



# Greely Gardeners Group Newsletter

August 2007

## GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

**Wednesday, September 5**, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Our first meeting of the Fall season, and the topic is *IRISES IN BLOOM FROM SPRING TO SEPTEMBER*. Guest speaker: Iris expert and judge Sandy Ives of the Canadian Iris Society. In addition to lots of photos and advice, Sandy will bring potted irises for sale. The proceeds go towards the the cost of a digital projector that will be available for loan to Ottawa area horticultural societies and garden clubs - we'll likely be the first to use it. The irises offered (both bearded and beardless types) will cost between \$5 and \$8, are of high quality, very recent introduction, and not available at any garden centre. Sandy says "The buyers will be able to plant them directly into their garden and the chances are high of getting bloom the first year." He adds that there will be "at least one iris" as a door prize. If you're planning to buy, note that Sandy prefers cheques rather than cash if possible.

**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.

**2008** – There are still a few weeks of summer left, but your executive has already started planning speakers and events for next year. If there are topics or particular speakers that you'd like to see included, please let us know. Phone numbers are on the back page. We need your ideas and feedback!

## OTHER GARDENING 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.

**Friends of the Farm Annual Art Exhibit**, October 4-14. Weekdays 1:30 - 6 p.m. Weekends 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm. Admission and parking free. This year's annual art show focuses on the Arboretum with photographs by Richard Hinchcliff. For information, call 613-230-3276, or go to [www.friendsofthefarm.ca](http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca).

**Master Gardeners Technical Update**, Saturday October 20, Purvis Hall, Kemptville College Campus, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The theme of this event is "Climate change in the garden." It is open to all, and speakers include local horticultural expert and author Diana Beresford-Kroeger. Cost for non-Master Gardeners is \$35 if you book by October 1, or \$45 if you book later. For information call Barbara Baker at 613-989-1556 or email [bbb331@magma.ca](mailto:bbb331@magma.ca).

## TIP OF THE MONTH...



DOES YOUR GARDEN LACK COLOUR DURING JULY AND AUGUST? Well here's an idea: why not plant some bulbs? Sure, we tend to think of bulbs as spring bloomers: old faithfuls such as crocuses, tulips and daffodils. But there are different types of bulbs that bloom for most of the summer, and by careful selection and strategic planting you can have a display of bloom from early spring until well into August.

For a continuous display of colour the secret is to layer the bulbs, with the late bloomers at the bottom and the earliest bloomers at the top. There are basically four main "layers" of bulbs that work particularly well for this method of planting: 1. Lillium (including the Asiatics, Trumpets and Orientals); 2. Narcissi and Allium; 3. Tulips; 4. Muscari, Scilla, Iris reticulata, and Crocus.

Within a layer you can vary the bulbs, putting 2-3 Asiatic lilies with a couple of Oriental ones, thus extending the final blooming time. Early and late blooming tulips also work well this way. How many bulbs you will need depends on the size of the area you want to plant, but remember that most bulbs will form offsets and will need dividing sooner if planted too close together.

The first step is to find a bare spot between perennials during the summer – about now. Come bulb planting season, though, it can be hard to recall where the perennials of summer were, so a little advance planning can help. The goal is to have something in bloom from the first crocus of spring through June alliums and August oriental lilies, so the spot really does have to be empty.

Now dig a hole at least 12" to 14" deep and as wide as the space you want to fill. Mix the soil with a good quantity of compost and a couple handfuls of bonemeal, and set aside. Put 2" to 3" of coarse sand in the bottom of the hole to provide good drainage for the bulbs, then add another 2" to 3" of the soil mixture.

Now you can start to plant. Lilies go in the deepest. You might fit four, six or even more in the hole, depending on their size and that of the hole. They bloom last, from late June for the Asiatics, July for the Trumpets to August for the Orientals. Cover with about 2" of the soil mix.

Next plant daffodils and alliums. Basically you try to fit them in around the bulbs below but don't worry too much as they will find their way to the surface around other bulbs planted above them. Again cover with 2" of good soil. Continue with tulips and soil and finally the smallest bulbs that are also the earliest blooming, and cover with the last of the soil.

In the Spring, after the blooms have faded, be sure to let the foliage die back on its own as this is how bulbs replenish themselves for next year's flowers.

Don't worry that bulbs like tulips might be planted a little deeper than they would be if you just planted them on their own. The extra coverage will provide better protection from any freeze-thaw problems in winter and the worst that will happen is they might bloom a week later than your neighbour's tulips. You'll already have enjoyed the first crocus of spring and the same spot will continue to provide beautiful blooms right through the summer.

### 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