



# Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*

Volume 28, Issue 8

[www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)

April 2021

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## Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 13th

Zoom Virtual Meeting

**“Vegetable Gardening by Julia Dimakos”**

Meeting starts 7:30pm

## Co-President's Message

Last Fall, as I was cleaning up my garden, my potted Mandevilla looked so healthy I hated to toss it.

I decided to bring it in for the winter. I am so glad I did, it dropped about 4 leaves over the whole winter, sent many, many shoots up the window behind my sheers and rewarded me with a beautiful single bloom in March. What a welcome spring sign.

I look out my window now and see it is really Spring. The tulips, daffodils, hyacinth, crocus, primula and vibrant blue scilla are all up in my garden now, so it must be!

Even though we are not able to meet in person we are busy planning and revamping some areas of the Society. Maureen and Shelley are updating our Facebook page from a “personal” account to a “group” account, where members will be able to post pictures of what’s happening in their gardens, ask questions, share information etc.

Maureen is also updating our Website where you can find newsletters, gardening information, photo contest information, Flower Show tips and rules etc. If you’ve never been on the site, check it out...

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Unfortunately, since Covid just keeps going, we will be unable to hold our Plant Sale this spring. As you know, our Plant Sale is our largest fund raiser, but thankfully our bank account is in good shape so we can forego this event with little difficulty. Depending on restrictions we may try to hold a plant exchange where members only could bring a plant(s) and exchange it for another one(s). It may be possible to hold a Plant Sale in September. Of course, this all depends on Covid.

We will be holding a **“Clean Up at the Leslie Log House”** on Saturday April 24th. Volunteers will be needed to show up with suitable clothing, boots (depending on weather conditions), gloves and lots of enthusiasm to pick up





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the litter on the property. It is amazing how much debris is laying around the property. Monica and I picked up a full green garbage bag of junk just around the perimeter of the parking lot one afternoon.

We will soon start planning for our 50th Anniversary in 2022 and would appreciate ideas, suggestions for events etc. to make it a great celebration. All suggestions are welcome and if you have one you can send it to Carol at [bashfo2586@rogers.com](mailto:bashfo2586@rogers.com) and/or Monica at [thegardenlady@bell.net](mailto:thegardenlady@bell.net).

Stay well, get your vaccine and enjoy the Spring weather.

**“Finding volunteers is like finding buried treasure.”**

✂ Carol Ashford and Monica Ross, Co-presidents SHS

## From the Membership Desk

We welcomed back two former members this month (Bob & Renate) bringing our membership total to 80. Hopefully with spring in the air other members will renew.

✂ Shelley Dodd, Membership Chair

## Rotary park

We are planning to hold the Spring cleanup at Rotary park on **Thursday 22nd April**, which happens to be EARTH DAY! And this allows us to participate in the Great Global cleanup 2021 event which may bring us some helpers from outside our Horticultural Society. Hope to see you, I'll be there from 9.30 am.

***Small actions can also build to create larger change that can span across cities, states and countries!***

✂ Jon Eldridge

## Speaker of the Month: Vegetable Gardening by Julia Dimakos

Julia started growing food after having children and fell in love with it! She gardens organically and tries to keep things simple, while growing new and uncommon vegetables each year. Her garden is located in Mono, Ontario on 25 acres, on the Niagara Escarpment. Two years ago, her vegetable garden was expanded from 2000 to 7000 square feet, continuing in the formal kitchen garden style.

Julia has been growing vegetables and writing about gardening for 10 years and has been twice published in the Canadian Organic Grower magazine. She loves to inspire others to have their own gardens by showing them how easy gardening can be. She enjoys teaching others, answering questions and holding workshops. You can find her at her blog at [www.juliadimakos.com](http://www.juliadimakos.com), at her Facebook page, Julia Dimakos, Gardening Girl, on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/gardeninggirl](http://www.youtube.com/gardeninggirl) and Instagram @juliadimakos.

Julia is Past-President of the Orangeville & District Horticultural Society and is on the board of the OHA District 7.

