



Greely Gardeners Group Newsletter

October 2007

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

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.

WINTER/SPRING 2008...

Thursday, January 3, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: PRINCIPLES OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN. Guest speaker: Cindy Cluett.

Thursday, February 7, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN YOUR GARDEN. Guest speaker: John Vandenberg of Rideau Pines Farm.

Thursday, March 6, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: PREPARING YOUR BODY FOR SPRING. Guest speaker: Dr Victoria Clarke, Chiropractor.

Wednesday, April 2, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: STARTING A NEW GARDEN IN GREELY. Guest speaker: Darrell Kekanovich from Ritchie's Feed & Seed.

Wednesday, May 7, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: Trees – Identifying Species and Problems. Guest speakers: Dave and Erin Neave.

Note: Our January, February and March meetings will be on Thursday nights to avoid clashing with rehearsals of the Greely Players. We return to Wednesday nights in April.

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.

The Friends of the Farm will be hosting its Annual Fall Craft and Bake Sale November 3 & 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, just off the Prince of Wales traffic circle. Free admission & parking. For information call 230-3276.

FALLING LEAVES...

GGG member Ruth Borger wanted to share this cute story with other members:

A little boy opened the big family Bible. As he fingered through the old pages, something fell out of the book. It was a leaf that had been pressed between the pages. "Mom, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in his voice, the young boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear."

Tip of the month...



AS PROMISED AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING, here are some tips on how and when to prune your clematis. The reason there tends to be confusion about when to prune is that there are three main groups of clematis, each requiring different treatment: spring flowering, summer flowering, and twice flowering (those that flower in spring and again in late summer). Following are some general rules for pruning each type of clematis. If you're not sure which kind you have, be patient — wait and see when it flowers.

Spring flowering: These varieties, such as *Alpina* and *Montana* produce flowers on last year's growth. Once flowering is finished, cut back the stems that have bloomed. This will allow plenty of time for the plant to produce strong new growth for next year's flowers and prevent the vine from becoming too dense and tangled. Some really vigorous varieties may need extra pruning later in the season to control size and shape. You may even want to cut them right back to two or three pairs of buds every few years to renew the plant.

Summer flowering: These include the popular *Jackmanii* and *Tangutica* among others. They bloom only on new growth produced in the spring, and you should always prune them when the plant is dormant — either in the fall or early spring before growth starts. Cut back last season's growth to two or three buds, or about 12 inches. If the plant is becoming too large or too dense, thin it by cutting some stems out completely, or cut back the entire plant every few years to renew it.

Twice flowering: The first blooms for these varieties, such as *Nelly Moser* and *Vyvyan Pennell*, are large and produced on last year's growth. The flowers in the second bloom are smaller and form on new growth in late summer or early fall. And you need to prune them twice. When the plant is dormant — in the fall or early spring before growth starts — prune lightly just to thin out tangled stems. Leave as much of last season's new growth as possible to ensure a good spring bloom. Once the spring flowering is finished, prune those stems more heavily so that plenty of new growth will come along for your late summer flowering. This time follow the same rules as for summer flowering varieties.

Sounds complicated? Don't worry, the important thing to remember here is that no matter if you have spring flowering, summer flowering or twice flowering clematis, you can't kill a clematis by pruning it at the wrong time. And if you're starting out with a new plant still in its nursery pot, the rules are simpler. Once you've planted your new clematis, cut back all stems to between 6 and 12 inches. Following the first year's growth (during which you may discover when your clematis flowers) again cut all stems back to one or two pairs of buds. Do this when the plant is dormant, in fall or early spring. Now during its second full year you can begin to follow the guidelines above.

You can also find lots more information about clematis on the web. Try these websites:

www.clematis.com, <http://clematis.org/> (American Clematis Society site), www.britishclematis.org.uk (British Clematis Society site)... and many more.

DON'T FORGET... If you have seeds to share, bring them along to next week's meeting. And if you're hoping to take advantage of the sharing, bring some envelopes to take the seeds home in!

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

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