



Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario

Inside

MGOI

Welcome to the March 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.

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INSIDE MGOI

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

March 2023

Editor: Isabel Belanger, Halton

Milestones

Northumberland Master Gardeners

Emeritus Status

Arlene Foster

Arlene joined Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners in the year 2000. With a group of seven others from this area, she would travel up to Peterborough, not only for meetings but also for completing volunteer hours. The others were: Ann Slemming, Margot Cox, Judy Harris, Betty DeLong, Shirley Embree, Rosalee Yeo, and Jane Curelly. Because they found travelling to Peterborough arduous, and seeing a real need for supplying gardening expertise back in Northumberland, they founded the Northumberland Master Gardeners in 2004.



When asked what she has learned in her career with Master Gardeners, Arlene replied that she became very comfortable with meeting the public and speaking to other gardeners. Her favourite activity was advice clinics, especially the one at the Port Hope Fair. She also appreciated receiving credits for hours spent on activities. She made life-long friends and thoroughly enjoyed travelling to fascinating destinations on the Northumberland Master Gardener trips.

Besides performing the usual positions of secretary and coordinator of NMGs, Arlene chaired the membership committee for years. With Emeritus status, Arlene still looks forward to attending meetings and submitting photographs for the newsletters. Thank you, Arlene!



Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Dianne Wheler

Dianne received her MG Certificate from Coordinator Don Farwell. See a smiling Dianne (with Don and Elizabeth Spedaliere) at the SAMG Seedy Saturday event on page 12.

Congratulations, Dianne!



Lanark County Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Sabina Barrett



Lanark County is happy to announce the latest addition to our Group. Sabina is a Heritage Architect who is keen to learn more about gardening. In her short while with our group, Sabina has volunteered to help host our table at the Perth Seedy Sunday. She has signed up for regular stints at the Advice Clinic at the local Farmers Market. Sabina is currently enrolled in the University of Guelph program.

Welcome Sabina!



Halton Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Ingrid Lombardo

Welcome Ingrid!



Niagara Master Gardeners

15 Year Anniversary

Linda Wade



Linda Wade, right, received her 15-year pin from Niagara MG coordinator Carol Tuck-Riggs

Member profile

by Linda Wade

What changes have taken place in Horticulture over the past 15 years!

When I first started out at our Master Gardener venues, most gardeners were asking for help with lawns (fertilizers and killing weeds and grubs) and how to grow plants in their gardens even though the sites and conditions were not appropriate. Now we are encouraging home gardeners to top-dress and reseed lawns as well as naturalize more of their properties. Since we can no longer use pesticides, we now suggest they use Integrated Pest Management to control insects, diseases and weeds.

At the many events we attend: plant sales, Seedy Saturdays, the Shaw Guild Garden Tour, Hospice, and Ask a Master Gardener at libraries, markets and on our Hotline, I have gained friendships and a vast amount of new gardening information from our members and from the public.

I look forward to more years and upcoming changes in our gardens, the exciting new ideas relating to the changing climate and to our own survival on this planet.

Let's encourage the gardeners and our communities to connect with natural pathways throughout our provinces. This will help the insects, birds, wildlife and flora to thrive and bring our environment back to health.

Transfer to Niagara Master Gardeners

Jane Smale



Jane has joined Niagara MGs, coming to us from the Toronto group. She has been with Master Gardeners since 2019. Welcome Jane!



Durham Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener in Training

Rabia Khan

Member Profile

Welcome! Welcome! Please say hi to our newest member, Rabia Khan. She has recently completed the Diploma in Horticultural Studies from Guelph and is currently completing the certificate in Sustainable Urban Agriculture. Rabia has taken a course in gardening with Special Populations at Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) and has completed Level 1 of Pollinator Partnership Certification.

Rabia is currently volunteering in Communications with the Canadian Horticultural Therapy Association, is a Seed Sitter, and a Butterflyway Ranger with the David Suzuki Foundation. Rabia is the Founder/Director of Allaah, Nature and Me (www.allaahnatureandme.com).

Rabia we at DMG look so forward to working with you.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Status Achieved

Maureen Neglia
Mohan Iyer



Congratulations to Maureen Neglia (left) and Mohan Iyer (right) on achieving Master Gardener status!



Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners

Member Profile

Gary Westlake

At our last PAMGs meeting Gary Westlake presented a very informative and well-crafted talk titled 'What Plants Eat'. He discussed the science behind no-till gardening and how preserving the fungal networks and structure in our soil will make our gardens resilient.



Gary received his PhD in biology from Texas A&M University and is a retired biologist, having worked for 30

years in environmental science. He has been a Master Gardener for about 20 years.

He and his wife Dianne look after an acre of property on a hill overlooking the city of Peterborough. For a couple of years Gary was a director on the Board of MGOI. Dianne and Gary were also Editors of the MGOI newsletter for several years. Both are past presidents of Horticultural Societies. A few years ago, Dianne and Gary were awarded the Silver Medal from the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).

Over the years, Dianne and Gary's gardens have changed to suit their tastes and capabilities. Gary reflects that very few gardeners outlive their gardens, so it is best to enjoy the activity of gardening rather than trying to create a finished garden.

The Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners are very grateful to benefit from Gary's knowledge and expertise! We are also very grateful to have enjoyed Gary and Dianne's fabulous gardens!



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

20 Year Anniversary

Kelly Noel
Mary Reid

Celebrating 20 years service this month is Kelly Noel, well known to MGOI for her many years of service managing service badges, certificates and exams. Kelly is also a key member of the Ottawa-Carleton group, the person who enables our hybrid meetings, and who inspired two successful seasons of virtual Trowel Talk Live, among many other contributions.

A belated acknowledgement and thank you to Mary Reid who actually celebrated her 20 years of service to MGOC back in January. Mary has been MGOC's treasurer almost from the moment she joined and contributes in many other ways, also including hosting several special events over the years and serving on the MGOC executive team.

New Master Gardeners in Training

Maryanne Ambroziak
Elizabeth Brown



Two MGITs have joined us in the past month. Maryanne on February 21, and Elizabeth Brown on March 13. We are delighted to welcome both ladies to our group.

Resignation

Janet Carkner

After twelve years of stellar service, we say a sad farewell to Janet. Among her many other contributions, Janet has been our document manager for much of her time with us, keeping key items like our job descriptions up to date. We wish her well in her future endeavours.



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

New Master Gardeners in Training

Pat Girard

Sue Kime

Of Interest

Pat is following the University of Guelph's program. He is very interested in trees, especially species native to the Carolinian zone, and enjoys planting for birds and pollinators. He has created a large perennial garden around his house.

Sue is enrolled in the University of Dalhousie Master Gardener program. Sue is very passionate about creating woodland and pollinator gardens and enjoys vegetable gardening.



Guelph – Wellington Master Gardeners

Erratum

Will the real Elizabeth and Christine please stand up!!! Unfortunately, the erratum in the January Newsletter continued into February. The anniversary dates and pictures of Elizabeth Steggles and Christine Hamilton were reversed. The editor deeply regrets this error. The correct anniversary dates and pictures follow.

20 Year Anniversary

Christine Hamilton



Christine is on the right with Co-Coordinator Danielle Gignac

5 Year Anniversary

Elizabeth Steggles



Elizabeth is on the left with Co-Coordinator Danielle Gignac



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Zoom

by Ren Duinker, Coordinator, Prince Edward County Master Gardeners

Since the pandemic sent us all into solitary confinement, I confess I have been amazed at the ingenuity and creativity of all the groups as they wrestled with the technology we quickly had to learn in order to remain in touch. I must also confess, I never really embraced “it”, Zoom, that is, with the energetic passion that was expected of me. Each meeting left me concealing a giggle within as I looked at the screen and saw – yes, The Muppets. There were all my hard-working members ready to give their various reports and I sat, needing to do a good job chairing, when my heart just wasn’t in it. My sincere apologies, sigh.



Of course, Zoom meetings in The County were treats in themselves, what with shaky networks, unstable Wi-Fi and old computers not quite up to the task. We sat in meetings as someone’s audio would snap and we’d watch their mouth continue to move in silence. Or we’d get a flash from the past, back when computers first came out and the image would melt slowly down the screen. One moment a member would be giving a report, the next, they were gone...we’d wait, holding our breath, waiting for their return. Sometimes they’d reappear, mid-sentence, totally unaware they’d been gone. So, on that level, Zoom is not a one-size-fits-all, certainly not without the high-tech equipment to support it.

