



Woodbridge Horticultural Society

Newsletter

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www.woodbridgehorticulturalsociety.org



"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

Margaret Atwood

MAY 15-JUNE 15 GARDENING WEATHER

(According to WEATHER25.COM and WORLD WEATHER INFO.)

First of all, we are coming out of the cloudiest winter in 80 years. Historically, Woodbridge weather for May 15 to June 15 tends towards a fair number of cloudy or semi cloudy days. Some showers. Temperatures varying from 15 to 26 degrees Celsius. However, weather.com predicts 61 to 71 degrees Fahrenheit in the last half of May and 69 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit in the first half of June. Showers?

DID YOU KNOW...?

that the Holland Marsh, Ontario's premier vegetable growing area, was NOT named after the early(1930s) Dutch settlers, but after Major Holland. Ironically, Major Holland was Dutch by birth, but joined the British military services to become "British North America's chief surveyor". He first put forth the dream of making the mucky swamp into viable farmland. However, it wasn't until the 20th century, that Professor Day forwarded the creation of a series of canals and dikes to drain the area (1926). It took WW II for the black soil valley to show profit.

that the Holland Marsh was first used for hunting, trapping, logging and bootlegging. Up until the 1950s, hay was harvested to fill mattresses by the Bradford Mattress Factory.

that in 1954, Hurricane Hazel devastated the Toronto and surrounding area up to the Holland Marsh and beyond. Hardest hit was the Humber Valley from Lake Ontario to Woodbridge and the Don River Valley area from Lake Ontario to its upper reaches. Flowers and gardens were destroyed. Holland Marsh crops rotted in the fields. However, after the waters receded, soil was re-nourished. Flowers, gardens and crops thrived again.



News

The special guest speaker for Monday, May 15th, 2023 is Loui Kakarelis.

The topic will be Grafting Techniques and more

Doors open at 7:15 pm.

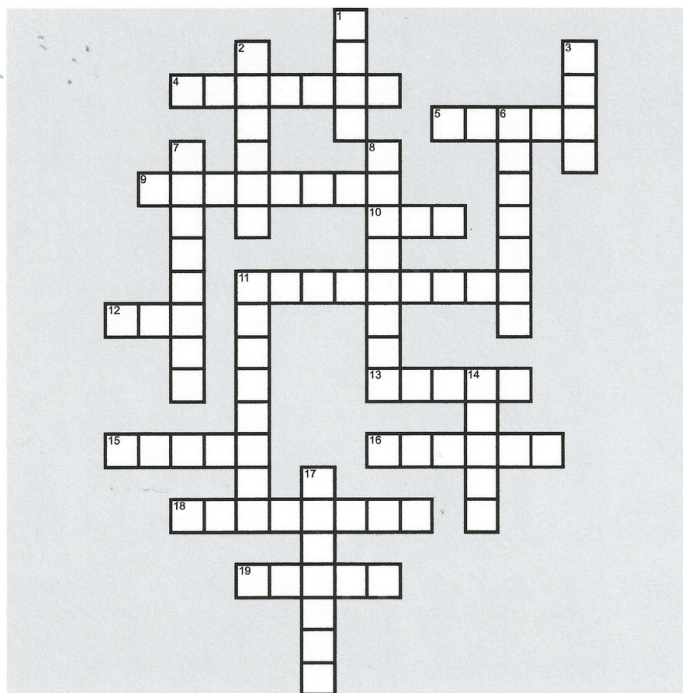
Coffee, goodies and raffle tickets available. Guest speaker at 8pm.



Cucumber grafting technique



Plants and Flowers



Across

4. Scotland's annoyingly prickly symbol
5. The Roman Goddess of Love whose flower symbol was the rose
9. A flowering bush whose scent is commercially popular
10. Wall crawling plant
11. Ukrainian flower symbol
12. The most common color of the geranium was ?
13. Canada's tree symbol
15. Holland's flower gift to Canada post W.W. 2
16. Common desert plant
18. Largest grape growing area of B.C.
19. _____ la vista baby!

Down

1. All plants/flowers were _____ before they were cultivated.
2. _____ represented the Virgin Mary.
3. A _____ by any other name is still a _____
6. Ontario's grape growing area.
7. Cancer flower symbol
8. Ontario's provincial flower
11. Flower named after a vegetable
14. An Asian water lily
17. From the movie, "Please don't eat the _____"

May Gardening Tips (edited from "simplysmartgardening.com")

1. Pull out little weeds as soon as they pop out. It will create a generally cleaner bed to deal with later.
2. To pull larger weeds with tap roots, soak the area. Pull as close to the place where the thick weed stalk meets the ground. For difficult/fragile weeds, use a proper implement to dig out the root.
3. Spring is the important time to loosen the soil, fertilize and water while planting. Prune flowering shrubs as soon as the blooms fade. Less damage will occur to the growing stalk.
4. Water the soil in your pots before fertilizing.
5. Clean edge your beds, if applicable during this time. This makes maintenance easier later in the season.