



# Greely Gardeners Group

## *Newsletter*

September 2010

### GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

#### **Wednesday, September 1** – Topic: **Presentation on Longwood Gardens.**

Guest Speaker: Pauline Myre; Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Longwood Gardens located near Kennett Square, Pennsylvania is the living legacy of Pierre S. du Pont (DuPont chemical company) and is considered one of the great gardens of the World. Longwood encompasses 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows including over 11,000 types of plants and more fountains than any other garden in the United States. [http://www.longwoodgardens.org/TheGardens\\_1\\_3\\_2.html](http://www.longwoodgardens.org/TheGardens_1_3_2.html)

#### **SPECIAL NOTICE – SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**

At the September meeting we will be asking for volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee of the Greely Gardeners Group for the next year. There are several positions vacant. The committee meets only once a month, so the time commitment is not onerous.

#### **Wednesday, October 6** – Topic: **Bird feeder wreaths.**

Guest Speaker: Sue Hiltz, Rideau Nursery, North Gower; Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

**Note:** The Annual General Meeting of the GGG, including the election of the new Executive Officers, will also be held at this time.

### OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

- **Manotick Horticultural Society:** Saturday, September 11, Fall Plant and Bake Sale: from 9:00am Watson's Mill, Manotick; Monday, September 13, "In the Land of the Kiwi", 7:30pm, Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island, (Nicoll's Island Road - off River Road).
- **Russell and District Horticultural Society:** Thursday, September 9 to Sunday, September 12 -- Flower show at the [Russell Fair](http://www.russellgardeners.ca/events.html). Monday, September 20; 7pm at the Russell Legion/Lion's Den "Gifts from the Garden" auction. (For more details see website at: <http://www.russellgardeners.ca/events.html>)
- **Osgoode Garden Club** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Osgoode Library on Osgoode Main Street. For information call Louise Boudreau 826-0385.

## FALL ASTERS



Asters, named for the Greek word for star, are the star of the autumn garden. Perennial asters are a mainstay in any flower garden and provide colourful blooms at the end of the summer just when most other flowers are fading. Like chrysanthemums, fall-blooming asters are often purchased on a whim by homeowners seduced by their late season colour. In late August and September, nurseries offer a stunning array of asters in purples, blues, pinks, whites and yellows. In the pot, they are typically sold as foot-high mounds of blooming color, but in the garden, asters can grow to be quite different. Depending on the variety, fall-blooming asters can range in height from a foot to four feet.

To a certain extent, the gardener can control the height and shape of an aster by pruning. Perennial asters and mums both benefit from pinching back to extend the growing season, resulting in a bushier plant and a profusion of flowers. Begin pinching back in mid-June, but curtail any pruning after early July, or it will have the opposite effect - leaving the plant without any blossoms in the fall. An easier approach is to cut the aster back by one half in mid-June. At this time, the aster can be shaped. Outer stems can be cut lower than inner ones to produce a nice mounded plant. This shaping tends to encourage bloom near the base of the aster and discourage ugly brown stems. Although this pruning may sound extreme, it tends to delay flowering by only a few days and produce a much prettier plant.



Powdery mildew is the bane of fall asters. By planting the aster in a sunny spot with good air circulation, powdery mildew can usually be avoided. Asters also perform best if they are planted in rich, well-drained soil and receive regular watering at their roots. Asters should be cut down after flowering to deter seeding. Even without seeding, asters will need to be divided every three years to stay at their best. With the proper care, asters can light up the fall with their beguiling jewel tones. An aster that is well cared for can be a powerful attractant for butterflies, and a stunning accent in the fall landscape.

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### Greely Gardeners Group – 2009-10 Executive Committee

President - vacant; Vice-President - vacant;

Treasurer - Melissa MacDonald 821-9680; Past-President - Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816; Secretary – Sue Young 821-9108; Events Co-ordinator - vacant; Newsletter – Heather Clemenson 821-7445; Website – Gary Hall 821-7445; Gill Toll 821-6123

[www.greelygardeners.org](http://www.greelygardeners.org)