturday, June 26, Annual members' garden tour.

Open to members and guests. Leaves the Greely Community Centre parking lot at 10:00 a.m. *rain or shine* (the tour takes approximately 3 hours). A list of the gardens to be visited will be provided. Come and see what other GGG members are doing with their gardens. Maybe next year you'd like to have your garden on the tour!

Sunday, August 15, Conducted tour of Gardens North in North Gower.

Free for members. Non-members \$3.00. Car pooling will be arranged. Gardens North is a unique garden centre specializing in rare and unusual native plants. The gardens are well worth a visit, and if you would like to buy, we have been promised discount prices.

We need to know numbers in advance, so if you would like to come but haven't already signed up, please contact Gill (821-6123) or Bob (821-1847) not later than July 16.

Wednesday, September 8, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Monthly meeting and Annual General Meeting. Topic: "Selecting Trees and Shrubs." Guest speaker: Peter from Richmond Nurseries

Wednesday, October 6, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Topic: "Rock Gardens". Speaker: to be announced.

Wednesday, Nov. 3, Greely Community Centre, 7:15 p.m.

Hardscaping – Arbours, pergolas and other garden structures. Speaker: Maryanne Schmitz, from Artistic Landscaping.

Wednesday, December 1, Greely Community Centre, 7:15 p.m.

Christmas Pot-luck Supper. Members and guests. Details to be announced.

IDEAS WANTED...

It will soon be time to start planning our programme for 2005 — yes, we really do have to think ahead if we are to find good speakers. We already have some ideas, but we need more, which is where you, the members, come in. If there's a topic we haven't covered recently that you'd like to learn more about, let us know. Better still, if you know someone who you think would be a good guest speaker, please pass on the information so we can make the contact.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1, The Friends of the Farm will be holding a Strawberry Social from 11 am to 2 pm in Memory Park behind the Central Experimental Farm Museum. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information call 230-3276.

Manotick Horticultural Society meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 at the Legion Hall on Ann Street in Manotick.

If you know of upcoming events that you think would interest GGG members, call Bob at 821-1847 or send an email to stanleyb@rogers.com.

TIP OF THE MONTH



IT'S SUMMER TIME, the time we dreamed of all through the long winter. And now that it's here it seems there's never enough time for all the chores that are necessary to care for and maintain healthy flower and vegetable gardens. To help you organize your time here's a list of some of the core tasks of the season. It won't reduce the workload, but it might help you get organized so that you can stop and admire your handiwork occasionally.

Indoor garden Early summer is the ideal time to plant containers, such as patio pots, window boxes, and hanging baskets. All threat of frost has surely passed, so you can safely put containers outside. Put houseplants outside in the shade so they won't get sunburned, and don't forget to feed container-bound plants as the summer progresses.

Dead-Heading This is also a spring chore, but you should continue to dead-head flowers throughout the summer — this increases bloom time and strengthens the plant. Pay special attention to dead-heading flowers that self-seed so that you maintain control over where they spread in your garden. If you want to propagate certain plants, you can save the flower heads for planting at a later date.

Pest Patrol Keep a close watch over your garden for any sign of pests so that you can move quickly and take action before the problem spreads out of control. On roses especially, keep an eye out for aphids and mildew. This is also a good time to re-apply pepper wax or whatever you might be using to keep the deer, rabbits and other big pests away too.

Staking and support Put stakes and supports in place for tall herbaceous plants, like delphiniums and hollyhocks. This prevents them from falling over or look messy as they grow taller and heavy with blooms. Likewise, as climbers display new growth, be sure to position them on a support system in order to maintain control over where they grow.

Watering Don't forget to keep up with your watering, especially as the very hot weather sets in. If you don't water enough, roots will stay near the surface, making them even more prone to the heat. An inch of water a week is a good rule of thumb, maybe more if you have sandy soil (and who in Greely doesn't?) so don't just spritz, water deeply to keep those roots digging deeper.

Plant bulbs Mid-summer is the time to plant bulbs that will bloom in the fall, such as colchicum. Wait for late summer or early fall to plant bulbs that will bloom in the spring.

Plant annuals It's not too late, and you can pick up some real bargains at garden centres to fill those gaps in the perennial beds. Early summer is also a perfect time to sow hardy annuals from seed outdoors in the garden. You can also sow biennials, such as forget-me-nots. These hardy plants are easy to grow outdoors from seed.

Vegetables Be sure to stake your tomato plants. They may look sturdy now, but once they're laden with fruit they'll topple. Heat-loving veggies like peppers and cucumbers should be in the ground by now. Keep them well watered, and give them a feed of all-purpose fertilizer once in a while. They'll reward you with extra produce at harvest time.

Prune shrubs Although many shrubs do not require pruning, some shrubs that flower in the spring and early summer, such as forsythia and lilacs, will greatly benefit from pruning once they have finished flowering. This keeps them looking lovely season after season. A good rule of thumb is prune right after things bloom and you're always safe from pruning off flower buds.

Take a break Don't knock yourself out working too long in the hot sun. Pour yourself an iced tea, find a seat in the shade and relax. Remember, a garden is something to be enjoyed!

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee

President ~ Bob Stanley 821-1847

Events Director ~ Gill Toll 821-6123

Secretary/Treasurer ~ Heather Clemenson/Gary Hall 821-7445

Membership ~ Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816