



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the February edition of *Inside MGOI*, the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. (MGOI) newsletter.

The Newsletter aims to be the voice for Master Gardeners! This is your venue for providing updates, insights and the inside scoop from MGOI Board & Committee members, Directors, and the 29 Master Gardener groups throughout Ontario. The Newsletter features member milestones, group projects and activities, short member profiles, upcoming events such as regional technical updates – anything about the functioning and happenings of our groups and our members. Please feel free to submit pictures – they are most welcome!

Contributions to future editions of *Inside MGOI* may be sent at any time to the Newsletter Editor, Isabel Belanger, newsletter@mgoi.ca. Cover photo credit: Leslie Ferguson, Etobicoke MG.

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Statistician: Rhonda Grein, Waterloo Region
 Webmaster: Jim Cook webmaster@mgoi.ca
 Newsletter Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton newsletter@mgoi.ca
 Database/Supplies: Kelly Noel, Ottawa database@mgoi.ca, supplies@mgoi.ca
 Twitter: Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County
 Facebook: Claudette Sims, Halton & Cathy Kavassalis, Halton
 Manager of MG Participation in Canada Blooms: Vacant

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INSIDE MGOI

**Newsletter of the
Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc.**

February 2023

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Toronto Master Gardeners

25 Year Anniversary

Barbara Evans

Profile – by Barbara Evans



As a young, enthusiastic but still learning gardener I loved “working” in my gardens and anticipating their success and failures. I’ve had both.

Being an elementary teacher for 50 years I’ve had plenty of summers at home even while taking university courses in July and August. To play out

the phrase: “I live in the garden. I just sleep in the house.”

My daughter used to laugh at me outside at midnight with a flashlight trying to get a few more plants in the ground before going to bed. A real stress reliever! BTW my daughter has been caught doing the same thing in her own garden now 20 years later! She learned well from her garden fanatic mom!

One day in the 90s I was at Canada Blooms with a friend and discovered an advice clinic booth called MASTER GARDENERS. Wow! That did it! I was in! So began my years as a Master Gardener, first with Lake Simcoe South where I was Executive Coordinator for my last two years and then with Toronto Master Gardeners. I had attended Toronto Master Gardeners for years even before officially transferring as I always enjoyed the energy and speakers with TMG. Now, 25 years later, I’m still with TMG.

Over the 25 years I’ve volunteered in many directions. No different from any other MG, we all volunteer our time throughout the year to help educate the public. Some fond memories of my volunteer work include plant sales, advice clinics at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), ‘Get the Jump on Spring’, ‘Through the Garden Gate’ as team member and co-ordinator, Markham Fair Grounds, Farmers’ Markets, speaking engagements at various libraries, schools, churches, Horticultural and Garden Societies, writing newspaper and magazine articles, ‘Earth

Day’ events and tree plantings at schools, Canada Blooms, the TMG Infoline, and probably other events I don’t remember anymore.

Two of the most rewarding volunteer roles I’ve played involved creating the first and only Newmarket garden tour with Lake Simcoe South (LSS) Master Gardeners that we named “Along the Garden Path”, and the years I worked with my good friend Petra Donnelly organizing the TBG Garden Tour “Through the Garden Gate”.

Two fun employment opportunities offered to me over the years were with Kate’s Garden and Loblaws Garden Centre. Both occurred while I continued to teach full time during the day. Please note I was not paid as an MG for these two jobs but rather as an employee of the businesses. Both job roles included teaching, arranging, selling, designing and educating the public, greatly enhanced by my skills and experience as an MG.

Happy Gardening to everyone! Spring is coming soon! It always does.



Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Conny Hart

DMG is pleased to welcome our newest member! Conny has already completed the Horticulture Certificate and Diploma from Guelph University and wants to add being a member of Durham Master Gardeners as another step in her new career direction. She has experience in helping to plan and plant gardens with friends and neighbours and has volunteered with the Trauma Centre's Horticulture Therapy program. Conny has previously been an Educational Assistant with the



Durham District School Board, working with students with special needs. She has volunteered in schools, Girl Guides, and with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Conny, we so look forward to having you in our group! Welcome!



Northumberland Master Gardeners

Emerita Status

Christa Bisanz



Christa has been a Northumberland Master Gardener since March 2011. She specializes in vegetables gardening and harvests and sells rhubarb and asparagus from her garden.

Christa has served on many committees during her time with us. Most recently, Christa

was our Coordinator, managing to keep us connected and active during the COVID lockdown. Christa has been a regular contributor of book reviews for the newsletter.

Although she has decided to retire, she continues to work with the committee currently planning a Technical Update entitled "Biodiversity, Native Plants and The Lilac Trail". Thank you, Christa, for your years of volunteering with Northumberland Master Gardeners.

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Claire Blahnik

Claire has met all the requirements to receive official Master Gardener Status. She is part of the Ed's House Committee which works along side Ed's House Garden Volunteers.



This past summer Claire was instrumental in establishing a garden around a gazebo in the Ed's House Hospice Garden. Claire is also a member of the Program Committee. Claire is a diligent indoor gardener, parenting an interesting collection of house plants. Claire is also a vegetable gardener. She gardens in raised beds growing many unique vegetables. Claire is a regular contributor to the newsletter. Congratulations Claire!



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Kent Pawziuk

We are delighted to welcome new member Kent Pawziuk to our group. Kent is originally from Toronto and has been living in The County for three years. He works in advertising and brings a long list of computer related skills to the table.



Kent has completed two of the three courses at Guelph and is well on his way to certification. He has been gardening most of his life, likes to grow vegetables and has a keen interest in native plants and propagating seeds and cuttings. Kent enjoys public speaking and is very comfortable with many computer and advertising platforms.

Master Gardeners, as well as The County are lucky to have his youthful enthusiasm and technical skills. We look forward to working with him.

Welcome Kent!



Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Passing of the Watering Can

by Lynda Bobinski

Thunder Bay and District Master Gardeners celebrated the passing of the Watering Can as we welcome the new Coordinator of our group, Andrea Steinhäusser. She is a passionate gardener, an experienced business leader and certified trainer with great communications skills. We are grateful and excited to have Andrea lead us in the new year as she brings her unique talents, leadership, and optimistic perspectives in spreading the joys of gardening. She understands the importance of how to garden during this era of rewilding our landscapes as an attempt to bring awareness to climate change. We look forward to an exciting year of learning, exploring, and discovering as Andrea leads us in navigating the post lockdown world of gardening.

by Andrea Steinhäusser

We give our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Coordinator, Lynda Bobinski, who served a 6-year term and volunteered her time and energy to positively impact our community and our local and provincial organization. Through her able leadership, keen awareness, and strategic thinking our organization was able to adapt and transition to become more resilient during challenging times, especially during the Covid lockdowns. Because of her flexible mindset, enthusiasm, and compassionate spirit our organization is thriving and stronger than ever.

Thank you, Lynda, for all your hard work and for leading us to focus on the future, to be creative but at the same time to have fun in all that we do.

Congratulations as you take on a new role as the Corporate Secretary to the MGOI board! We wish you the best.



Congratulations to Thunder Bay & District MGs new Coordinator Andrea Steinhäusser (left), and thank you to our outgoing Coordinator Lynda Bobinski



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Grant Murphy

Words by Gladys Fowler

Like many of us, Grant's interest in gardening began as a young child working in his parents' garden. He and his wife Emma (also a Peterborough and Area Master Gardener) moved to Lakefield in 1999, where they garden on nearly an acre of land. They have extensive perennial beds, and Grant wants to focus on vegetable gardening and fruit production.



Grant is a retired professional engineer with extensive experience leading capital infrastructure programs for Peterborough County, the City of Kitchener, Peterborough Utilities, and Toronto Hydro. Grant comes to the PMG with a lot of volunteer experience as well. He has served on the board of Peterborough Green-up, was founding chair of the Peterborough Children's Water Festival, and a past chair of the Lakefield Jazz, Art, and Craft Festival, to highlight a few.

Grant is currently completing his Horticulture Certificate at the University of Guelph, and looks forward to volunteering with our association.

We are delighted to welcome Grant to the Peterborough and Area Master Gardener group, and know that with his organizational and technical skills he will be a real asset to our group.



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Louise Edwards



Etobicoke Master Gardeners congratulates Louise Edwards on receiving her Master Gardener Certificate. Louise is a very accomplished gardener. She was first recognized as such by receiving the Prairie (AB, MB, SK) Master Gardener's certificate in 2011. She lived on a 40

acre parcel outside of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where for 7 years she had a 9 x 20 ft. greenhouse, two large vegetable gardens, a 25 x 50 ft. rock garden and several other raised bed flower gardens. She grew several challenged Zone 5b and 6 shrubs (SK is Zones 2b, 3), i.e. rhodos, niko blue hydrangeas, tea roses and perennial hellebores, keeping them alive in winter under an insulated blanket!

In 2018, Louise moved to Toronto and believed she could contribute her knowledge and experience of gardening to her community through the Master Gardeners of Ontario. With her extensive horticultural experience, Louise passed the Certification Exam.

Congratulations Louise!



Halton Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Bev Wagar

We offer our congratulations to Bev on receiving her Master Gardener Certificate in 2022. Though Bev has only recently achieved MG status, she is a very knowledgeable gardener with more than 23 years experience.



Bev has a long list of credentials including a diploma in Organic Land Care from Gaia College, completion of the Pollinator Partnership's Pollinator Stewardship Certification Program, and the Organic Master Gardener (OMG) certificate in 2016, after which she taught an OMG course in Hamilton.

Bev is very active in the community, volunteering at the Royal Botanical Gardens, working with the Hamilton Naturalists' Club on invasive plant removal, and continuing her work with the Hamilton Monarch Awards which she founded in 2016. As a volunteer and founding member of the Crown Point Garden Club in Hamilton, Bev helps maintain several public gardens in her neighbourhood. A native plant and winter sowing enthusiast, she grows and supplies plants to people and groups who do community service.

Bev is very active with Halton Master Gardeners. She played a major role in the re-design of our newsletter, Cross Pollination. She contributes to the newsletter and to our blog regularly and has volunteered at clinics and other events.

Bev continues to improve the ecological function of her home garden. Amid the influx of native plants, she makes room for botanical oddities and nostalgic annuals.

Congratulations Bev!



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Catherine Fleming



Our Coordinator, Diana Westland (left) presenting Catherine with her MG certificate

Emerita Status

Phyllis Hall



After 20 years of Master Gardening with Mississauga, Phyllis can sit back and relax, and even put up her feet if she desires. Phyllis retired from the directorship of nursing into active volunteering with the Mississauga Master Gardeners and

Brampton Horticultural Society. She was the mastermind behind our seeds collection/sale/exchange project, not for a profit, but for the educational aspect of starting plants from seeds. This has garnered wide popularity, especially among novice gardeners. Phyllis is also an expert on starting seeds under grow lights, planting / growing / maintaining annuals, and choosing the right perennials for backyard gardening. Her contribution to MMG is irreplaceable and she will be sorely missed.

Retirement

Marie Pearson

Written by Emma Chow

Edited and revised by Diana Westland



Marie Pearson has retired after a 27 year membership with Mississauga Master Gardeners. Marie was born in 1946 and was raised on a farm twenty miles northeast of London Ontario, near the Thames River. In this beautiful setting she was first introduced to the love of horticulture including food use and preservation with both farm grown and wild foraged food, and the use of traditional plant-based medicines.

Marie travelled extensively from 1968 through 2000 around the globe and lived in South Africa for a time. Her gardening experiences in South Africa further expanded her horticultural knowledge. Upon returning to Canada, she completed the Garden Clubs of Ontario courses at the Royal Botanical Gardens and qualified for the Exhibiting and Judging Floral Design and Exhibits, Rose Judging, and qualified as Rose Consultant. Marie exhibited and judged at local Horticultural Societies, Canada Blooms, Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) District 15 and District 5 meetings, the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), and The Royal Winter Fair. She served as District 15 secretary for eight years. She was secretary of the Canadian Rose Society for three years. She served as President of the Cloverleaf Horticultural Society for one year and the Greater Toronto Water Garden Society for two years.

