



# Greely Gardeners Group

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## Newsletter

May 2005

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### GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

**Special event...** **Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m. to noon – rain or shine! Greely Gardeners Annual Plant Sale. Andrew Shields Park, Old Prescott Highway.** We will be setting up for the Plant Sale starting at 8:00. Please bring any plants you are contributing to the sale to the Pavilion at Andrew Shields Park between 8:00 and 8:30. If you have plants but won't be able to bring them on Saturday morning, please call Gill (821-6123) or Bob (821-1847) to make other arrangements. Be sure to identify your plants – popsicle sticks make good name tags, or you can write the name of the plant on masking tape and stick it on the pot. Members are welcome to stay and help with the sale, and maybe even buy a few bargain plants for their own gardens.

**Next meeting...** **Wednesday, June 1, 7:15 p.m.** Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic: "Living fences – separating flower beds, property, using trees, shrubs, and vines." Guest speaker: Neil Ritchie of Ritchie's Feed and Seed.

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

**Saturday, July 16,** GGG's annual field trip. Details to be announced.

**Saturday, August 20,** GGG members' BBQ. Details to be announced.

**Wednesday, September 7, 7:15 p.m.** Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting and AGM. Topic: "New Plant Trends." Guest speaker: Mary-Anne Schmitz, of Gardening by Design.

**Wednesday, October 5, 7:15 p.m.** Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic: "Pruning and Protection of Plants." Guest speaker: Mary-Anne Riley.

**Wednesday, November 2, 7:15 p.m.** Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic: "Container Gardening." Guest speaker: Helen Halpenny

**Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.** Greely Community Centre. Christmas Pot Luck Dinner.

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Manotick Horticultural Society** meets on the second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall on Ann Street in Manotick.

**Osgoode Garden Club** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Osgoode Library on Main Street. For information call Louise Boudreau 826-0385.

**Russell and District Horticultural Society** meets on the third Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall, corner of First Street and Legion Lane.

**Friends of the Central Experimental Farm** – Rare and Unusual Plant Sale, presented by FoF and specialty growers and nurseries. A perfect Mother's Day outing! May 8, 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Neatby Building, Carling & Maple Drive, Central. Admission is a donation to the Food Bank. For information, call 230-3276.

Volunteer Gardening Information Sessions. Volunteer this season with Friends of the Central Experimental Farm. Explore volunteer opportunities on June 7 from 1-3 p.m. in Building 72, the Arboretum. For information 230-3276, or email [volunteer@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:volunteer@friendsofthefarm.ca).

## Tip of the Month



JUST IN TIME FOR THE GGG PLANT SALE, here are some tips for attracting beautiful butterflies and hummingbirds to your summer garden. While butterflies are guided by scents, hummingbirds are attracted by visual cues, usually trumpet-shaped flowers in shades of red. The secret to attracting these wonderful nectar-gathering creatures to your garden is, of course, providing their favourite nectar-laden flowers in a quiet, warm and sunny location. At left a monarch butterfly is a regular visitor to the Buddlea, appropriately known as the Butterfly Bush.

Children particularly enjoy identifying the butterflies that pass through, especially the monarchs, as they make their return journey for the summer months from the warmer winter climes of the Mexican pine forests. Starting with the Buddlea, here are some plants to attract these colourful flyers to your garden

***Buddlea davidii* sp.** (Butterfly Bush) It attracts both butterflies and hummingbirds. With care you can grow this shrub to a height of 5-10ft. It displays long spikes of flowers in purple, white or pink amongst deep green, thin leaves in late summer and early fall. It loves to be grown in the sun and is hardy to Zone 5 (mulch well if you hope to keep it over the winter!).

***Asclepias tuberosa*** (Butterfly Weed) This North American native is the staple diet of the Monarch butterfly, which depends upon this plant for its food source. This drought-tolerant plant thrives in sandy soil and displays clusters of bright orange flowers in early summer. Some of the newer strains also include red and yellow forms. It is a great plant for cutting to bring indoors, and the seed pods can be dried for use in floral arrangements. Reaching a height of 2-3ft. this plant is hardy to Zone 5.

***Echinacea*** (Purple Coneflower) The perfect landing pad for any butterfly! This is another North American native plant and displays rich purple-coloured cone-topped daisies with downward drooping petals. The seed heads remain attractive for many months and are also excellent for use in dried arrangements. A great favourite for butterflies in the summer and a winter attraction and food source for birds. A versatile and valuable addition to the garden. Hardy to Zone 4.

***Liatris spicata*** 'Floristan Violet' (Blazing Star, Gay Feather) This tough, drought-tolerant North American native plant is a great butterfly attraction displaying rosy-purple flowers on tall, long-lasting spikes blooming from the top downwards. This easy and reliable border perennial enjoys well-drained soil where it will put on a colourful display in late summer. Growing to a height of 3 ft. this plant is also a great flower for cutting. Hardy to Zone 2.

***Veronica virginica*** 'Fascination' (Speedwell) This striking upright plant displays light pink spiked flowers above reddish-green foliage in early summer. An unusual variety of this showy garden perennial, growing to a height of 3 ft. 'Fascination' is happy to reside in sun or part shade and is hardy to Zone 3.

Be warned, however, sometimes, even providing all the right plants still doesn't attract these creatures into your garden. Be patient, and take a look around. It could be one of several reasons – if you use chemical insecticides you may have destroyed the butterfly larvae (caterpillars), or possibly there are not sufficient resting sites (trees and shrubs) available where hummingbirds can shelter. A natural garden environment offers the best chance of success!

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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