



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 70, September, 2022

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

--Albert Camus

SPEAKER, SEPTEMBER 19

Heinke Thiessen, on Fall Perennials.

FUNCTIONAL LAWNS

Whether you're a lazy gardener, or simply want to encourage more pollinators and make your 'lawn' work, plant clover instead of grass. It's cheaper to maintain, eco-friendly and hopefully rabbits will munch only on that and leave your veggies alone. Not convinced yet? For more reasons, please visit: [12 Reasons to Plant a Clover Lawn – Treehugger](#)

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

Now's the time to think about what to change for next year's garden. Choose plants that can take a summer of little rain, like we've experienced. These hardy plants will only need enough water until they get settled in nicely:

Lavender, Verbena, Echinacea, Cosmos, Marigolds...for more information, check out:

<https://www.tomsguide.com/how-to/7-drought-tolerant-plants>

IRIS

Split iris now to keep them healthy and flowering. In the course of time, they can become congested, resulting in fewer blooms. The remedy is to split irises and transplant them, with the added bonus that you'll end up with additional garden plants. Lifting and dividing iris rhizomes every three to five years gives them more space.

Using a spade or garden fork, begin by carefully digging up a clump, pulling the rhizomes apart with your hands. They should be easy to separate. If necessary, use a sharp, sterilized knife. A piece of young rhizome should be up to 6 inches (15cm) in length for tall bearded irises, and smaller for miniature versions. Discard rhizomes that look old. Check the rhizomes for iris borer, as these larvae cause damage and introduce bacteria. If you find these pests—or a rhizome is soft, smells foul, or is rotting—dispose of them in the garbage. Do NOT compost.





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With a sharp knife, trim the leaves off the rhizomes. Doing so ensures the plant's energy goes to establishing roots rather than maintaining leaves. The leaves should be cut back so they extend around 6 inches (15cm) above the rhizome. The divided healthy rhizomes can now be replanted, bearing in mind not to plant too deep. Dig a hole that can accommodate both the rhizome and its roots. The plants should be around 12 to 18 inches (30 to 46cm) apart for taller iris varieties, further apart than dwarf versions.

BEST THINGS TO PLANT IN SEPTEMBER

These quick growing crops are perfect for upcoming cooler weather, and will last well into a hard frost: spinach, chard, and lettuce, especially arugula. Plant some mums for a continuous, colourful fall garden.

<https://lifehacker.com/11-of-the-best-things-you-can-plant-in-your-garden-this-1849453269>

In MEMORIAM



Jan Poot, retired lawyer and well known Woodbridge resident of many years, passed away on June 20, 2022, at the age of 78. He served as the WHS president from 1992-1994. Under his tenure, the decision was made to enlarge Fred Armstrong Park. The society pursued adding two beds of mixed deciduous and coniferous shrubs, accented by hardy perennials. It was his responsibility to secure consent from the City for the work and he also requested that they contribute to the project financially.

EDITOR POSITION AVAILABLE

After writing the WHS newsletter for ten years and one month (March 2020!) I am stepping down from my post. The WHS newsletter position will begin March 2023. If you enjoy reading and sharing ideas about gardening, please email or call me and I will send you the template. As editor, you are welcome to start with a whole new, fresh look.

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