

Before You Forget

In late November it's time to make a list of what worked and what didn't in your garden. Think of any problems particular plants created or solved.

Perhaps

1. Some are unhealthy, prone to disease or insect problems
2. Some are growing too big and taking over space planned for other plants
3. Some are struggling, planted in the wrong place with too little or too much sun, too much or too little moisture, inappropriate soil PH
4. Are you still waiting for that special plant to earn its keep? Is it time for it to go?
5. What can you do to solve these problems?

Matching plants to the right location is critical, so carefully review the needs of any plants that have chronic problems and consider replacing them with something more suitable to the location. If you have a constant problem with disease or insects, take a look at what you are growing and how it is planted. If everything is crammed in together with little air circulation, mildew and other diseases will often be a problem. Insect problems can often be cured with the right companion plants, or insecticidal soap, if not maybe it is time for something different. Be ruthless with plants that grow too big, too fast, make the decision I am going to cut this in half every spring and toss the rest in the city compost.

What plants did really well?

1. Do you want more of the same plant or plant family? Can you split them? Do you have space for more?
2. What function do these plants have? Are they just pretty? Do they make you smile?

There is usually at least one part of a garden that does really well, what is growing in this area, is it a particular colour combination that makes you smile. Does this area always look good with a succession of blooms throughout the season? This information could be a clue to what else would do well.

Did the weeds get away from you, the seeds were started too late, you forgot to buy particular annuals, or search for a special plant, that expensive new annual was a disappointment, create a garden calendar/journal and to do list, you can even add it to your Outlook or other on line calendar. Did you get overrun with zucchini or tomatoes, if so write it down because you won't remember by next May.

Did you get a chance to sit back and smell the roses? If not think about what aspect of garden maintenance is taking so much time. You should be able to maintain 400 square feet of garden (not yard) in an hour per week. If you have plants that require babying, wrapping up, and constant deadheading to look satisfactory: Just toss them and find something less demanding.

From the Streetsville Horticultural Society newsletter

If you have garden questions please contact us at streetsvillehort@hotmail.com check out our website at www.streetsvillehort.ca