Marie spent many hours at Mississauga City Council Chamber with Doug Campbell in support of preserving the 159 acre property along the Credit River, containing unique plants of the Carolinian Forest, now known as Riverwood Conservancy.

Marie was a charter member participating in organizing the Mississauga Master Gardener Group in March 1994. She completed courses and graduated in 1995, receiving her Horticulturist credentials. She served as MMGs Secretary, then as the second Coordinator for five years.



Marie was a Charter member of the Canadian Fern Society and a Charter Member of the Greater Toronto Bulb Society. She continued to take courses at Judging Schools for Lilies, Peonies, Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, and Orchids.

Even though she has retired from the Mississauga Master Gardeners, Marie's contributions will continue to benefit future generations. We wish Marie well in her future endeavors.



Stratford Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Dianne Wheler

Dianne is our newest member to be certified as a Master Gardener. She has already immersed herself in the life of a Master Gardener and, together with MG Michele Young, is taking the lead on education.



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

New Master Gardeners in Training

Josée Levesque (February 4)

Ginette Starkell (February 7)

Kathleen Atkinson (February 17)

MGOC is delighted to welcome three new MGITs this month. Each of these people brings enthusiasm and new skills. We look forward to getting to know them better.



Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Erratum

In the January Newsletter the anniversary dates of Elizabeth Steggles and Christine Hamilton were reversed. The correct anniversary dates and pictures follow. The Editor regrets the error.

20 Year Anniversary

Elizabeth Steggles



*Co-Coordinator Danielle Gignac,
left with Elizabeth*

5 Year Anniversary

Christine Hamilton



*Co-Coordinator Danielle Gignac,
right with Christine*



New Director, South & West Region

Janine Robertson

A bit about Janine...by Janine Robertson



Janine Robertson is a member of Guelph-Wellington Master Gardeners (GWMG). She is completing the final course of her Master Gardener Certification from Dalhousie University in April. In her short time with the GWMG group she has been Chair of the Plant Sale Committee and a co-coordinator of the Year of the Garden 2022 Committee. Janine also volunteers with the David Suzuki Foundation as a Butterflyway Ranger (2022) and the Guelph Enabling Garden (2019-present). Her own garden, filled with drought-tolerant-disease resistant perennials, is a Canadian Wildlife Federation “Certified Backyard Habitat” and a Monarch Waystation.

Janine grew up in rural southwestern Ontario and spent her summers picking tobacco. She has a passion for cooking with farm-fresh ingredients that she

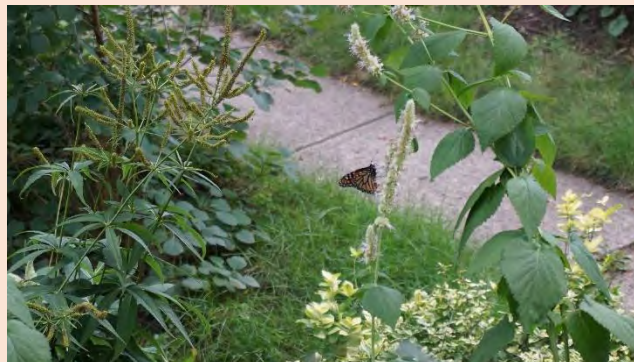
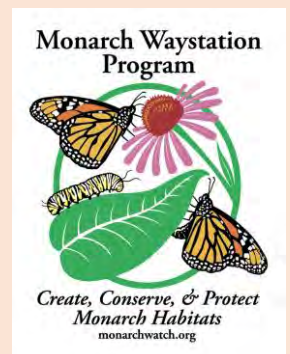
relates to her upbringing near Norfolk County, also known as Ontario’s Garden.

A Registered Dietitian by trade, she graduated from the University of Guelph in 1996 and still calls Guelph home today.

Forever a student, she continues to pursue post-secondary education and has added Certificates in Eating Disorders, Addiction Studies, and Horticulture Therapy to her resume.

Janine sees gardening as the common thread that ties all her passions and interests together.

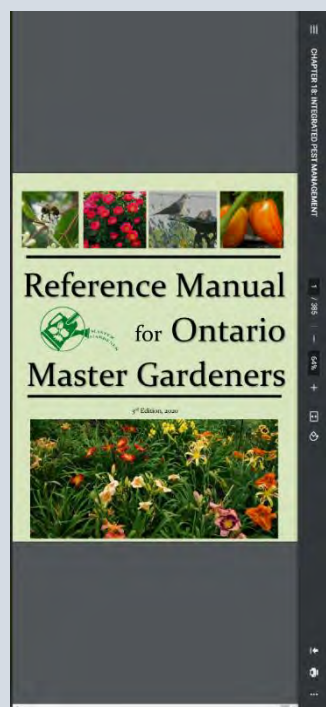
It is with excitement that she brings her nurturing personality and collaborative nature to her new role as Director of South & West Master Gardeners of Ontario.



Kahooting for Learning & Fun

by Margaret Larson, Halton Master Gardeners

“Kahoot is a game-based learning platform” used by millions of subscribers every month. Originating in Norway in 2012, it stresses the fact that curiosity and fun are great ways to learn just about everything... including horticulture. Disney, NASA, and Microsoft are just a sample of the companies that use it. To date there have been 6.9 billion users in 200 countries.



