



Greely Gardeners Group Newsletter

May 2007

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

NEXT MEETING **Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.** Greely Community Centre. CONTAINER GARDENING WITH PERENNIALS. Guest speaker: Darrell Kekanovich from Ritchie's Feed and Seed.

Saturday, June 16 MEMBERS FIELD TRIP to the MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS. A few tickets are still available for this trip. Cost is \$40 for members (\$50 for guests), includes private bus to Montreal and back, admission to the gardens, and a guide. If you want to go and haven't booked yet, call Melody Tomka at 613-821-1985.

Saturday June 23, ANNUAL MEMBERS' GARDENS TOUR. Open to members and guests. Leaves the Greely Community Centre at 10:00 a.m. The tour takes approximately three hours. Refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday, September 5, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. IRISES IN BLOOM FROM SPRING TO SEPTEMBER, Guest speaker: Iris expert and judge Sandy Ives of the Canadian Iris Society.

Wednesday, October 3, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: WINTERIZING YOUR GARDEN. "Guest" speaker: Bob Stanley.

Wednesday, November 7, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: SUCCESS WITH AFRICAN VIOLETS. Guest speaker: Owen Munn of the Ottawa Horticultural Society.

Wednesday, December 5, GARDENERS' CHRISTMAS SUPPER, Greely Community Centre. Members and their guests.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Manotick Horticultural Society usually meets on the second Monday of the month in the RCMP Club House off Nichols Island Road. For information contact Mary Kealey at 823-1658.

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, 7:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall, corner of First Street and Legion Lane.

Free guided tours of the Ornamental Gardens at the Experimental Farm, hosted by Friends of the Farm. June 16, Peony Tours -- Get tips on what would work best in your garden and ways of keeping your peonies happy. June 17, Explorer Rose Tours. Come with your questions and get tips from those in the know. Information 613-230-3276, or info@friendsofthefarm.ca.

Canada Day Strawberry Social --July 1 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Memory Park, Canada Agriculture Museum, Central Experimental Farm. Cost \$5.50 includes admission to the museum. Come and enjoy a delicious strawberry treat while taking part in the Agriculture museum's holiday activities. Information 613-230-3276, or info@friendsofthefarm.ca.

MAY WAS A BUSY MONTH!

Our annual Spring Plant Sale on the 26th was successful yet again, thanks to the work of Heather and Gary and especially all those members who contributed hundreds of plants and stayed to help out. Gary will announce the results at Wednesday's meeting.

We've also had two work sessions at the Community Centre Gardens. The first involved weeding and clean-up and the addition of protective edging to both beds. The second was to plant annuals for extra colour and to add some mulch. Thanks to Anita for organizing these sessions, and to all the members who showed up to help. Take a moment on your way in this Wednesday to admire the results of their labours!

TIP OF THE MONTH...

Nothing tastes better than vegetables picked fresh from your own garden. There's a certain satisfaction to serving and eating food that you yourself have grown and harvested. But a successful and manageable veggie garden requires some advance planning as there are many factors that can affect the success and manageability of your vegetable garden, as well as your enjoyment of it.

The traditional method of vegetable garden design was to plant long, orderly rows. Most home gardeners now opt for planting in beds rather than rows. This method allows you to concentrate your compost on the area where the plants are growing rather than wasting it on the paths between the rows. Walking between the rows also ruins the soil structure, so beds are really a better way to go. The beds do need to be small enough so that you can easily reach in to weed and harvest all the plants without stepping on the bed itself. Also, if you raise your beds about 8 to 12 inches, you will have improved drainage and the soil will stay warmer in colder weather, such as early spring.

Another popular style is the potager garden, which mixes flowers with herbs and vegetables in an ornamental fashion so that the garden is both functional and esthetically pleasing. And if you think you don't have enough room, remember that many vegetables will thrive in containers, so in fact you don't even need a garden in order to get those garden-fresh veggies - you could grow them on your deck! If space is a problem, try planting vegetables next to each other that mature at different times. This way, you have already harvested one when it's neighbor is becoming mature, so both have plenty of space and sun when they need it most.

Location is another consideration when planning your garden. Many people tend to want to hide the vegetable garden away in a corner and save the spotlight for the flowers. Vegetable gardens, however, need sunny, open spaces in order to produce successful crops, so you won't reap a bounty if you are not willing to devote some prime real estate. Putting some extra effort into preparing your beds before planting will save you time and effort in the long run. Dig the bed up to break up compacted soil, removing rocks and weeds as you go. This is also a good time to amend your soil -- compost is a great way to add organic matter to your veggie garden, as is well-rotted manure.

Now you're ready to plant your favourite veggies - tomatoes, peppers, beans and more. Then it's just a matter of water, weed, and wait for the unforgettable taste of that first home-grown tomato!

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

President - Gill Toll 821-6123; Vice-President - Anita Snelgrove 821-0447; Secretary - Heather Clemenson 821-7445;
Treasurer - Gary Hall 821-7445; Social Coordinator - Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816; June MacDonell - 821-1949;
Melody Tomka 821-1985; Melissa MacDonald — 821-9680; Past-President/Newsletter — Bob Stanley 821-1847