Perhaps it is thinking back to strolling around art galleries as herds of young people flash by, iPhones held high, snapping pictures on the run so they could see what was in front of them later. Why is that? Can we no longer live in the moment? I realize Zoom is, in fact, live, but it is rather less than real for me. I am a tactile person, I have to learn by doing, by getting my hands in the soil. And yes, I’m also a hugger – how do you hug a friend after the meeting on a zoom call? I see young people on the telly placing their fingers into the shape of a heart – is this the new way to send love to someone?

I’m still running to some kind of urban dictionary to decipher the text messages my kids send to me; I did figure out “lol” after a few years – “laughing out loud”. The latest gem to cross my screen was “FOMO” – a complete mystery. A friend recently told me it is: “Fear of Missing Out”. “Missing what”? I asked. “Everything!” she replied. Good grief, I am old. That would explain why everyone has their mobile constantly in their hand, on the off chance that it pings to tell them *something* happened to *someone somewhere*.

As grateful as I was to have Zoom available to us, now that we are slowly crawling back towards one another, I am celebrating. Life, or the so-called “normal” will never be the same, but at least in the hybrid meetings – and that is an entirely different kettle of fish – we begin to see one another in the flesh and blood. Much more my speed. I’ll meet you at the library.



MGOI Board Vacancies

Karen Sciuk, President MGOI

MGOI currently has three (3) board vacancies: Vice President (VP); Director of Communications; and Director of Operations. Both Director positions 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 facebook group** – 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!



The **Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation** grew out of a grass-roots outcry on our MGOI FB group about the ongoing sale of invasive plants in the horticulture trade. We are calling for changes to regulations Canada-wide in order to prevent the harm caused by invasive plants. CCIPR held a team meeting via Zoom in March to update our team and give them the opportunity to provide input.

Accomplishments to Date

CCIPR outreach is continuing to grow with supporter numbers almost doubling, and partners increasing from 14 to 48 since September. While this steady growth is encouraging, we will need much broader Canada-wide support and will eventually need **provincial or regional champions** in order to move forward. We do have the endorsement of several provincial Master Gardener groups including Master Gardeners of Ontario, Manitoba Master Gardeners and Atlantic Master Gardeners. As well, **eight Master Gardener of Ontario local groups** have contacted us and now formally endorse our objectives. Please consult with your executive and let us know if we can add your group name to our website.

Various team members have developed marketing materials, blogged, emailed, called, posted on social media, updated the website, and helped spread the word. They have also made numerous presentations to garden clubs, horticultural societies, and master gardener groups. We had national exposure during the Invasive Species Centre's Annual Invasive Species Forum.

The Manitoba Master Gardeners Association (MMGA) has organized an in person public mini conference for April 1st: *Invasive Ornamental Plants: What Home Gardeners and Professionals Need to Know*. Cathy Kavassalis was invited to represent CCIPR as a speaker and panelist. We are thrilled to have this opportunity and thank MMGA for organizing this event.

White Paper

CCIPR is working on a research paper to better understand the problem of ornamental invasive plants, the current status of Canada's regulatory process, and most importantly to investigate potential solutions. We may include a Case Study of Invasive Plants as Vectors of Pests and Disease, or we may narrow the focus of our messaging on the benefits of prevention. Lists of invasive plants would **highlight inconsistencies** in the current regulatory processes and prioritize plants for a **formal science-based assessment**.

PR Campaign

We are excited to have a PR expert join our team! She has already made many excellent suggestions about how we could proceed. The plan is to launch a PR strategy by the end of April/beginning of May to coincide with the start of the gardening season. Our media launch will include news articles and radio/TV segments featuring who we are, what we do, and what gardeners can do.

Help Wanted

Do you have **graphics design skills**? We need individuals to create visually appealing materials to continue spreading the word and building the critical capacity to leverage change.

More stories are needed to help the public understand the complex issues surrounding invasive plants. Read our current stories at <https://ccipr.ca/stories/>. They are very powerful and could be of use to your Master Gardener group.

