



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

December 2004

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

Wednesday, January 5, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. "Planning a flower garden from scratch." Guest speaker Patti Pokorchak, of Down to Earth Gardens in Burritt's Rapids, will share her "down to earth" ideas on garden design. This talk will be of special interest to new gardeners with large lots.

Thursday, February 3, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. "Creating ponds and water features". Guest speaker Nadija Pazanr of The Pond Centre.

Thursday, March 3, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Back by popular demand! Tony Williams from Peter Knippel Nursery will talk on the topic of "Naturalizing with wildflowers and bulbs".

Friday, March 11 – Saturday March 12. Coach trip to Toronto for the Canada Blooms Flower and Garden Show. For more information or to reserve a place, call Shelagh (821-0816) or Bob (821-1847).

Wednesday, April 6, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic: "Year 'round colour in your garden". Guest speaker to be announced.

Wednesday, May 4, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic: "Ornamental Grasses" with guest speaker Suzanne Patry, of Whitehouse Perennials, near Almonte.

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Greely Gardeners Annual Plant Sale. Andrew Shields Park, Old Prescott Highway.

Wednesday, June 1, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic: "Living Fences". Guest speaker to be announced.

Saturday, June 18, 10:00 a.m. GGG Members Garden Tour. Starts from the Greely Community Centre parking lot.

Note: The monthly meetings for February and March will be held on the first Thursday of the month instead of Wednesday to avoid clashing with the Greely Players' rehearsals.

REMINDER...

Membership cards for next year are now available. You can pick one up from Shelagh when you renew your membership, which remains at just \$10 for 2005. And don't forget that your membership card is worth money – it will get you a discount on plants at the following garden centres: Ritchie's Feed & Seed, Richmond Nurseries, Rideau Woodland Ramble and Down to Earth Gardens (the last two are both in Burritt's Rapids). You do have to show your membership card to get the discount, so make sure you have it with you next time you go plant shopping.

CANADA BLOOMS

If you plan to join us on the trip to Toronto for Canada Blooms in March, remember that seating on the bus is limited, and that after January 10 it will be open to members of other garden clubs in the area. To reserve your seat, call Shelagh at 821-0816 or Bob at 821-1847.

Tip of the Month



THIS IS THE TIME OF THE YEAR many home gardeners begin to have concerns about the damage snow may do to shrubs and trees. While it's true that heavy, wet snows and ice often cause broken branches, snow itself will not hurt landscape plants. In fact, the opposite is true. Snow is a very good insulator against chilling temperatures that may injure plants. A good covering of snow on the ground prevents injury to roots, which generally can't withstand extreme cold.

The roots of most landscape plants will be injured at soil temperatures below -15 degrees C, and some of the more sensitive perennials may be injured at soil temperatures just below freezing. Snow acts as an insulator or blanket, as do mulches, and snow is one of the best mulches for winter protection.

But snow can cause damage, especially when deposited on plants by snow blowers and snowplows. Snow pushed or thrown over plants is denser than natural snowfall and tends to stick together. As it settles, it can rip branches from shrubs.

Branches that at other times of the year might bend will break in winter when they are frozen and brittle. We all saw this for ourselves with the damage to trees and shrubs that occurred in the January 1998 ice storm. If snow is dumped on plants, it may be better to leave it than to try to remove it to prevent further breakage of the branches. Of course, the best solution is not to cover plants with excessive snow.

Foundation plantings are often more vulnerable to injury from snow or ice. Snow or ice sliding off the roof may crush the plants below. One year such a snowslide even dented the heavy metal lid of my bulkhead! If plants are already covered with deep, natural snow, this may cushion the impact of falling ice and protect the plants. If little snow is present, you can protect plants by placing teepee-shaped wooden frames over them.

If you are concerned about injury to your favorite plants from the settling snow, protect them by scooping the snow away from the plant. Then, with gloved hands, carefully remove the snow from the branches. Natural snowfall or windblown snow seldom result in plant injury... it's usually the devices we use to remove snow that cause the most damage! This winter, be careful when shovelling, plowing, or blowing snow. If you can't remember where plantings are located, place posts with reflectors next to the plants.

If you are using salt on walks and drives, keep in mind that this, mixed with the snow and slush that is piled around plants, can leach into the soil and harm roots. Avoid piling salty snow near plants or on lawns. If this is not possible, use one of the environmentally safe salts such as calcium chloride or an ordinary, inexpensive garden fertilizer, sand, or kitty litter mixed with equal parts of "safe" salt.

This winter, play it safe. By using the right materials on walks and drives and extra care when removing snow, you can keep your trees and shrubs safe from snow injury.

Adapted from an article on the I Can Garden website, www.icangarden.com

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



GREELY GARDENERS GROUP BUS TOUR TO CANADA BLOOMS

The Toronto Flower and Garden Show

DEPART Friday March 11, 2005
Leave Greely Community Centre 7:00 a.m.

RETURN Saturday March 12, 2005
Leave hotel in Toronto 6:00 p.m.

Cost for bus fare and entry into Canada Blooms

Includes the official show magazine

Greely Gardeners Group members \$ 65.00. Non-members \$75.00
Only 47 seats – First come, first served.

Reservations (with payment) must be received by February 2, 2005.

Sorry, no refunds

Pay by cash or cheque (payable to Greely Gardeners Group) at GGG meetings
in December, January or February

Questions? Contact: Shelagh Heatlie at 821-0816 or Bob Stanley at 821-1847

You can learn more about Canada Blooms at www.canadablooms.com

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn on King Street

Special room rate \$119 plus 15% taxes (up to 4 adults per room)

(The Holiday Inn is a short distance from Canada Blooms)

To take advantage of this rate you have until

[February 18, 2005 to call and make your own booking.](#)

Call **Melany at 1-800-263-6364** and quote code “GRDNR” to receive this special
room rate reserved for the Greely Gardeners.



The “GGG Bus” is equipped with washroom, p.a. system, CD and video players