



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

March 2008

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

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

Wednesday, May 7, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: FORESTRY – SHAPES, BARKS AND LEAVES: A PRIMER ON EASTERN ONTARIO TREES AND SHRUBS. Guest speakers: Dave and Erin Neave. Got a tree or shrub that you can't put a name to? Bring a twig or leaf for Dave and Erin to identify.

Saturday, May 24, Andrew Shields Park, Old Prescott Road, 9:00 a.m. GGG's ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE. When you're dividing your perennials or thinning out seedlings this Spring, be sure to pot up some of the extras for the plant sale.

Wednesday, June 4, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: WHAT'S BUGGING YOU? HOW TO CONTROL LAWN AND GARDEN INSECTS NATURALLY. Guest speaker: entomologist Penny MacDonald.

Saturday, June 14, 10th ANNIVERSARY BARBECUE. That's right, it's been 10 years since the GGG got started, and we're celebrating. More details to come in future newsletters and at monthly meetings.

Saturday, August 9, ANNUAL MEMBERS GARDENS TOUR. The tour starts at 9:00 a.m. from the Community Centre parking lot and lasts about four hours. There will be refreshments and eats at the last garden on the tour. More details to follow.

Wednesday, September 3, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: HOSTAS FOR YOUR SHADE GARDEN. Guest speaker: Maureen Mark.

Wednesday, October 1, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: MULCHING AND EASY CARE GARDENING. Guest speaker: the ever-popular Patti Pokorchuck from Down-to-Earth Gardens.

Wednesday, November 5, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE GARDENS. "Guest" speaker: our very own Heather Clemenson with her personal slide collection from some of England's most glorious gardens to brighten up a November night.

Wednesday, December 3: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK DINNER, where our members show that they are not just great gardeners but great cooks too. Don't miss it!

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Manotick Horticultural Society usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 in the RCMP Club House off Nichols Island Road. For more information call Margot Belanger at (613) 692-1575 or email rbelan1575@rogers.com.

Osgoode Garden Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. in the Fred Alexander room of the Osgoode Community Centre.

Russell & District Horticultural Society meets on the third Monday of the month, 7:00 at the Russell Legion. For information call Lindsey McPhail at 613-445-0754.

TIP OF THE MONTH...

IF YOU LIKE TO START SEEDS INDOORS you've probably experienced that annoying condition known as damping off. It's a soil-borne fungal disease that thrives in cool, damp soil. And of course cool damp soil is just what many seeds need in order to germinate. Uncontrolled, the fungus will attack your tender seedlings and can kill off your entire crop before it even gets started. So the key is to control the fungus? here are some tips on how you can do that.

- ✂ Number one: if you do nothing else, try to improve sanitation. It is important to wash and disinfect equipment, benches and particularly trays and pots with a solution of one part bleach to four parts water.
- ✂ If you haven't already bought your seeds, look for seeds that have been treated with a registered fungicide seed treatment to protect seeds and seedlings from infection.
- ✂ Start your seeds in a moist, but well-drained growth medium. Try a sterilized soil-less potting mix.
- ✂ Cover seeds with a thin layer of perlite, vermiculite or sand to keep the soil surface dry
- ✂ Don't plant seeds too deep. It stresses the seedlings as they grow through the soil and results in more tissue exposure below the soil line to the fungus pathogens
- ✂ Provide growing conditions at the best temperature for optimum growth (Hint: read the instructions on the packet).
- ✂ Avoid overwatering and overcrowding your seedlings, and make sure there is good air circulation.
- ✂ And if all of the above fails, you might want to try this one: spray your soil and seedlings with chamomile tea - cold, of course! Apparently chamomile is a natural source of sulfur, which is a good fungicide. Steep a couple of chamomile tea bags or some loose chamomile tea in two cups of boiling water, allow to cool, then spray away!

HERE'S ANOTHER TIP, this one from **Lorena Wallace**: "**The Daily Dirt**" is a free email newsletter that lands in your inbox with a handy garden tip or article every day. The site also offers answers to frequently asked gardening questions, a gardening encyclopedia, and links to lots more interesting stuff for gardeners. To subscribe, just go to mygardenguide.com and follow the instructions. Thanks for the tip, Lorena.

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT GREELYGARDENERS.ORG

Our website is finally up and running. Visit at greelygardeners.org and you can see up to date news on upcoming events, dozens of articles on everything from asters to zinnias, photos of members gardens and GGG events, as well as links to other great gardening websites - and soon you'll be able to use it to access our "virtual library" of gardening books. You can even email the executive from the site if you have questions or suggestions for exec members.

We're still working out a few bugs on the site, but once our webmaster, Shelley Piercey, has been shown how everything works, she'll be maintaining the site on a regular basis. In the meantime, do visit the site, and let Shelley know what you think - we need your feedback as well as your suggestions and contributions to make this a website that truly reflects the gardeners of Greely.

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

President - Gill Toll 821-6123; Vice-President - Anita Snelgrove 821-0447;
Treasurer - Melissa MacDonald 821-9680; Secretary - Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816;
Melody Tomka 821-1985; Shelley Piercey 821-1120; June MacDonell 821-1949;
Past-President/Newsletter Bob Stanley 821-1847