How Master Gardeners can help

Help us **expand our reach**. If you partner with a local organization, contact them and ask them to add their logo to our growing list of partners. Check to see if the organization's name is posted on our website before proceeding. You can view current partners at <https://ccipr.ca/partners/>. Anyone wishing to join as a supporter (endorse our objectives), partner (share our message) or team member (contribute actively) is encouraged to fill out the form on the Get Involved tab <https://ccipr.ca/get-involved/>.

Master Gardener groups are encouraged to **spread the word** about invasive plants to the public. We do have ready-made presentations and materials that you can adapt to your needs and are also happy to present to your MG group via Zoom.

Master Gardeners should continue to **expand their knowledge** about invasive plants and know which plants are invasive in their local area as well as how to share management strategies with the public. You'll find lots of information on our CCIPR website to help you.

Keep up the great work! Claudette & Cathy



What is Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii) doing on Big Island near Bobcaygeon, Ontario, the largest undeveloped island in the Kawarthas?

© Scott Ulian (CC-BY-NC) via INaturalist



Master Gardeners Out & About

Projects & Events

Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners

Written by MG Lynda Lahteenmaa

Name: Seedy Saturday in Thunder Bay

Details: Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were on hand to give advice, answer questions and provide valuable up-to-date information about the amazing allure of SEEDS and environmentally responsible gardening practices. This was the first in-person Seedy Saturday event held on Saturday, February 25th. There was a bevy of activities provided by many different organizations. The Master Gardeners spoke about "winter sowing, stratifying, growing and saving seeds".

The topics were diverse and were not restricted to only seeds. The group also provided information about Master Gardeners including their important role in the community, how to become a Master Gardener and upcoming MG events to watch for. Various handouts and MG brochures were provided to the public. It was a fun and exciting day celebrating local seeds. We had an opportunity to reconnect with other gardening groups and home gardeners, and to share stories and the spirit of hope in joyful anticipation of the upcoming growing season.



Back row, l to r: Lynda Bobinski, Aili Dampier, Maggie Landry
Front row, l to r: Sylvia Goodheart, Rosemary McNabb, Lynda Lahteenmaa



Back row: Maggie Landry
Front row, l to r: Lynda Bobinski, Lynda Lahteenmaa, Rosemary McNabb



Maggie Landry

Name: March 4th Seedy Saturday in Gillies, ON

Details: Thunder Bay & District Master Gardeners were in attendance at Gillies township Seedy Saturday to help get a jump start on spring planting, reconnect with other community gardening groups and highlight the vital role Master Gardeners play in the community. Gillies township is about 40 minutes west of Thunder Bay.



Left to right: MGs Lynda Lahteenmaa, Sylvia Goodheart, and MGIT Laura Jones



Prince Edward County

Name: Picton Seedy Saturday

Details: There was a fantastic gathering of gardeners at the Seedy Saturday in Picton, and we were busy all day answering questions and handing out information sheets. It was inspiring to hear how many people were aware of invasive plants and how many are embracing native plants. Good to hear our work is paying off.

There were several presentations, on topics including: Landscape Design; Rain Gardens; Winter Sowing; and Fundamentals of Permaculture, all well attended. Many thanks to 'Tamara Plant Dancer' and her team for another well-organized event.



L to R: Carol Wilson, Kent Pawziuk, Margot Rivers

Name: 99.3 FM Radio Talks...continue



Details: In January of 2021 we were approached by our local radio station to become part of their program "The Grapevine", specifically the section called "The County Grows". We jumped at the chance to get the word out and now, two years later, we have presented about sixty talks on various gardening subjects.

We are always encouraged when someone stops us in the grocery store to tell us how much they enjoyed the topic – life in a small town is so personal and real.

We are continuing the work to get the word out about sustainable gardening, native plants and invasive species.

Many thanks to 99.3 FM, "The Voice of the County", for inviting us on air. You can listen to all the talks we've given on our website: <https://pecmastergardeners.ca/99-3-county-fm-radio-talks/>



Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Sunday

Details: Sunday, Feb. 26th marked the return of the in-person Seedy Sunday event in Stratford, held at The Local Community Centre and featuring planting experiences for children in the greenhouse along with various seed dealers, seed exchanges and information tables.

The SAMGs were delighted to meet so many friendly people, answer questions and give advice. Elizabeth Spedaliere's slide show presentation about pollinator gardens and the importance of native plant species in them was very well received. It was a wonderful day.



