



Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 27, Issue 10

www.streetsvillehort.ca

September 2020

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The President’s Message

September is upon us, and not like any other that we can remember! We hope that over the summer our members have enjoyed their gardens and the fabulous summer weather.

Regarding the rest of 2020, the SHS Board of Directors met on Tuesday, September 1, to discuss how our Society can proceed within the restrictions of COVID-19.



First off, let us state that we are committed to continuing to keep the SHS operating as best as we can during the pandemic restrictions. What that means exactly is still not clear; as the health agencies and various government levels provide direction, we will adjust as necessary.

As of now we do not plan in-person meetings for the rest of the 2020 calendar year; we will re-evaluate as new information comes available in the coming months and for 2021 based on the situation nearer the end of the year. Everything will be considered with the health and safety of our membership being foremost in any decision-making.

While this change is nothing that we planned for, it presents an opportunity to get creative and try new things that we may not have thought possible or practical before. We are investigating the possibilities around online meetings, using sites like Zoom for ‘meeting’ together, or posting videos/presentations for access at everyone’s individual convenience.

The Newsletter will be produced every month as before, with more content planned to be added to share some of the things that may previously have been discussed face to face at the monthly meetings. We encourage members to share their gardening wisdom, tips, photos, interesting gardening websites and the like. Please submit your content to our Newsletter editor Nury Garzon at nurygarzon@yahoo.ca.

We ask that you renew your membership, despite our lack of in-person meetings this year, in the interest of keeping the Society going. The renewal form is included as a separate attachment with this September



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newsletter. The form is a word document that can be filled out with your information and either emailed to SHSmembership@bell.net or sent by Canada Post to the address below.

Membership, 128 Queen Street South, Box 42048, Streetsville, Ontario L5M 1K8

You can include a cheque with your registration form, or you can pay by e-transfer to SHSmembership@bell.net

If you have any suggestions or recommendations for the coming season, please send them to the Board .

We will review and provide feedback. You can mail your suggestions to the above address or email us at streetsvillehort@gmail.com

When all this passes, we will be ready to pick up where we left off and not look back. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe September.

✂ **Marg Rowan and Janet Shaw, Co-Presidents**

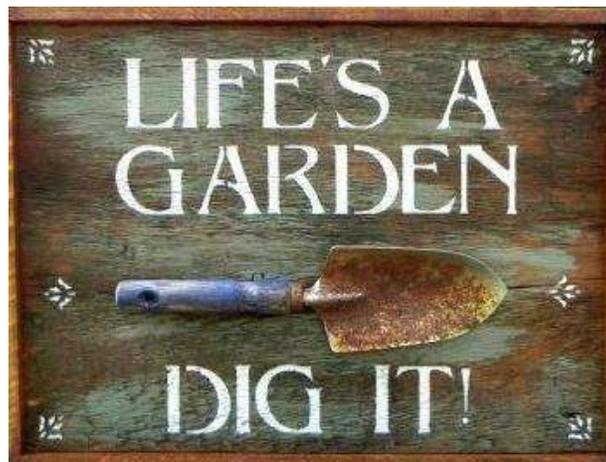


Rotary Park

We started working at Rotary park about five weeks ago. There was a lot to do as you can imagine but working every Thursday morning, we've accomplished a lot.

The gardens at the rear of the park have no irrigation or hose facility and they baked in the summer. We have discovered a water supply pipe right under this garden, so we're determined to get the city to rectify this for next year.

Thank you. ✂ **Jon Eldridge**





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Leslie Log House

Well; thanks to the new sidewalk creating a big hassle and then Covid complicating matters even further, we were unable to get an early start to the gardens at the Leslie Log House this summer. By the time we arrived with tools in hand, the weeds had virtually taken over the gardens. There was lots of weeding to be done and since the summer has been so hot and humid there was lots of watering in order as well.



Thanks to all the volunteers who came out we think the gardens are making a come back. So, thanks to: Dean Scully, Monica Ross, Grace Nelham, Janice Ward, Viv Holmes, Marg Rowan, Shelley Dodd, Janet Shaw, Jon Eldridge and MaryAnne Brown for time given to the gardens. Whether it was one hour or 20 hours it all makes a difference.



Still lots to be done this fall as we are hoping to get a load of compost to amend the beds after the contractor dumped a load of sand and clay into the beds during construction of the sidewalk. In late September and early October, we will be renovating the front bed.

The plants need to be moved around as we work to improve the drainage and accommodate the new soil.