✂ Janet Shaw



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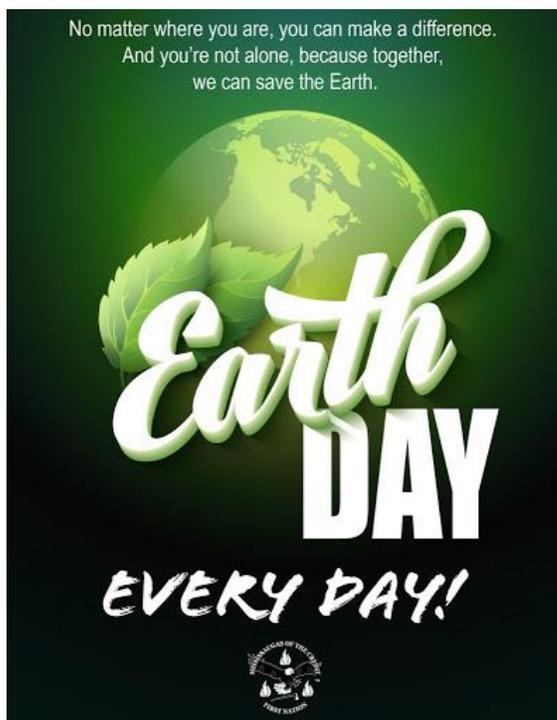
## Things to remember.

The 2020-2021 Photo Contest categories were carried over from 2019-2020

- 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

May Newsletter contributions should be submitted to Nury Garzon by April 20th.

## EARTH DAY 2021



Every April 22, we celebrate Earth Day! This year's theme is **"Restore Our Earth."**

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, when San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration.

Most years, Earth Day events range from river cleanups to removals of invasive plants. With social distancing still in place for many of us this April, Earth Day has gone digital. Virtual events, such as environmental lectures and films, will take place on Earth Day (Thursday, April 22). To see a catalog of official events, visit [earthday.org](http://earthday.org).

Of course, social distancing doesn't mean that you can't go outside and enjoy nature, as long as you do so responsibly! Nature is not canceled!

Caring for nature, plants, and the land is integral to our own health and that individual responsibility lies with each of us!



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Whether it's a healing walk through the woods, picking up litter (while walking!), or buying more Earth-friendly products, here are some ideas:

## **1. SUPPORT OUR POLLINATORS!**

## **2. CLEAN UP PLASTIC IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR LOCAL PARK**

Go on a walk with a trash bag and help to clean up any plastic that you find. Perhaps you know of a nearby ditch that is polluted with trash that needs a spring cleaning! You'll start to realize that plastic permeates every aspect of our lives. But as the world wakes up to its addiction, just see how easy is it to ditch plastic while growing and storing more of our own food? Don't forget to recycle what plastic you can.

## **4. PLANT A TREE!**

Did you know that planting one oak tree brings in more insect and bird species than an entire yard of plants? Another way to make a difference is to ditch printed seed or plant catalogs. When you receive an unwanted catalog in the mail (especially those huge ones!), contact the company and ask to be removed from their print list.

## **5. USE WILDFLOWERS AND NATIVE PLANTS**

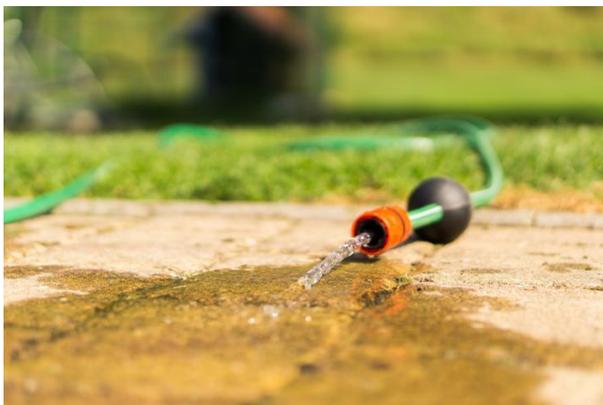
## **6. REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE IN THE GARDEN**

Buy in bulk when you know that you'll need a lot of topsoil, mulch, compost, or other materials. This cuts down on plastic bags. Most garden centers will deliver right to your yard. Also check with the Region of Peel Waste Management they offer compost and rain barrels for sale. Reuse, recycle, or return old plastic pots and trays or use biodegradable pots.