Don Farwell, Elizabeth Spedaliere, Dianne Wheler at Seedy Sunday in Stratford

Dianne has an extra reason to smile since she received her MG Certificate from Don.

Congratulations Dianne!

Name: Gardening in a Changing Climate

Details: Stratford and Area MGs has continued its partnership with the Stratford Public Library. In March, Sean James presented the third talk in the series: *Fusion Gardening*. Sean shared his wisdom on blending rainscapes with xeriscapes to create beautiful gardens and reduce the burden on the miracle of potable water.



Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: 25th Anniversary of DITG

Details: The 25th Anniversary of the Day In The Garden (DITG) was held on February 26th and was well-attended by over 100 guests. Speakers and workshops by MGs were excellent. Door prizes were beautiful and there were many unique vendors.



MGs Jennifer Ziorli, left and Heather Rajotte

A fabulous day!



Workshop with MG Robert Pavlis



Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Sunday

Details: The Niagara MGs hosted a lively Seedy Sunday seed-exchange event on Feb. 26 in St. Catharines. The event included speakers, vendors, seeds for exchange (and for sale) and children's activity tables. Over 500 people attended, and everyone was eager to connect, share gardening stories and talk about seed planting and the season ahead. Many pounds of non-perishable food goods were collected for a local food bank as well.



Seed sale table volunteers were kept hopping during the five-hour event, including Marcey Leggett, Kendy Steeves, Linda Wade and Bev Campeau, among others. Over 3000 seed packets sold, including for many types of native plants.



Vendors included Hawthorn Farm Organic Seeds (left) and Palatine Roses, who spoke about open-pollinated corn.



Beckie Fox and Jennifer Qusen answered questions at the 'Ask a Master Gardener' table





Silver Creek Nurseries (left) were also among vendors. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Kerry Royer spoke on native plants and other topics.



Young ones made lavender sachets and worked on garden journals in the kids' activity section. There were also seed-planting and seed-bomb activities, educational displays, and games.



Speakers included Rob and Chris Croley from Sentimental Farm talking about homesteading.

Name: March General Meet

Details: At our March 9 general meet, we were treated to a demonstration of Winter Sowing presented by Freida Krugel, a Niagara-on-the-Lake long-time gardener. The jugs act as mini greenhouses that protect seeds outdoors until they are ready to sprout. No hardening off of little plants needed! Here is a link to a local article for those wanting to know more: [Winter Sowing](#).



Freida Krugel brought supplies including 4-litre plastic jugs, soil and her own saved seeds, and helped us through her process for successful seed starting using this great method.

Name: 'Hands On' at Niagara Parks Greenhouses

Details: Niagara MGs helped out at the Niagara Parks greenhouses on Feb. 28. The assignment was to plant cuttings from *Perilla* 'Magilla' and *Iresine herbstii*, and seeds from ornamental millet – *Pennisetum glaucum* 'Purple Baron,' which will eventually be planted out in the Niagara Parks' gardens. It was an interesting and productive morning.



Niagara MGs are given instructions for their volunteer day at the Niagara Botanical Gardens.



Mississauga Master Gardeners

Name: Unitarian Church Seedy Saturday

Details: Mississauga Master Gardeners (MMGs) Karolina Marques, Natalie Scola, Diana Westland, Shirley Daniels, Susan Quirk and Maureen Neglia enjoyed the first advice clinic of the season at the Unitarian Church Seedy Saturday on March 4th.

Two topics dominated inquiries to the MMGs: how to plant and care for pollinator gardens, and how to grow vegetable gardens. Attendees enjoyed engaging in discussion with MMGs and were happy to walk away with seeds to get their gardens started! For those looking to dive deeper into vegetable gardens, Susan Quirk gave a presentation on *Bountiful Balconies - Growing in Pots and Raised Beds*.



Front row from left: Shirley Daniels, Diana Westland and Susan Quirk
Back row from left: Natalie Scola and Maureen Neglia

Name: Brampton Seedy Saturday

Details: MMGs participated in the Brampton Seedy Saturday event on March 11th at the Century Gardens Recreation Centre. Our advice table was well attended with everyone getting excited about the upcoming growing season. Many thanks to the Brampton Horticultural Society for organizing such a successful event and inviting the Master Gardeners to participate.