We are there every Wednesday morning should you wish to come out and join us

 Carol Ashford, Leslie Log House Garden Chair



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Highlights of My "COVID-19" Garden

Like so many avid gardeners I was really looking forward to getting out in my garden this spring! One of my first delights among the spring blooms were the primroses and Siberian iris.



I was anxious to see if the tall verbascum I grew from seed last year, would grow spikes which only sprout in the second year of growth. They did!

In the UK these plants are often considered weeds, but I have always admired them and grew mine from seeds obtained from the gardener at Barnsley House, Cirencester, UK. I enjoyed them so much I grew and planted more this August in the hope they will grow spikes in spring 2021.





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In early June I had a wonderful show of feverfew. This annual seeds itself and can pop up anywhere! This spring I left the plants where they had seeded and enjoyed the fantastic clouds of white, a lovely contrast to the glass wine carboys I filled with water coloured with blue food dye, a tip from our 2019 September speaker Trish Symons.

I have never really grown vegetables apart from kale, swiss chard and cherry tomatoes in pots as the bunnies and raccoons got them if planted in the ground.



This year I did the same, with additional kale in a repurposed rusted wheel barrow -my focus has typically been flowers, and lots of them, the more colour the better!

I still focused on flowers this year, however around about March, as COVID was beginning to be a problem here in Canada and reports of a potential deficiency of vegetables in the supermarkets was reported and forecast for the coming season, I thought I should try to grow tomatoes as well.

A friend grows hers from the seed of tomatoes she buys at the supermarket and enjoys, so I tried the same thing. I smeared the seeds on paper towel, soaked off the slimy stuff, planted them and put the pots under grow lights. Within 3 days they had germinated and I had 12 tomato plants! I planted them in various gardens on the property to see which would be the better location. For the longest time they had no flowers, but with the help of organic tomato fertilizer they flowered and took off, growing taller and taller, and yielded dozens of the "tomatoes on the vine" variety like the ones I had purchased in March.



Once the tomatoes formed I had to surround them in plastic chicken wire to keep the vermin off, which was a lot of work, but worth it.

I also purchased zucchini and climbing cucumber plants, which grew well at first but became mildewed over time and did not have the yields expected.





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Another hit for me was the passion flower vine I purchased in Montreal in early June. I love the flowers, having seen them growing so well in UK gardens last summer. I bought the plant as a backup, having grown a plant this spring from seed I purchased last fall, but was not sure it would bloom in my chosen location, and it didn't as it did not get enough sun; will correct that next year. However, the purchased vine bloomed and bloomed and grew at least 12 feet tall. I am going to try to overwinter it.

It is difficult to germinate red castor bean seeds. Previous years I have been successful by placing a heating pad under the peat pots for a week or so, before placing under grow lights. But this year I was surprised to find 2 seedlings growing in the garden where they were planted last year.

I must have sprinkled seed from last year's plants. A gift! After potting to build roots, they are happily growing in a new location. Another gift was the amaranth's which seeded themselves from last year's plants. I had hundreds growing in the cracks at the edge of the driveway but it is easy to pull up those one does not want, or cut off the heads in the fall before they go to seed. They have grown 6 feet tall, need little water and I get a lot of positive comments from passersby on how striking they are. The perennial hibiscus this year were as striking as usual.





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My new sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis panniculitis*) is just starting to bloom.

The most valuable aspect of this year's garden has been having a peaceful oasis to enjoy, the time at home to wander and observe my gardens and notice things which would have escaped my attention and care in a normal busier season. I have new ideas about where to relocate items that don't do well in their current spot or in the hot summers we have had in the past few years, and what to plant in the future to minimize water and care requirements.



I also had time to build myself a composter.

I expect many of you have had similar rewarding experiences in your gardens. Happy fall gardening.

✂ Janet





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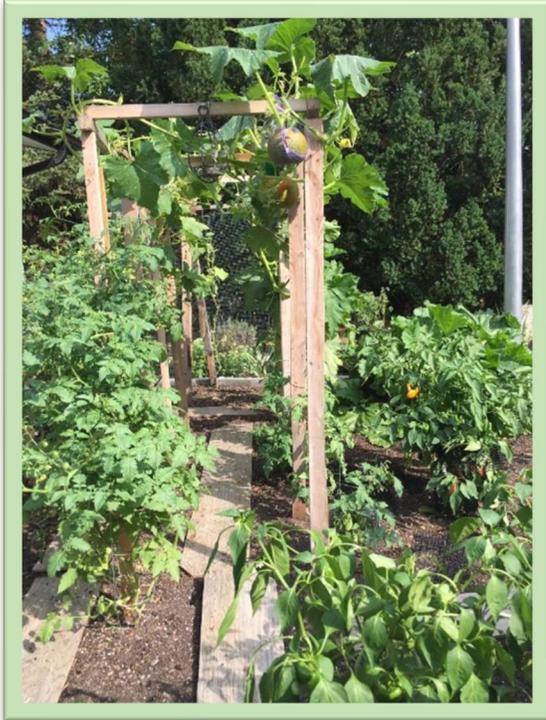
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Franca Summer Garden Projects



My husband put together this arbor for my pie pumpkins.