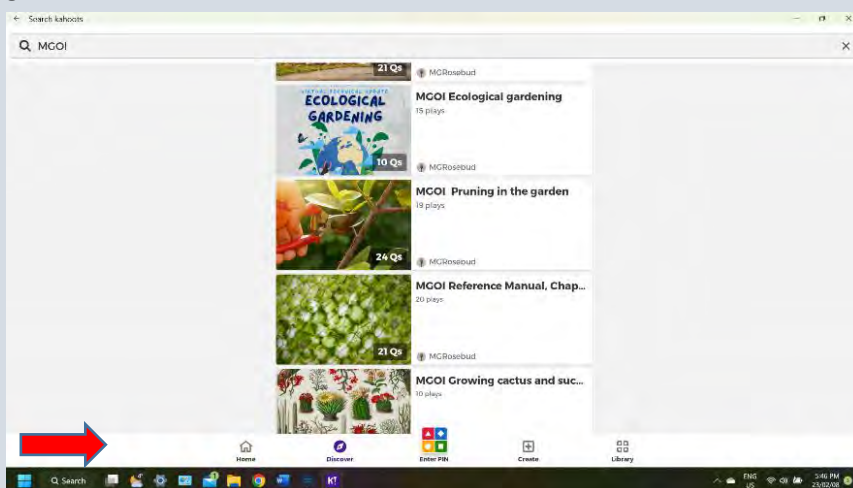
When I started my studies toward Master Gardener certification, just at the beginning of Covid, Rosebud had already developed many Kahoots that were well past my abilities at the time. However, I persisted with them when suddenly the proverbial lightbulb EXPLODED above my head: I should make some Kahoots using the Reference Manual for Ontario Master Gardeners and send them to Rosebud to add both pictures and processing in the hope that they would prove useful to other students. This all provided me with a welcome change of pace – both in creating them and then using them later to reinforce my learning from the manual. Each Kahoot matches with a chapter in the manual and includes 22-30 questions. You can do the Kahoot as often as you need to get all the answers correct. The answer key also provides chapter and page number for further reference. Each Kahoot game/quiz is a series of multiple choice or true/false questions and takes 15-20 minutes to play.

If you have a study buddy, use your phone and your iPad/Tablet to work these quizzes together. Desktops also work. Alternatively, you can compete individually with each other and then laugh together over your mistakes (if any). As of February 2023 over half of these Reference Manual Kahoots are available on the MGOI Kahoot! website. Jump in for some fun and learning.

You will need the Kahoot! app to play and learn. What you do is download the Kahoot! App. Once the app is open scroll down and click on Discover at the bottom, and at the top type in MGOI. All of Rosebud's Kahoots are there and the ones for the manual are interspersed amongst them. Click on the chapter you want to work at. Up will come Choose method of study. I always just click on 'practice' but 'flash cards' is also good if you are not feeling ready to test your knowledge.

After doing a few, let me know what you think!

Margaret @
larsonmzz@yahoo.ca



A Message from the President

Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

The Vice President (VP) position on the MGOI Board is vacant. Additionally, both the Director of Communications and Director of Operations positions are now vacant; these are immediate openings. The job description for Operations Director follows below, the VP job description is on the right, and the Communications Director job description is on the next page.

A MG who is interested in the Vice President position will be appointed to the Board, ideally with a few months of overlap prior to assuming the presidency.

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca.

Job Description – Director of Operations

The Director of Operations:

- Works with a team responsible for Policy/Procedures, Information Technologies, and Annual Reporting
- Requests and receives the Annual Review information from groups and prepares the MGOI Annual Report, including analysis of the data
- Provides approved interpretations of MGOI policies and procedures as contained in the Handbook, and amends it as necessary
- Reviews MGOI technologies and makes recommendations for an annual budget for technology or related resources to support MGOI (e.g., website fees, software, emails, virtual conference services)
- Supports the use of survey tools, as needed

Interested candidates should contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca and their Regional Director.

Board Vacancy – Vice President

I do not expect to continue my term past the end of 2024. I would like to find a VP to start as soon as possible so that they are well aware of how the Executive functions before they become President.

If MGs are interested in this position we like to appoint them to the Board as VP before they transition into the President's position.

Please see the VP job description below. Please feel free to contact me, Karen Sciuk at president@mgoi.ca.

Job Description – Vice President

- Supports and works closely with the President to assist with his or her duties, especially regarding governance
- Monitors the progress of the organization's goals and objectives
- Reviews information submitted in Annual Reviews and in the Annual Report in order to recognize achievements, share best practices, and identify potential areas of concern
- Assists the relevant Director to resolve potential areas of concern, and if necessary, bring them to the attention of the Board of Directors
- Works with the Director of Membership and others to fill vacant Board positions
- Assumes the duties of the President in his or her absence
- Succeeds the President



Job Description – Director of Communications

The Director oversees the Communications Committee which is responsible for managing internal communications:

- **Website** and subdomains – managed by Jim Cook, our webmaster.
- **Newsletter** – managed by Isabel Belanger, our editor.
- **MG membership database** – managed by Kelly Noel, former Director of Communications.
- **MGOI group email** – managed by Kelly Noel, former Director of Communications.
- **Handbook updates** – managed by Past President Claudette Sims with input from the Board.
- **MGOI group facebook** – administered by Claudette Sims and Cathy Kavassalis.
- **MGOI twitter** – administered by Dale Odorizzi.

Currently the Director of Communications is directly responsible for these specific tasks:

- **Coordinators' and Board Member Contact Lists** – manages updates and distribution to the website, newsletter, and internally.
- **Email Communication** – communicates board decisions to Coordinators, e.g. policy changes/clarifications/updates, events, surveys, and reminders in conjunction with Regional Directors.
- **info@mgoi.ca Emails** – either responds directly or forwards the inquiry to the appropriate Board member or MG group, in particular forwarding new member inquiries to the Membership Committee.

Messages from Jim Cook, Webmaster

Advertising Technical Updates

Does your group have a technical update you'd like to advertise on the MGOI home page? We can link to your website registration page.

Please forward information to Jim at webmaster@mgoi.ca.

Thank you.



Master Gardener Group Websites / Links

The MGOI website lists current links to group websites, and social media such as Facebook and Instagram:

<https://www.mgoi.ca/groups/groups.html>.

This is a reminder to please inform me, Jim Cook (MGOI webmaster) of any changes to your links to keep them up-to-date.

My address is: webmaster@mgoi.ca.

Thanks!



Photo: Leslie Ferguson, EMG



CCIPR Update – February 2023

by Cathy Kavassalis and Claudette Sims

The beginning of this year has been super busy. Here is what has been going on.

Invasive Species Forum

The **Invasive Species Forum** took place from Feb. 7th to 9th and Cathy Kavassalis presented her 15 minute talk “**Reducing the Sales of Invasive Plant Species in Canada to Safeguard Biodiversity**” on **Feb. 9th at 11:30 a.m.** As you can imagine, reducing the complex issues surrounding invasive plant regulation to a 15-minute talk was quite a challenge. Thank you to Renée Sandelowsky for her very thoughtful feedback.

