



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

October 2008

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

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! Don't forget to sign up for this event at Wednesday's meeting. If you won't be at the meeting you can phone Melody (821-1985) to get your name – and your dish – on the list for December.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Our calendar of speakers and events for 2009 is almost complete thanks to the efforts of Melody and Gill and other members of the executive. Identifying suitable topics for nine monthly meetings ? and locating interesting speakers who are willing to come and talk to us ? is always a challenge. So if there's a topic that you'd really like to know more about, or if you know of someone who you think would be an interesting guest speaker, let us know. Talk to Melody or any member of the executive and we'll do our best to arrange it.

Meanwhile look for a complete list of GGG events for 2009 in your December newsletter. And while we're talking about the new year, just a reminder that 2009 membership cards are now available and you can renew your membership any time. To make it easy you can download a membership form from our website (www.greelygardeners.org). Print it, fill it out and bring it to Melissa, who will be happy to take your \$10 (yes, still only \$10 after all these years!).

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 Lindley McPhail at 613-445-0754.

If you know about any upcoming gardening events in our area that you think might interest other GGG members, let me know and I'll try to include them in future newsletters. Email stanleyb@rogers.com or call me at 613-821-1847. *Bob*

TIP OF THE MONTH...



CAN'T AFFORD HIGH-PRICED TREES AND SHRUBS from the nursery? Why not try growing your own from cuttings. Late fall and winter is the best time to take hardwood cuttings. You can take them from dormant trees, and shrubs, and then it's a simple process to propagate as many of them as you like. The great thing about this trick is that they can be cuttings taken from your own plants or trees, or ? assuming you have permission? from a neighbour's garden or a public park. Here's what you do:

Step 1: In fall and winter. Make sure that the plant you want to take cuttings from has gone completely dormant and dropped all of its leaves. Using sharp pruners to ensure a clean cut, take cuttings from new wood near the tips of the branches. Your cuttings should be between 5 and 12 inches long and have at least three or four nodes on them.

Now bury them, either singly or in bundles, in a large container filled with moist sand, vermiculite or peat moss. Place the container in a cool dark location for the rest of the winter. A temperature of 5 to 10 degrees C is ideal. Make sure the growth medium stays moist, but not soggy. You need to keep the cuttings from drying out, but you don't want them to rot either.

Step 2: In the spring, when the weather starts to warm up, remove the cuttings from their container. You'll notice that the cuttings have developed a protective callus over the wound where they were cut.

Dust the callus with rooting hormone, and plant the cuttings in a flat, pot, or container, filled with moist potting soil about 2 to 3 inches deep. Any good potting mix will be fine as long as it drains well. Put the cuttings somewhere where they will get full sun, but make sure you keep them moist at all times. It is essential that you don't let them dry out, but again be careful not to drown them by over-watering.

Step 3: In late spring or early summer, once they have rooted, they will start to push some top growth. Now you can move them into a pot, your yard, or garden, or where ever you like. Enjoy your new plants and trees!

BONUS TIP:

The active ingredient of many commercial rooting products is a natural plant hormone called indolebutyric acid (IBA). Store-bought rooting hormone powders use a synthetic version of IBA, but you can try the real thing by making a batch of willow water.

Get a handful of willow twigs (any Salix species will do). Cut them into pieces a few inches long and soak them in a few inches of water for a day or two. Remove the twigs and use the willow water to soak cuttings in overnight, or to water flats of newly started cuttings, or to help transplants.

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

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

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