Morning Shift, from left: Donna Hormozian, Diana Westland and Susan Quirk



Afternoon shift: Mohan Iyer (left) and Emma Chow (right)

Name: Mississauga Seed Library

Details: Mississauga Master Gardeners were out in force to support the opening of the Port Credit Seed Library on Saturday, March 11th. After virtual openings through Covid everyone was more than ready for some face-to-face opportunities to help newer gardeners with their preparations and plans for this year. In addition to a very busy advice table, Natalie Scola did a well-attended workshop about starting plants from seed. The advice table was staffed by MJ Kucerak, Catherine Fleming and Stuart Plummer.





Natalie sharing seeds



From Left: Stuart Plummer, MJ Kucerak and Catherine Fleming



Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

Name: Seedy Saturday Ottawa

Details: The first event of the Ottawa gardening calendar is a Seedy Saturday, held this year on March 4. Now organized by Just Food Ottawa, this event is eagerly anticipated and well attended. Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton were there to answer questions.

Many thanks to Angelina Singson for organizing our participation at this important seasonal kick-off.

Name: Seedy Saturday Carp

Details: Joining the Ottawa Seedy Saturday event this year, MGOC partnered with three west-end gardening groups to host a second “Seedy” event on March 11. The modest entry fee raised money for the local food bank, and once again, Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions.

Like the Ottawa event, this new Seedy event was thronged with eager seed buyers and featured a range of local vendors selling seeds, but also local produce and crafts. Thanks go to organizers Susan Bicket and Judith Cox.



MGiTs Maryanne Ambroziak (left) and Josée Levesque (right) flank MGOC organizer Susan Bicket at the Carp Seedy Saturday advice table.

Name: MGIT Networking Brunch

Details: On Saturday, March 18, a group of about 6 MGITs met with their mentors and other interested MGs for an informal breakfast gathering. This was a great chance to socialize and get to know each other better.

The MGIT breakfasts were a regular part of MGOC’s onboarding program prior to COVID so we are delighted to be able to resume them again.

Many thanks to our Onboarding Coordinator Claire Leduc for organizing this event.



Toronto Master Gardeners

Name: Toronto Public Libraries

Details: Toronto Master Gardeners has offered presentations to Toronto Public Libraries (TPL) for many years. These are amongst our most popular activities, either in-person or virtually, with library branches choosing from our catalogue.

Now we have begun to offer demonstrations, with a list of topics and descriptions going out to library branches in the Spring and Fall. Toronto MGIT Diane Bickers is our TPL/TMG Coordinator. She describes the demonstrations as similar to Advice Clinics, but on a single topic, one hour long, with some materials provided for “show and tell” (and some materials raffled to participants at the end of the session). Not surprisingly, our most popular Spring offering is “Urban Vegetable Gardening: Starting Vegetables from Seed”. Libraries can also choose from these Spring demonstrations: • Grow a Salad! • Grow a Pollinator Container Garden • Invasive Plants to Avoid in Your Garden • Caring for Houseplants • Creating a Miniature Garden.

So far, 18 Toronto MGs have signed up to deliver Spring demonstrations – roughly 15% of the membership! We see this as a wonderful opportunity to share our passion for gardening with our community.

We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated group of MGITs who are ready to leap in to coordinate our initiatives. Here is a little bit about herself, from Diane:



Photo courtesy Diane Bickers

Tending even a small patch of green can do wonders for the environment, for neighbourhoods, and for gardeners themselves. As an avid home gardener since 1990, I’ve developed a keen appreciation for native plants, while cultivating a haven for birds and

pollinators in my front and back gardens. I started “rewirement” in December 2021 and was welcomed as a Toronto MGIT that same month. I’ve been writing and blogging about [my garden](#) (and other topics) since 2008, including some gardens I’ve visited in my travels.



London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: Seedy Saturday 2023

Details: After a couple of years where our Seedy Saturday looked a bit different, we were very excited to be in our regular space on March 4th, ready to welcome back our gardening community with open arms. When the dust settled at the end of the day we had over 650 people through our doors. There were many smiles and “glad you are back”. All in all a great day!