It created more space and pumpkins were not eaten by raccoons when they were tiny, as I experienced last year



I also used extra-large tomato cages to grow my green and yellow zucchini, when the leaves are small you need to guide them up into the cage. it uses less space and makes it easy to access the zucchini.





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This is my favourite picture; a toad in the middle of my oregano.

Like frogs, toads are amphibians. They differ from most frogs because they have dry skin, warts, crests behind the eyes, and parotoid glands that produce a poisonous secretion that helps the toad defend itself from predators.

This substance, called a bufotoxin, can cause death in small animals and allergic reactions in humans. Toads have other ways to avoid being eaten too. If they're brown or green in color, they can blend into their surroundings and escape detection.

<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Amphibians/Toads>

✍ Franca Ambrozic

My Blind Spot

There is a certain **spot** on the retina that does not have any receptor cells (this is the place where the optic nerve leaves the eye), and, as a result, can't receive information.

I think we have more than one blind spot, multiple times something is in front of or close to us, but we don't see it. Also, research has shown that we have a "mental blind spot" that can cause bias in our judgement. But, most importantly, a blind spot may mean that we keep looking for things that are close (like beauty, joy, peace, happiness) or closer than we think, we just have to look at them from a different angle.

For instance, this Sunday my husband and I went to walk to Rotary Park as usual. However, this time I noticed people who came from another "park" is what I thought. Curious, I followed the people ending at a trail. It was beautiful, quiet and well maintained: after walking about one hour we arrived at **River Grove Community centre**.



I was happy and surprised by this multi-use trail that offers a beautiful view of Mississauga's nature. "The curving path is in a good spot where you're in the city but don't feel like it.

Most of the trail is paved but there are some gravel sections. It's a great way to get in some cardio, as there are some uphill spots to conquer. You also feel a sense of tranquility as you stroll by the river on this path". It is a 2.2 mile (5,000-step) route that has an elevation gain of about 196.8 ft and is rated as easy. Good for jogging, biking, walking and practicing yoga.



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My second example of beauty that is closer than you think is Rouge National Urban Park; located in the Greater Toronto is the only National Urban Park. The original Rouge park was established in 1995 by the province of Ontario in partnership with Toronto, Markham and Pickering covering about 40 square kilometres.

By 2011 Parks Canada committed to create a national urban park. In May 2015 the Rouge National Urban Park Act established the Park's lands, management and maintenance.

Today, is the largest Urban protected area in North America with 79,1 square kilometres, is open with free admission to visitors 365 days per year, though there are camping fees. There are currently over 12 kilometres of rustic hiking trails in the Toronto and Markham areas of the park. In Toronto, the park is accessible by public transportation by the TTC and GO Transit.

It is a great place to get away from the busy city and hike, run, and walk. Rouge National Urban Park's hiking trails travel through a variety of landscapes, including meadows, forests, wetlands, and farmland. Enjoy views of the Rouge and Little Rouge rivers, wander through mature forests, stroll past active farm fields and explore the rich history of the area. You won't believe you're still in the city! With hand-curated trail maps and driving directions as well as detailed reviews and photos from hikers, campers, and nature lovers like you.

Rouge National Urban Park is home to amazing biodiversity, some of the last remaining working farms in the Greater Toronto Area, Carolinian ecosystems, Toronto's only campground, one of the region's largest marshes, a beach at Lake Ontario, amazing hiking opportunities, and human history dating back over 10,000 years, including some of Canada's oldest known Indigenous sites.

Its landscape is made of wetlands and farmlands and housing a varied wildlife including deers and many small mammals. This Park is a great place to go bird watching—225 bird species have been observed here! Different species can be found in the park's varied habitats, which include shoreline, forests, meadows, farmland and wetlands.



Some birds spend their summers in the park or migrate through during the spring and fall, while others are year-round residents. Make sure to return during different times and seasons to see what new species you might encounter.

