



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 57, March 2021

Half the interest of a garden is the constant exercise of the imagination.

--Mrs. C. W. Earle, Pot-Pourri from a Surrey Garden (1897)

SPEAKER March 22, 2021

--Heinke Thiessen, on Garden Dreams and Good Design

PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR

This program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is a standout among its competitors. Perennials chosen for this honour are suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple-season interest and are relatively pest/disease-free.

This year, the winner is *Calamintha nepeta*. Like a cloud of confetti, tiny white flowers, sometimes touched with pale blue, appear from early summer to fall. Undemanding and dependable, this full-sun perennial has a low mounding or bushy habit, ideal for the front of the border, rock gardens and more.

Calamintha nepeta also has two important features for gardeners: bees and other pollinators work the flowers throughout the summer and it is deer resistant. Check out this stunner at www.perennialplant.org/page/2021PPOY

RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!

News to me, but we've had a seed store here in Woodbridge for years. Open to retailers and the general public. Please call first, or check at info@westonseeds.com

Weston Seeds

131 Whitmore Rd, Woodbridge, ON L4L 6E4

905-264-6677

FLEXING GARDENING MUSCLES

Nothing gets you in the mood for gardening than sowing seeds indoors. Give careful consideration to containers: seed-starting trays, egg cartons, any vessel choice, as long as they are clean and drain well. Use a pre-mixed seed-starting soil, or make your own with equal parts of peat moss, vermiculite and sharp sand. Sow seeds according to the depth and density listed on the package. For smaller seeds, it's easier to sprinkle them on the soil, and scatter more soil on top. Tap gently with your fingers. Water carefully to avoid washing away seeds. Cover with any type of clear plastic lid or bag to create a humid environment, and place in a sunny or warm spot, even on top of the fridge until the first green leaves appear. If seedlings get too leggy and start to wilt, try adding a bit more soil and gently pat at the base of the stem to help prop them



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up. When they are ready to transplant, harden them off by choosing a warm, sunny day to leave the plants outdoors, extending their exposure by a few hours each day until you are leaving them out for the entire day. Bring them back in at night, especially if there's a frost warning.

April 9th is Vimy Ridge Day. Honour the memory and legacy of Canadian soldiers who fought, and those who lost their lives in the First World War. Observe it by visiting the Vimy Oak tree planted by WHS in the Wallace House garden.

TRENDS IN GARDENING

One significant trend that will hopefully last for a long time is bee-friendly plants. Can't be successful without these busy little pollinators. Transform your garden into a bee paradise by planting cosmos, lavender, zinnias, herbs and other bee attracting plants. Or encourage them to do their own thing, by letting it happen naturally, as they love dandelions!

Garden sustainably, by planting drought tolerant, native plants. Creating a wildlife habitat for birds, bees and butterflies is seen as more desirable than a vast green space of lawn that supports little life. www.habitatblooms.ca

There has been a renewed interest in planting our own food; feels good to know your crops are not sprayed or picked over by shoppers. Save your own seeds. Gardeners desire safe backyards. They want some grass for play, the rest of the yard arranged with a variety of plants, trees and bushes. Major concerns include eliminating the use of toxic chemicals and making the space safe for family, pets, and pollinators. Even if space is limited, you can still successfully grow tomatoes, berries and greens in containers. And of course, continue to compost; why throw away any kitchen waste when you can add important nutrients back to the soil.

Buy more houseplants, especially NASA approved air cleaners such as peace lily, spider plants, Sanseveria (snake plant) Aloe vera, Boston ferns and pothos.

THANKS!

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who devoted time to decorate the bridge on Woodbridge Avenue, the Wallace House and Hospice for different occasions. A special thanks to Gail for organizing.

SUBMISSIONS

If you have anything you'd like added to the newsletter, please call or email Mary no later than one week before the next meeting.