Heather O'Shea, Nicole Steward-Seekins and Nancy Abra sharing a laugh at Seedy Saturday



Overhead view of LMMG Seedy Saturday on March 4/2023

Name: Seed to Table

Details: This course started March 14 and runs for eight weeks until May 2. It includes everything you need to know to grow your own. Topics covered have included everything from starting seeds, composting, soil structure and IPM to harvesting and caring for your tools. Our graduates leave with the enthusiasm and confidence to get out and grow this summer.



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:

- 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 tracks: Virtual Sessions via Zoom and In-Person at the Humber Arboretum. The virtual sessions include topics like Plant Identification, Growing Your Own Food, Native Plants, Invasive Plants, Pollinator Friendly Gardening, Pruning, and Indoor Plants. The in-person sessions include Winterwood, Winter Tree Identification Tour, First-hand Look at Invasive Plants, and Pruning Workshop. Registration is free but space is limited, with a QR code and website link provided.

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)



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 any of the webinars. There are two more seminars left to help while away the rest of 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 Bloy, 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 Pottruff, 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.



Stratford and Area Master Gardeners

Name: Gardening in a Changing Climate

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 brought to you via Zoom.






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

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

Last in the series:

April 20, Cathy Kavassalis, *Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate: Beware the Sleeping Beauties*

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. The presentation will 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>.

London Middlesex Master Gardeners

Name: London Middlesex Library Plant Exchange

Date: Saturdays in May

Details: Every year our local library hosts plant exchanges at various branches during the month of May.

Guelph Wellington Master Gardeners

Name: Plant Sale

Date: May 27, 2023

Location: Riverside Park, Guelph

Details: Further details to come.

Northumberland Master Gardeners and Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

Technical Update: Biodiversity, Native Plants at The Lilac Festival

Date & Time: May 27th, 2023, 10am – 4pm EDT

Location: Masonic Hall, 151 Northumberland Cty Rd. 29, Warkworth, ON K0K 3K0

Details: Join us at the Warkworth Lilac Festival as we partner to present a Technical Update. The choice of plants that we add to our gardens can have an impact on biodiversity, with native plants providing the greatest benefit. A special guest speaker, Paul LaPorte, owner of Ephemeral Ark Nursery (specializing in native woodland species) and consultant on ecological gardening and design will present "Building Biodiversity with Native Plants". A native plant sale follows.

Registration: Click on the link below to register and use Promocode **earlybird** before May 5th to get \$5.00 off your registration. Coffee and muffins will be provided on arrival. Door prizes and lunch are included.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/biodiversity-native-plants-the-lilac-trail-tickets-557024694857>



International Master Gardener Conference

International Master
Gardener Conference



June 18 – 22, 2023
Overland Park, Kansas



*I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come
Come with me! by Tena Van Andel*

Details: Yes, from June 18th to 22nd, Master Gardeners from all over the United States, Canada and South Korea will come together and revel in everything gardening – <https://imgc2023.com/>.

There are over 50 sessions on topics such as the alchemy of compost, gardening Monet style, tons of info on pollinators and even a session by Rosebud on how Ontario MGs use Kahoot for continuing education. I haven't even begun to rave about the keynote speakers or the tours (although I didn't see anything about tornados to Oz).

Always inspiring are the David Gibby Search for Excellence Awards. You won't believe some of the work fellow MGs do – teaching vegetable gardening in prisons, researching the value of biochars, creating pollinator demonstration gardens, and so much more. Ontario MGs have won a few times in the past and again this year. Yup, MGOI has won second place in the presentations category for 'Kahoot for education!'. Pretty sure champagne after the ceremony will be involved. And this is the best part – all the interesting gardeners you will meet gathered to celebrate gardening at its best.

Are You On The List?



So, come to Kansas City, Kansas City, here we come....

Niagara Master Gardeners

Name: Shaw Garden Tour

Date: June 24, 2023

Details: Niagara MGs 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. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite.

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. Registration forms are available on the MGOI website under the Members and Coordinator Resources – Workshops & Webinars area. 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 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.



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.

Name change: As of March 2023, the group voted to change our name to 1000 Islands Master Gardeners. Our catchment area remains Napanee to Brockville up to Smiths Falls with monthly meetings in Kingston.

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**.

Hello



Live the garden life
Vivre la vie de jardin

Spring!