The Zoom events are now sold out, but you can still participate in the forum by watching the livestream on their [YouTube channel](https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/events/ontario-invasive-species-forum/). More information at: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/events/ontario-invasive-species-forum/>

What Else Is Happening?

- We hope to send out a link to Cathy’s 15-minute presentation when it is available. Watch our FB page for information.
- We look forward to feedback from the Invasive Species Forum and Cathy's presentation. This may help us in streamlining the white paper needed to move forward.
- We are still awaiting feedback from MP Pam Damoff and information about a meeting with a representative from Health Canada.
- Cathy and Claudette have several CCIPR presentations booked at local horticultural societies. Please reach out to us if you’d like help presenting to your group.
- A team member has reached out to volunteer to run a public relations campaign for us and we hope to meet with her to discuss plans.
- Cathy will be flying to Manitoba to do a CCIPR presentation to Manitoba Master Gardeners on April 1st.

Next Meeting

Please save Monday, March 20th at 7 p.m. for our next CCIPR team meeting. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date.

How You Can Help

- Continue **posting and sharing information** about invasive plants (and the need for regulation) on social media and through your networks.
- Ask organizations to support us by adding their **logo** to our website. (We currently have about 40 logos, but our aim is to have 100. Help us make that happen!).
- **Share any materials** that you create on social media or tag us when you post.
- Consider **making a presentation** to your local horticultural society or group.
- **Contact your local, provincial or federal representative** and share your concerns about the continued sale of highly invasive plants. (See our website for ideas.)
- Do you have an idea on how to help? Please contact us to share your ideas.

Cheers!

Cathy & Claudette, CCIPR Team



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Name: Holiday Party

Details: At our December holiday party Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners celebrated our achievements for the past year and welcomed a new year of growth.



Front row, from L-R: Sylvia Goodheart, Susan Maxwell, Lynda Bobinski, Laura Jones
Back row, from L-R: Andrea Steinhäusser, Kaylee Ritchie, Lynda Lahteenmaa, Theresa Love, Rosemary McNabb, Gordon Ward



Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening in a Changing Time, Seminar 2

Details: In February, ReLeaf presented the second talk in the series. In *Plant Health for a Changing Climate*, Jen Llewellyn talked about practices that make our gardens more resilient to climate change which results in more frequent droughts, higher temperatures, and an increasing number of pests.



BugFinder

do about them.

She drew participants' attention to BugFinder, a free download that uses a database to show host plants, common pests, their appearance at various times of the year and what to

She talked about plant microbiomes, the importance of plant diversity and community networks of fungi for stress relief.

Air porosity can be increased to encourage the growth of plants as soil compression is bad for plants. She recommended keeping machinery off areas to be planted. Jen stressed that bigger root systems make plants more resilient and that leaving plant debris in place created a good nutrient source and a buffer to extreme temperatures.

Note: As Master Gardeners we should be aware of continuing research including microbial inoculants and organic amendments as ways to promote root growth and increase plant vigour.



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Operation Big Fat Juicy Bulbs

by Rebecca Last

Details: Last month, I reported that a donation of amaryllis bulbs allowed MGOC to send \$400 to the Ottawa Mission, which works with people experiencing homelessness and poverty. This month, I'm delighted to share the following picture of those amaryllis in bloom. photo by Belinda Boekhoven.



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: February General Meet

Details: At our Feb. 9th general meet, speaker Kerry Royer of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) spoke on the topic of Shoreline Preservation. Kerry is the Community and Outreach Engagement Specialist at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. She is responsible for strengthening community connections within the watershed, including coordination of the NPCA Advisory Committee and Volunteer Program.



February speaker Kerry Royer, of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Name: Scholarship and Bursary Awards

Details: Master Gardeners of Niagara is helping horticultural students realize their educational goals! We are pleased to be offering two awards.

In the first, we have partnered with the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture to offer a \$500 scholarship. This award will go to a 3rd year student who demonstrates leadership and volunteers time toward community initiatives.

The second is a \$500 bursary going to a student in the School of Environmental and Horticultural Studies, Niagara College Canada. Our aim is to support students from the Niagara Region who will be future leaders driving a more sustainable future for our communities.



ONGOING EVENT

MGOI 2023 Spring Collection Webinars

Details: Registration is still open! These free webinars are exclusively for current members of Master Gardeners of Ontario. Registrants only need to register once and can choose to attend one or more of the 14 webinars. Seven have already occurred but there are seven more to help while away the winter cold. Each webinar counts as 2 CEU credits. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email as well as email reminders one week/day/hour before the webinar starts. Please do not share your link as it is unique for each registrant.

All webinars will be recorded and links added to our MGOI website and the MGOI Mentors and Members Facebook page. (Note: The MGOI Mentors and Members Facebook page is exclusively for Master Gardeners. If you want to join, you need to apply and state your MG group and the name of your coordinator.). Please be patient as it takes some time to edit, process and post the webinar recordings.

Dates and Time: All webinars start at 7:00 p.m. and run from Jan. 12 – Apr. 13.

MGOI education

2023 SPRING COLLECTION

A new season of learning!
MGOI has designed a great
collection of free online seminars
for Ontario Master Gardeners

Kris Mahoney, Darrell Bley, and
Dr. Connie Soros bring back the botany!
Presentations start at 7 p.m.