Barn swallows. © John Stager / Parks Canada



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<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/R-8.55/page-1.html>; <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/rouge/activ/photo>; <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/rouge/activ/randonnee-hiking/woodland>

Flowers at The Park

Water lily



Black eyed Susan



Canada Goldenrod



 **Nury Garzon**

Save the date!



This year National Tree Day is on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. While in years past this was a time to come together and celebrate with community planting events, our current situation with COVID-19 makes this year very different. That doesn't mean we can't celebrate together though, while staying apart!

<https://treecanada.ca/engagement-research/national-tree-day>



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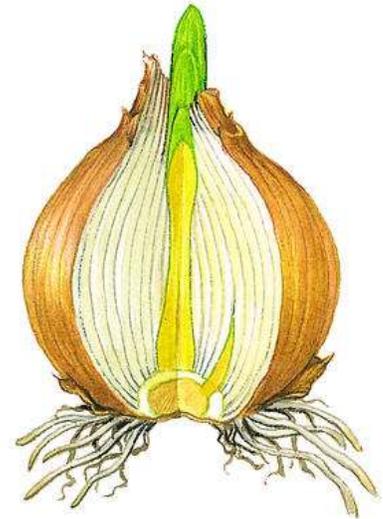
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How to-Planting Bulbs

Some background information about bulbs; a bulb whether a flower or an onion is a complete plant waiting to grow. The leaves, flower bud and roots are all there. You can see the various parts in these pictures. The bulb on the left is an onion, the bulb on the right is a daffodil.



All spring blooming bulbs that are planted in Ontario require a cold period, that is why they are planted in the fall. After the flowers are finished, the leaves continue photosynthesis and provide the food the bulb needs to regenerate and build up next years plant. The size of next years bulb and quantity and size of next years plant and flowers depends on how much food can be made and stored by the plant. Bigger bulbs will give you a better floral display next year.



A question often asked is when can I cut down the leaves; the answer is not until they have turned brown and separate easily when you try to pull them off. And no you shouldn't tie the leaves together to make them tidy.

Why; because if you remove the leaves you remove the opportunity for the bulb to regrow for the next year and you may get just leaves and no flowers, if you do this a second time chances are there will be no growth the following spring. You should cut the flowerheads after they die back.

When to plant bulbs; bulbs can be planted at any time before the ground freezes but it is better to plant them while the ground is still warm, late September to Thanksgiving is ideal. This also means that you aren't planting when the weather can be cold and miserable. If you need to wait until later to plant, store the bulbs in a cool dry location. If you absolutely have to wait until a garden area is available late November planting is possible but not later.

As temperatures drop, bulbs absorb moisture from the soil, and start to grow they grow roots first which absorb nutrients and more water. Then it starts producing a new shoot. This shoot grows until it is just below the surface of the soil and then it stops growing and waits for spring, this is why if the snow melts in mid-winter you may see new shoots growing just above the ground level.



