



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 71, October, 2022

September slipped by into a gold and crimson graciousness of October.

--L. M. Montgomery,

Anne of Avonlea, Book Two.

TOPIC TONIGHT

Molly Shannon, from Canadian Succulents, on Succulent Gardening for Beginners. She will have some plants for sale.

PROPOGATING CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera*) is a genus of cacti native to South Eastern Brazil. Christmas cactus blooms come in shades of salmon, pink, white, red, orange, and even yellow. They are very easy to propagate; rooting hormone is not necessary. Their leaves have a constant supply of all the water they need. After blooming is the best time, once the last bloom falls away, wait a few weeks to give the plant a chance to recuperate.

The best type of soil is a succulent or cactus blend. Either plastic or terra cotta pots work well, as long as they have drainage holes. For one cutting, have three to four inches of space around it. To plant multiple cuttings in one pot, try to space them at least two inches from each other and the pot's sides.

Take a healthy, small cutting with clean, sharp pruners or scissors, between two leaves (node), and place in soil. Leave in a sunny spot and water frequently for the first two weeks, or when the soil feels dry to the touch. They tolerate full sun.

They can stay in the same pot for up to two years or until their roots are growing out of the bottom.

PUTTING THE GARDEN TO BED

Perennials gone to seed will feed birds all winter, so there's no need to cut back plants until mid-spring. But do clear the lawn, as piles of leaves will damage the grass beneath. Put leaves in the compost or use as mulch in flower and vegetable beds. Spread finished compost throughout the garden. Then start the process again by filling the bin with fallen leaves mixed with spent





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annual plants and tomato plants, vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags and some soil. Combine with a pitchfork and water well; compost should always be the consistency of a damp sponge.

Remove fallen rotting fruit and vegetables, as they may attract bugs and rodents that harbor diseases.

Harvest still green tomatoes; bring them indoors, wrap individually with newspaper, and place in a newspaper-lined cardboard box to finish ripening. Leave in a dark, cool spot, check weekly and discard any that may have rotted. Plant next year's garlic, tulips and daffodils.



CANADIAN THANKSGIVING

Canadian Thanksgiving is observed on the second Monday of October. The first documented Thanksgiving Day in Canada took place in 1763, when the citizens of Halifax, Nova Scotia celebrated the Treaty of Paris, which gave Canada to Britain. In Ontario, Thanksgiving Day was first observed in June of 1816, to give thanks for the end of the war between Great Britain and Napoleon. Through a parliamentary act proclaimed in 1879, Thanksgiving became an annual holiday for Canada. Between 1921 and 1931, Thanksgiving and Armistice Day were merged and the two were celebrated on the Monday in the week in which November 11 occurred. However, in 1931, Thanksgiving day was once again proclaimed a separate holiday, and since 1958, has taken place in October.

END OF YEAR DINNER AND AGM

Our November 21st End of Year Bash and AGM is at the Paradise Banquet Hall, 7601 Jane St. (at Hwy. 7). Tickets will be ready for purchase at the October 17 meeting and are \$60 per person (includes taxes), with a cash bar.

E-transfers to whshort1923@gmail.com OR cheques payable to the Woodbridge Horticultural Society.

Remember to enter the clematis picture contest. Please bring your favourite two (2) 4x6 photos to Monday night's meeting, write your name and member number on the back and hand in to Liz. The winner will be displayed on the cover of next year's yearbook, our 100th Anniversary!