January 12 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 1
January 19 -- Connie, Floral Morphology
January 25 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 2
February 2 -- Connie, Alternation of Generations Part 1
February 9 -- Connie, Alternation of Generations Part 2
February 16 -- Darrell, History of the Plant Kingdom Part 3
February 23 -- Darrell, History of the Plant Kingdom Part 4
March 2 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 3
March 9 -- Connie, Plant Hormones
March 16 -- Connie, Plant Nutrition
March 23 -- Darrell, Wood Anatomy
March 30 -- Darrell, Pruning, tree and shrub
April 6 -- Caroline Soros Poteruff, The Landscape Architect's Guide to Creating Native Landscapes
April 13 -- Kris, Plant Pathology Part 4



exclusive events for current members
of Master Gardeners of Ontario--
www.mgoi.ca for more information
contact MGOI Dir of Education
Kara Sault: ssault@me.com
www.mgoi.ca



Registration: Please register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aMhi5JnWSK-JRVOXrOdYXA. Please do not share this link.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Name: 2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series

Details: Join Etobicoke Master Gardeners and the Humber Arboretum for the 2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshops. Most are virtual and a few are in-person. Registration for these workshops is through the Humber Arboretum at the following link:

<https://humber.ca/arboretum/learn/adult-programs/etobicoke-master-gardeners.html>

Dates & Topics:

- Growing Your Own Food (virtual), March 4 ([Register on Eventbrite](#))
- Native Plants (virtual), April 15
- Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives (virtual), April 29
- First-hand Look at Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives (in-person tour), May 6
- Pollinator Friendly Gardening (virtual), June 10
- Pruning (virtual), October 14
- Pruning (in-person workshop), October 21
- Indoor Plants (virtual), November 18



The poster for the 2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series features the logos for Etobicoke Master Gardeners and Humber Arboretum. It lists two types of sessions: Virtual Sessions via Zoom and In-Person at the Humber Arboretum. The virtual sessions include Plant Identification, Growing Your Own Food, Native Plants, Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives, Pollinator Friendly Gardening, Pruning, and Indoor Plants. The in-person sessions include Winterwood: Winter Tree Identification Tour, First-hand Look at Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives Tour, and Pruning Workshop. The poster states that the workshops are free but space is limited and registration is required, with a link to Humber.ca/arboretum/emg and a QR code.

2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series
Saturdays 10:00 AM to Noon

Virtual Sessions via Zoom
February 25: Plant Identification
March 4: Growing Your Own Food
April 15: Native Plants
April 29: Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives
June 10: Pollinator Friendly Gardening
October 14: Pruning
November 18: Indoor Plants

In-Person at the Humber Arboretum
February 4: Winterwood: Winter Tree Identification Tour
May 6: First-hand Look at Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives Tour
October 21: Pruning Workshop

Free, but space is limited & registration is required:
[Humber.ca/arboretum/emg](https://humber.ca/arboretum/emg)

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday 2023

Date: March 4, 2023, 10am-3pm

Location: Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre, 656 Elizabeth Street, London, Ontario N5Y 6L3

Cost: \$5.00 at the door. Skip the Line Tickets available on Eventbrite.

Details: The London Middlesex Master Gardeners are happy to announce that after 2 pandemic years we are back at the Carling Heights Community Centre for our 16th Seedy Saturday. This year we are pleased to announce that we have the following speakers:

- Sean James – Nifty Natives
- Jennie Girard – Bees, Bees, Bees
- Aaron Deacon – Natural Fertilizers

Of course, there will be lots of vendors, exhibitors, and demonstrations, as well as the always popular Seed Swap. Come join us!

Grey County Master Gardeners

The 2023 Eco-Responsible Gardener: Seminar 2

Date & Time:

Saturday,
March 4 at
11:00 a.m.

Details: We conclude this year's seminar series with a presentation by nurseryman and permaculture expert, Ben Caesar, who will explore the concept of permaculture food forests, growing edible plants to mimic the ecosystems and patterns found in nature.

Zoom registration: Registration is limited to 500 participants. We have extended the registration **deadline to March 3rd** for MGOI members. Register through [Grey County Master Gardeners](#).



The poster for the Grey County Master Gardeners Seminar 2 features the Grey County Master Gardeners logo. It announces the seminar titled "THE 2023 ECO-RESPONSIBLE GARDENER" and describes it as two Zoom seminars, 1.5 hours each, to help create and maintain an environmentally sustainable and beautiful garden. Seminar 2 is titled "The Best Plants for Ontario Food Forests" and is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. The poster mentions that the seminar continues the 2023 deepening exploration into Eco-Responsible Gardening with nurseryman and permaculture expert Ben Caesar, owner of Fiddlehead Nursery in Kimberley, Ontario. It includes a photo of Ben Caesar and text describing the seminar's focus on identifying accessible and easy-to-care-for trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials that provide sustainable crop harvesting. It also mentions that Ben will take participants virtually through his ever-expanding demonstration garden to showcase some of the best plants for edible and beautiful landscapes. The poster states that all of these plants respond best to organic cultivation methods and nurture healthy soils and surrounding wildlife. A food forest is one of the best ways to sequester carbon in the soil while growing food for ourselves. To discover why Ben is so passionate about food forests for our gardens, register for this Zoom Seminar 2 on our website. Registration will close on March 1, 2023, or when our maximum capacity is reached, so register early! The poster includes the website www.greycountymastergardeners.com and the text "We look forward to seeing you on our Zoom Seminar 2 of 2023!"

GREY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
PRESENTS
"THE 2023 ECO-RESPONSIBLE GARDENER"
Two Zoom seminars, 1.5 hours each, to help you create and maintain an environmentally sustainable and beautiful garden.

Seminar 2
The Best Plants for Ontario Food Forests
Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

We continue our 2023 deepening exploration into Eco-Responsible Gardening with nurseryman and permaculture expert Ben Caesar, owner of Fiddlehead Nursery, in Kimberley, Ontario.

Spend some time with Ben as he identifies the most accessible and easy to care for trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials that provide sustainable crop harvesting. Ben will take us virtually through his ever-expanding demonstration garden to showcase some of the best plants for edible and beautiful landscapes!

All of these plants respond best to organic cultivation methods and nurture healthy soils and surrounding wildlife. A food forest is one of the best ways to sequester carbon in the soil while growing food for ourselves.

To discover why Ben is so passionate about food forests for our gardens, register for this Zoom Seminar 2 on our website. Registration will close on March 1, 2023, or when our maximum capacity is reached, so register early!

www.greycountymastergardeners.com

We look forward to seeing you on our Zoom Seminar 2 of 2023!



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Name: A Day for Gardeners 2023

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2023

Location: Activity Haven, 180 Barnardo Ave., Peterborough

Cost: \$55 after Feb 14

Registration Information:

www.peterboroughmastergardeners.com

Details: Save the Day!

PETERBOROUGH AND AREA MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

A DAY FOR GARDENERS 2023

We are thrilled to be back and hope you can join us!!