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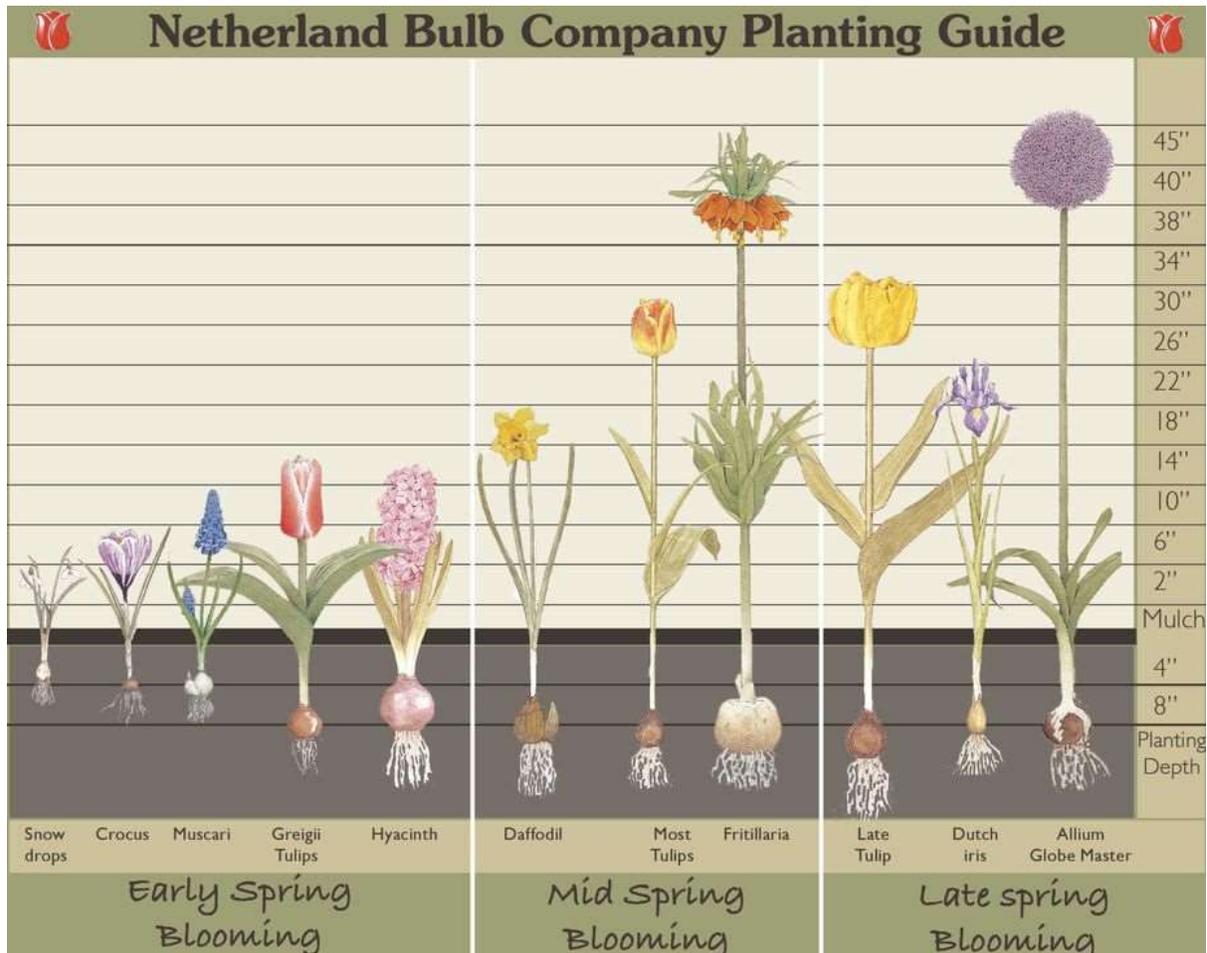
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All bulbs have instructions about how deep to plant and how far apart to plant. A good rule of thumb is to plant at 2.5 times the height of the bulb. If the bulb is 2 inches high, plant it 5 inches deep. The depth is to the bottom of the bulb, or the depth of the hole. Not the depth above the top of the bulb.

You can dig individual holes for each bulb, but realistically it is much easier and faster to dig one hole and spread the bulbs out at the appropriate distance apart. Bulbs look better planted in groups instead of straight lines.

Use some sort of marker to show where you have planted your bulbs, in the spring you will know what is growing but more importantly it shows you where the bulbs are when they are not visible meaning you don't dig them up when moving other plants, or planting more bulbs next fall. You can also take pictures of them and the plants next to them as a reference for future planting.



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Don't add compost to the bottom of the hole, it can absorb too much moisture and cause the bulbs to rot. If the soil needs amending improve the planting area before digging any holes. Some people like to add bonemeal or other supplements to the planting area, there is no significant evidence that supplements are needed.

And plant them right side up, how do I know which is the top or the bottom, most bulbs have a pointy top and a flat bottom, you may also see dried roots on the bottom of the bulb. If in doubt and there are a few bulbs that are pretty shapeless, the leaves will grow up and roots down because the plant tissue can sense gravity, so don't worry.

Anemone blanda is a special case, the bulbs look like dried up cat poop, with no obvious top or bottom, they should be soaked for 12-24 before planting and will grow no matter which way up they are.

Some common complaints: my tulips don't rebloom the next year; the most common cause is too much moisture in the summer, tulips originated in Turkey and Afghanistan where they have cold winters, excellent drainage and hot, dry summers, they like to be dry in the summer. So, don't plant them among other plants that require lots of water in the summer.

Another reason is that many new and fancy varieties are bred to have spectacular flowers, they aren't bred for longevity, buy varieties that have been sold for several years, people don't rebuy the varieties that don't come back, it is far too time consuming and costly to replant new bulbs every year.

Some new daffodil varieties don't perennialize but most are far more likely to stick around for several years.

If you want to know how to plant several bulb varieties in one space; it's quite easy, just Google planting bulbs in layers.

