



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 60, June 2021

A garden should always look bigger than it really is.

--Alexandre Le Blond

The Theory and Practice of Gardening

Translated by John James (1712)

SPEAKER JUNE 21

Kathleen Gorsline, on Square Foot Gardening.

NEWS IN GARDENING

On Saturday, June 5th, Neighbours Sharing Native and Pollinator Plants held a special planting event in memory of long time Woodbridge resident, 'Mr. Historian', Ken Maynard. Native wild flowers that attract bees, butterflies and birds were planted at Veterans' Park, right across the street from Armstrong Park. Be sure to drop in on this lovely garden as you stroll along Woodbridge Avenue.

The Peace Rose has long been one of the world's favourite roses. The Peace Rose, formally *Rosa* 'Madame A. Meilland', is a well-known and successful garden rose. The cultivar has large flowers of a light yellow to cream color, slightly flushed at the petal edges with crimson-pink. It is hardy, vigorous and relatively resistant to disease, making it popular in gardens as well as in the floral trade.

It was developed by French horticulturist Francis Meilland, in the years 1935 to 1939. When Meilland learned of the imminent German invasion of France, he sent cuttings to friends in Italy, Turkey, Germany, and the United States in order to protect the new rose. It was sent to the United States on the last plane available before the German invasion, where it was safely propagated during the war. Besides being linked to world peace, the Peace rose is also one of the most widely used roses for creating new varieties.

WHAT'S AILING IN YOUR GARDEN?

Black spot will surely infect roses if they are buried in thistles, old leaves, petals and twigs. Prevent black spot with a thorough clearing in the spring and autumn. Dig down to the top two inches of the soil, remove any infected leaf litter and throw away, do NOT compost. Mix 1 heaping tablespoon of baking soda to 1 gallon of water if disease is still present and spray foliage. Sprinkle a bit into surrounding soil to treat any spores. Make sure there is enough room for air circulation and plenty of sun exposure.





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Aphids are a good source of food for ladybugs. But if they're causing too much damage, just flick off with your hands or a strong stream of water from the hose.

Wildlife snacking in your garden? Sprinkle blood meal and dried chicken manure pellets as deterrents. Or plant more and share with the critters.

Have gypsy caterpillars made themselves at home in your trees? For helpful suggestions, visit: <http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/gardbk/gh-ch6-2ins.htm#12>

If you really like it, then it's not a weed.

—Maria Rodale's Organic Gardening

If you have a garden, weeding is a fact of life. Mulch is a weed preventer when applied at least 2 inches thick. Invest in a Japanese weeding knife, removes deep-rooted weeds with a single thrust and can be used to dig holes to plant small flowers or hack off an unwanted branch. Worth a try: if you prefer not wearing gloves while gardening, try this tip: put soap underneath your nails before you start weeding. It won't keep nails clean, but it will make it easier to clean after you're done.

For more information, check out this link on weeds: <https://www.cbc.ca/life/home/the-ultimate-guide-to-weeds-what-to-yank-what-to-leave-and-what-you-should-never-ever-touch-1.5250554>

SUMMER MUST READ BOOK

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants is a 2013 nonfiction book by American professor Robin Wall Kemmerer. The book is about alternative forms of Indigenous knowledge outside of traditional scientific methodologies. The book reframes the relationship between land and humans by exploring themes of reciprocity; giving back to the earth instead of just taking. Beautiful poetic prose mixed with science and personal stories, *Braiding Sweetgrass* focuses on plants and botany as seen through Native American traditions as well as Western scientific practice.

THANK YOU!

Flower boxes with colourful flowers once again adorn the bridge on Woodbridge Avenue. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, Gail, Chris and Sally, Elda and Fausto, Liz and Mace, Joan, Martha, Madeleine, Howard and Mary Jane S, and Rob and Ryder S.

