



# Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



[www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com](http://www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com)

Issue 63, October 2021

There is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

--John Lubbock, Lord Avebury (1834 - 1913)

## **SPEAKER OCTOBER 25**

Maryanne Dionne, on Gail's Garden through the Seasons.

## **OCTOBER GARDEN JOBS**

I'm so glad to live in a world where there are Octobers.

--Lucy Maude Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

After a light frost, mound soil at base of rose bushes to the height of 6 – 8 inches to prevent winter damage from freezing and thawing, but do not cut back.

Pull out dahlia tubers, calla, and gladiola bulbs, dry and brush off soil and store in a cool, dry spot.

Mark perennials and take pictures.

Collect fallen leaves to use as compost, or use as mulch to provide insulation for plants that need it.

Winterize irrigation systems with compressed air to prevent system damage.

Leave lawn in good condition. Cut grass one last time. Mow at regular height 2.5 - 3 inches.

Apply winter fertilizer to prepare lawn for spring (gardeners really *are* optimistic!)

Rake leaves often to prevent matting down turf, or mulch and leave on for faster decomposing.

Fill in and overseed any bare spots with a cool weather grass seed. Get it in early so it will have time to germinate and set roots.

Pick up any fallen fruit around trees and compost it to prevent pests from sticking around till next season.

Keep weeding!





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When they're on sale, buy bags of soil and mulch for next year; they'll keep in the tool shed, but do store seed starting mix indoors so it's easier to get to when it's time to start seedlings mid-March.

Plant spring bulbs and garlic.

Clean, sharpen and oil garden tools.

Another tip on dealing with fungus gnats that plague houseplants; Bernie Burns, from the Thornhill Horticultural Society, once again generously invited us to their general meeting on Wednesday, October 20. Joanne Rachfalowski talked about Houseplants. She suggested setting a bowl of orange peel near your plants, and the fungus gnats will disappear. Citrus peels contain ingredients that kill or repel ants, fleas, fungus gnats, aphids and other pests. Worth a try!

## IN MEMORIAM

DONALD MURDOCK Morrison, born August 10, 1934, died September 25, 2021. He is survived by the love of his life, Sandra Lee, known to WHS members as Sandy, an active, life member for many years. Don's home of 55 years displayed an enormous gallery of watercolour paintings, fine crafted furniture and countless hand turned wooden bowls that he made. He assisted in maintaining a community garden across the street from 257 Wigwoss, which was featured on a Garden Tour in 2014. The community of Woodbridge enjoyed the Fall Fair posters Don painted to promote the annual event. Most recognized was his poster for the Fairs' 150th year, winning Ontario's 1st prize in 1997. He built the little room, complete with shelves, where WHS used to participate in the Fall Fair.