Fall Bulb Sale

We have ordered a selection of bulbs that will be available for SHS members to buy, delivery will be late September, please contact me about the varieties available if you have not already done so. Bulbs can be picked up at my house or dropped off at your house.

☞ Monica

SHS Facebook

I will be making some changes to our Facebook page, primarily because there have been some quite inappropriate posts made or shared. I believe that our page should be for discussion of horticultural topics, sharing of garden and nature related photos, ideas, and other topics of interest to Streetsville Hort members such as virtual garden tours; please share your garden with our members.

If you are not yet a friend on our Facebook page, please join us.

☞ Monica



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Photo Contest

For the obvious reason many of us have not been able to get out and take photos this year, therefore we will be continuing the same contest categories for the 2020-2021 year.

- Class 1 "How beautiful the leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days." John Burroughs
- Class 2 "A shadow on the snow" -Charles Tomlinson
- Class 3 "Fungi are the grand recyclers of the planet-" Paul Stamets
- Class 4 "A host of golden daffodils, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze. - William Wordsworth
- Class 5 "What a lovely thing a rose is!" Arthur Conan Doyle
- Class 6 "Close to you"-The Carpenters, leaf or leaves close up
- Class 7 "Ripe vegetables were magic to me"-Michael Pollan
- Class 8 "They call me Mellow Yellow"-Donovan



Native corner: Spotted Jewelweed – *Impatiens Capensis*

As I reflect back on these last surreal months, I'm glad I had at least one constant in my life – mother nature. I can always seem to rely on her to surprise me, to humble me, and often to show me what I need to see. Most of us have had some extra time on our hands lately to devote to our gardens and to getting out into nature – I know my community garden plot sure has enjoyed the extra time I've had to tend to it!

This month's choice for native plant of the month is this little treasure of the forest, which is in bloom presently - Spotted Jewelweed. Found throughout the continental US and southern Canada, it is often called Spotted Touch-Me-Not or Horn of Plenty. It is common and widespread in moist, shady woodlands, margins of bogs and marshes, and along streams and lakes.



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This delicate plant became known as jewelweed because tiny jewel-like beads form on the surface of the waterproof leaves with rainfall or dew, giving the plant quite a glittery appearance. I can personally attest that when the sun's rays are refracted into every hue of the spectrum, it provides a sight that's a match for any array of costly jewels. "Touch-me-not" is descriptive of what happens when one touches the dried-out seed pods – they explode, shockingly spraying seed everywhere – quite an efficient seed dispersal method if you ask me (one who has had many a seed pod detonate on her).

Jewelweed grows up to 5 feet, with succulent, translucent, hollow stems bearing opposite leaves on the lower branches and alternate leaves on the upper shoots. The leaves are oval with rounded teeth and the orange-yellow flowers are 1 inch long or less, trumpet shaped, with red, dark orange, or brown spots. They bloom from midsummer to early fall, before giving way to seed capsules less than 1" long which dry out and disperse their seeds when they explode.

For sufferers of poison ivy, the anti-inflammatory and fungicidal compounds in its juice soothe the rash. Conveniently, the plant actually grows in places near poison ivy (except for dry, sandy areas), so help for that type of rash is often close by. Native Americans have said that the Great Spirit was kind enough to put the remedy next to the poison. Mother Nature continues to amaze. Poison ivy rash isn't the only type of rash that this plant is able to help with, however. The juice soothes all kinds of irritations, from nettle stings to athlete's foot. Native peoples made infusions of the whole plant, which they drank to cure a cold or made into a liniment for aches, bruises and sprains. They also obtained a yellow dye from the juice.

Early outdoorsman Euell Gibbons, wrote that jewelweed sprouts in cream sauce on toast, were every bit as good as asparagus, although the flavour is quite different. The seeds also apparently have a flavour similar to walnuts. I have yet to ingest this plant, so I cannot attest to the flavour!

Apart from all these virtues for humans, Jewelweed is a major attraction for hummingbirds (and pollinators in general). There was once a report at Point Pelée about hundreds of hummingbirds hovering over the patches of jewelweed creating a "low hum that arose from the vibrations of many little wings." That would certainly have been a sight to behold.

Propagating Jewelweed is fairly simple – scatter the seeds over the surface of the soil. They need light to germinate, so don't bury the seeds or cover them with soil. Choose a location in full or partial shade with rich, organic soil that stays wet or moist. Seeds will need to be cold stratified before being scattered or simply scattered in the fall, as would happen in nature

As always, never dig up plants from the wild, and don't buy it from nurseries that do.

Heather Marchment