Saturday March 4, 2023

- ❖ Activity Haven, 9:30am to 4pm
- ❖ Three Seminars plus lunch

Cost: \$ 55 per person (\$50 early bird)

Registration begins early January: peterboroughmastergardeners.com



A main focus of this style is beauty and we'll address the backbone of each of these disciplines and discuss how to do each artfully.

To register for *Fusion Gardening* by Sean James, Thursday March 16 at 7 PM, click [here](#).

April 20, Cathy Kavassalis, *Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate*

We gardeners shape landscapes with our plant choices. Those choices have consequences. Escaped garden plants are the primary source of invasive plants in Canada, and that problem will only grow as our climate warms. Come and learn how we can make better choices to safeguard nature.

To register for *Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate* by Cathy Kavassalis, Thursday April 20 at 7 PM, click [here](#).

The presentations will both be uploaded and available to registrants for two weeks after the live event.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/gardening-in-a-changing-climate-1391449>

Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening in a Changing Climate

Dates & Time: The next 2 sessions are the third Thursday of March & April at 7:00 pm

Details: Building on the work of [Releaf Stratford](#) in 2022, Stratford and Area Master Gardeners are happy to be continuing their partnership with the Stratford Public Library for a new series of garden talks. [Gardening in a Changing Climate](#) consists of dynamic speakers brought to your living room via Zoom, on topics that are good for the climate and for the soul as we hunker down during the frostier months. (Note: talks will likely focus on hardiness zones 5b-6b.)

March 16, Sean James, *Fusion Gardening*

Climate change has resulted in worsening drought around the world including here in southwestern Ontario. Fusion Gardening blends L.I.D. (rainwater handling) with xeriscaping (drought-tolerant gardening) and folds in plantings to mitigate the effects of climate change and enhance biodiversity.



Gardening in a Changing Climate

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH JAN TO APRIL 7:00 PM ON ZOOM

SPL is teaming up with Stratford and Area Master Gardeners for a new Zoom series! Join us and learn how to adapt your garden practices in our changing climate.

- January 19 | Lorraine Johnson | Climate Change and the Garden
- February 16 | Jen Llewellyn | Plant Health for a Changing Climate
- March 16 | Sean James | Fusion Gardening
- April 20 | Cathy Kavassalis | Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate: Beware the Sleeping Beauties

Register at spllibrary.ca/gardening

Questions? Contact Robyn at rgodfrey@spllibrary.ca or 519-271-0220 x 132



19 ST ANDREW STREET | 519.271.0220 | [SPLIBRARY.CA](https://spllibrary.ca)



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Shaw Garden Tour

Date: June 24, 2023

Details: Niagara MG has some open spots for volunteers for the Shaw Garden Tour in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Interested MGOI members can contact Carol Tuck Riggs at: tuckriggs01@outlook.com

Duties Include: A plant-naming session 3 weeks before the garden-tour day (approximately 2 hours), plus 3.5 hours (morning OR afternoon) on the garden-tour day. Volunteers receive a free pass to see the other gardens in their free time that day.



Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Technical Update

Topic: Eastern Regional Technical Update – Prince Edward County

Date: Saturday, July 8th, 2023

Location: Prince Edward County Lavender, 732 Closson Rd., Hillier, ON

Cost and Registration Information: Coming this spring.

Details: Our private tour of the Lavender fields will take place on the day the famous Lavender Festival begins. We will be admitted to the site before the public and have a private tour of the fields and farm with the new owner, Rolande Leblanc. There's lots to see and explore.

At the farm you will find many cultivars of lavender offering a myriad of colours, scents and tastes. Some of their cultivars are praised for their exceptional essential oil qualities, while others are best kept for culinary creations or crafts. Shop the boutique, tour the fields of lavender and the knot garden in the summer and marvel at our other flower beds. *



* <https://peclavender.com/prince-edward-county-lavender/>

MGOI Summer Workshop 2023

Kate Sault, Director of Education

This is a great weekend to meet Master Gardeners from all over Ontario. I have attended several times and will be there for sure this summer.

Save The Date: July 15th & 16th

Details: Once again MGOI is running Summer Workshops at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture on July 15th & 16th. I have reserved 10 rooms for members who travel great distances for a weekend of horticultural fun. Please let me know if you plan to stay over so that I can reserve more rooms if we need them.

Below is a description of the topics. I will send out registration info soon. If you have any questions please email me: Kate, saultkate@gmail.com.

Workshops

Darrell Bley

This session will focus on the key identification features that separate the major genera of Conifers. We will start with the broader brush strokes using samples and taxonomic keys at the Genus level. Once this is accomplished using samples, stereoscopes, and taxonomic keys we will drill down to the primary differences between the more common and less common species within a particular conifer Genus.



The main Genera covered will include *Pinus*, *Abies*, *Picea*, *Chamaecyparis*, *Thuja* and *Juniperus*. We will throw in some less common conifers as well to round out the day. At the end of this session, you will all be experts on how to navigate through the taxonomic keys, you will be experts on the terminology related to conifer identification and you will be experts on the morphological features that separate the various species within a Genus.

Randan Redekop: Raised Garden Planters – Getting Creative with Space!

Ever thought of “living off the land” on a small scale? Enjoy growing your own vegetables? Or perhaps you’re not sure what to do with that awkward corner of your yard where nothing seems to grow. Raised planters may be the answer! These trendy boxes have become increasingly popular over the last few years as more people want to grow their own herbs and vegetables. Join Randan in learning all you need to know about garden planters for practicality, efficiency and, from a design perspective, aimed at maximizing aesthetics. Randan will guide us through raised planters and how they fit into any garden space using sustainable techniques, such as “Hugelkultur” (hoogle-culture), and how to create a healthy environment by improving your soil. This is a workshop in the true sense of the word, where the actual building experience will be demonstrated, where you can join in the process to gain a practical understanding outlining different styles of raised planters and how they can be incorporated into any garden design.

Kris Mahoney: Lawns – What Are They Good For?

Absolutely nothing... wait, say that again? If this is how you view your turfgrass spaces, then we have a lot we can talk about. Lowly lawns can frame flowerbeds, capture carbon, slow soil loss, and provide for pollinators and places to play – just to name a few essential services.