Spring has arrived! It is a time of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. Celebrate the season by planting something new, taking a nature walk, spring cleaning, or planning a picnic in the garden. Enjoy the warmer, brighter days and all the beauty that spring has to offer! It's time to **Live the Garden Life!**



Amherstburg, Ontario



Official Report – Year of the Garden 2022

We are pleased to announce the release of our highly anticipated Year of the Garden 2022 Report! What made the Year of the Garden a success was the collective effort of various political parties and branches of the Garden Family coming together to unanimously recognize 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden. This celebration not only marked the Centennial of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, but also highlighted the significance of our garden culture and its impact on our quality of life and communities, which was celebrated across the country for the first time.

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lMSikRnHlDgnyf9ajSJQ1zLq8ISNyWQ/view>

Your Invitation to Canada's Garden Route

Canada's Garden Route is a fantastic resource that provides a comprehensive listing of Canadian gardens and garden experiences to visit throughout the country. Our invitation is to list your garden experience on Canada's garden map. If you're responsible for a public garden, a garden event, a garden-friendly municipality, or a Garden Centre that offers garden experiences, being on Canada's Garden Route is a great way to attract more visitors, both locals and tourists alike.

To get started, simply reach out to us at marketing@gardencouncil.ca and we'll be happy to guide you through the process of listing your garden experience on the map. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to showcase your garden experience and help promote Canada's rich garden culture. Contact us today and get listed on Canada's Garden Route!

New Website Coming Soon

Get ready to experience our new Gardens Canada / Live the Garden Life website launching soon! Our new website will feature an updated design, enhanced functionality, and a wealth of new resources and information to help you Live the Garden Life.



Gardening is More Popular Than Ever

Gardening has become one of the most popular hobbies in North America, with 55 per cent of households actively gardening, says a report from **Bigger Garden**, a website that offers tips for gardeners. One of the main drivers of this increase in popularity has been the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw people take up gardening as a way to pass the time and stay productive while at home. Not only has gardening provided an enjoyable and fulfilling pastime, but it has also



helped to alleviate some of the financial stress faced by families by reducing grocery bills. Gardeners have increased spending on outdoor tools and hydroponic kits for indoor growing. As well, online sales in the category doubled during the pandemic. Gen Z represents a substantial 44 per cent of the new pandemic gardeners, with Millennials making up almost a third. Baby Boomers are gardening less than they were a few years ago, down around 10 per cent as they age into downsizing their homes and gardening space. Many are now focusing on visiting public gardens.

Original article from: The Bigger Garden

Plant Purple

As we say hello to spring, it is time to start thinking about what plants to add to your garden this year. In collaboration with **Communities in Bloom**, we would like to remind everyone to plant purple, the colour theme of the year in 2023!

Purple is a colour that represents creativity, imagination and harmony. It is a colour that can soothe the mind and inspire the soul. It is also associated with passion, royalty and luxury. By planting purple flowers, shrubs, and trees, we can infuse these qualities into our environment and create a sense of serenity and beauty.

Our partnership with Communities in Bloom is an excellent opportunity to bring together communities across the country to create beautiful and sustainable spaces that we can all enjoy.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, join us in planting purple, indoors or outdoors. Let's create a beautiful and harmonious environment that will inspire and uplift us all!

Start Planning – Garden Days 2023



Garden Days is back in 2023 from May 19th to June 18th. Start planning your garden-related activities on the date of your choice and align them with the national celebration of Canada's garden culture. It is also a great time to celebrate your community's Garden Heroes! Stay tuned for more information!

How will you celebrate National Garden Day on June 17th?

National Garden Day is just around the corner on June 17th, and this year's theme is **inclusion and reconciliation**. It's a time to celebrate our garden culture and reflect on how this culture has contributed to the development of our country and who we are. Let us know how you celebrate that in your garden, at your business, and in your community. **#NationalGardenDay**

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 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 registration deadline has been extended to March 31st, 2023!***



Become a Live the Garden Life Partner or Sponsor!

The Year of the Garden 2022 was a success thanks to our partners and sponsors, and we're looking for your support once again. Contact Brent Gavin at Partnerships@gardencouncil.ca to learn more about associating your brand to Live the Garden Life and activities celebrating Canada's garden culture. Thank you to our previous supporters for making it all possible!

'Live the Garden Life'

Please remind your members, your volunteers and your followers to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and show us how you [#livethethegardenlife](#) 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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