Today’s turf talk is more than mowing! Join Kris as we explore the possibilities from species selected for your site to daring designs to cultivating clovers. We will use classroom lessons and outdoor tours to get a grasp on the grasses and maybe learn how to love our lawns.

Rideau 1000 Islands Master Gardeners

Technical Updates: Year of the Biodiverse Garden 2023, Eastern Region

Date: August 2023

Location: Greater Kingston Area

Registration Information: TBA

Details: Our Master Gardener group will showcase a series of garden tours in August 2023. Each group in the region will showcase something different from May – October.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Technical Update

Topic: Wild About Wildflowers

Date: Saturday September 9, 2023

Location: Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Dr., Ottawa, ON K1Y 0B7

Cost: to be determined

Registration Information: stay tuned...

Details: We are delighted that Michael Runtz has agreed to be our speaker at the Technical Update, coordinated with the Lanark County Master Gardeners. The two-hour morning seminar is called **Wild About Wildflowers**. Michael’s focus is on Ontario wildflowers, especially those found in Algonquin Park, one of his favorite places.

Michael Runtz is one of Canada’s most highly respected naturalists. He is also a talented nature photographer and a natural history author. A Carleton University biology professor, he has been involved in publishing fourteen natural history books. As well, he is a dynamic communicator, entertaining audiences with his offbeat sense of humour, uncanny ability to captivate audiences with his wisdom of the natural world, and his adventure stories of trekking Ontario’s wilderness.

This event promises to be a dynamic, entertaining morning. An informal field trip to observe local wildflowers in their natural habitats around Ottawa will follow.

Local Master Gardeners will be encouraged to photograph wildflowers. Photographs will later be used in our talks and in our newsletter, **Trowel Talk**.



Canadian Garden Council



Live the garden life
Vivre la vie de jardin



Garden Heroes 2023

Get ready to nominate your Garden Hero for 2023! As a legacy of the Year of the Garden, we are reiterating our invitation to recognize and celebrate the many dedicated and inspiring individuals who, through their leadership, are improving the culture of gardening in their communities.

If you already nominated a Garden Hero last year, you could celebrate someone new this year! If you missed the opportunity last year, feel free to send in your nomination this year!

Registration forms will be available on March 21st, 2023! Stay tuned for more information on our website!



Canada's Garden Route

Canada's Garden Route provides Canadians with a comprehensive listing of Canadian gardens and garden experiences to visit throughout Canada. Our invitation is to list your garden experience on Canada's garden map. If you are responsible for a public garden, a garden event, a municipality or a Garden Centre that offers great garden experiences and you want more visitors, locals or tourists, you should be on Canada's Garden Route! Contact us at info@gardencouncil.ca



Garden Days 2023

Garden Days will be back in 2023 with new dates: **May 19th to June 18th**. More opportunities to participate so start planning. Plan your activities on the date of your choice and align them with a national celebration of Canada's garden culture. Stay tuned for more information!

National Garden Day on June 17th

National Garden Day is held every year, on the Saturday before Father's Day. This is a day to celebrate our garden culture and reflect on how this culture has contributed to the development of our country and who we are. Plants are there for everyone, gardens are inclusive, and the theme of this year's National Garden Day is **inclusion and reconciliation**. How will you celebrate that in your garden, at your business, and in your community?



Plant Purple in 2023!



We are pleased to collaborate with **Communities in Bloom** to invite you and all of your network and followers to plant PURPLE, the official colour theme for 2023.

Why PURPLE? Purple has a variety of effects on the mind and body, including uplifting spirits, calming the mind, enhancing feelings of spirituality, and encouraging imagination and creativity. From lilacs to coneflowers, ironweed to asters, from coast to coast, let's paint the country purple!

Sign up to participate in Communities in Bloom

Communities in Bloom (CiB) is a volunteer and partnership-driven charitable organization that aims to inspire all communities to enhance the quality of life and our environment through people and plants in order to create community pride. Gardens, Parks and Grounds and Museums are invited to participate in the program under the Special Attractions category of the National Edition of Communities in Bloom.



Visit <https://www.communitiesinbloom.ca/cib2023> for more information and contact Sonia Parrino at bloom@cib-cef.com if you wish to participate!

The deadline to register is February 28th, 2023

EXTENSION IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Looking for Partners and Sponsors

The Year of the Garden 2022 was made possible due to support from great Garden-family partners and sponsors. We thank them for their contribution! As we plan for Live the Garden Life 2023, we are once again looking for support. If you see opportunities to associate your brand to Live the Garden Life and activities celebrating Canada's garden culture or require more information, please contact Brent Gavin at Partnerships@gardencouncil.ca

Please remind your members, your volunteers and your followers to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and show us how you **#livethegardenlife** by tagging us on social media.



Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Seeds Alert

Canadians are encouraged to connect with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) before sending seeds abroad. Canada's plant health regulator, the CFIA, plays an important role in making sure seeds from Canada meet internationally agreed upon regulations. Over the past year, the CFIA has seen an increasing number of notifications of non-compliance from foreign countries about seeds exported from Canada without proper phytosanitary (plant health) certification. Seeds can potentially be invasive in some countries or spread plant diseases or other pests. That's why it's important to check requirements with the CFIA. Not meeting requirements has consequences. For example, the destination country may destroy the seeds and issue Canada a notice of non-compliance. All seeds, including those in small packets for gardeners, must comply with the import requirements of the destination country.

Please share this information with the Canadian public to increase awareness of the important steps to take when shipping or exporting seeds to protect international plant resources, our economy and the environment. The CFIA has spokespeople available for interviews, people who are experts in plant health imports and exports. Our experts are also willing to write and submit a piece if that is of interest. Please contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Media Relations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency /
Government of Canada:

cfia.media.acia@inspection.gc.ca

Tel: 613-773-6600

- Additional links/Background information: [Shipping and exporting seeds from Canada](#); [Plant health at the CFIA](#); [Chronicle 360](#); [plant health](#); [Canada's plant health hero challenge](#); [Join the plant health movement](#) (Chronicle 360)

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