## **7. STOP PESTICIDES AND CHEMICALS IN THE GARDEN**

Simply focusing less on the plant and more on the health of the soil that supports the plant. If it's nutrient-rich with organic matter, plants thrive. You don't need chemicals to get rid of pesky garden pests: Companion planting, natural remedies, and attracting predators to your garden can save you money and also save your plants. Some bugs are good for the garden!

## **8. CONSERVE WATER!**



We waste a lot of water. Avoid overwatering your plants and improve their health by knowing how much your garden really needs. Avoid watering your garden vegetables and plants from overhead, which invites fungal disease. Water at the soil level. For gardens, flower beds, trees, and other non lawn areas, consider installing a drip irrigation system or hose with irrigation holes that puts the water right into the soil, where you want it. If you must use sprinklers, put them on timers or harvest your rainwater from a roof, gutters, and sky with a rain barrel.

## **9. THINK ABOUT YOUR DIET!**

About one-third of the food that we produce every year goes to waste annually!



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How do we avoid waste in our own lives (and save money)? How can we improve our diet so that it's healthier for ourselves (and the planet)? One way is to care about your "foodprint," which is the result of everything that it takes to get your food from the farm to your plate.

## 10. GET KIDS INVOLVED!



Children who grow vegetables, eat vegetables.

*Credit: Rawpixel.com*

<https://www.almanac.com/>

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

<http://mncfn.ca/mother-earth-online-camp/>

## My Phalaenopsis Orchid

Phalaenopsis are also known as the Moth Orchid. This beautiful type of orchid is often seen in hotels, offices, spas, restaurants, and similar locations.

They need medium to bright light but no direct sunlight.

During the daytime, they do best in 68–85-degree weather

They can handle a little bit colder at night, but the temperature needs to remain steady while in bloom. Colder/drafty areas can cause these flower buds to fall off.

Water them once a week and don't leave them left to stand in water (2 ice cubes a week is working for me)

I did NOT fertilize!

This beautiful Phalaenopsis Orchid was given to me by my son on Mother's Day last year. By giving it the above-mentioned care, I have managed to bring it back into bloom.



 Grace Nelham



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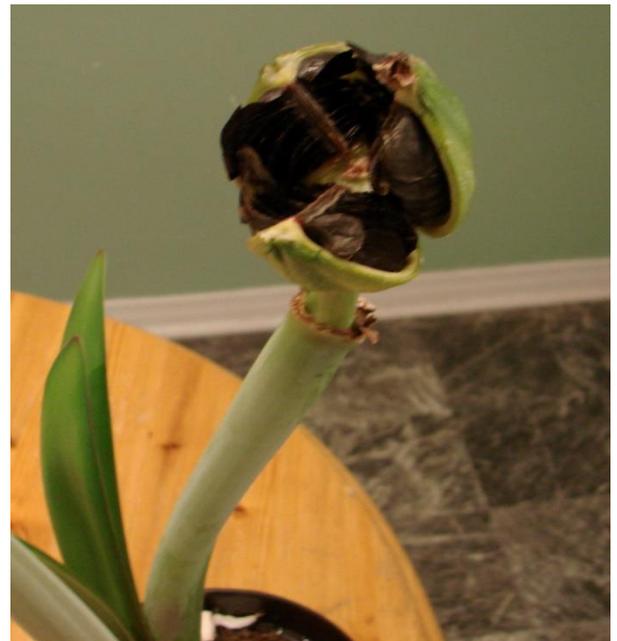
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## Amaryllis Surprises

I have had amaryllis blooming in my kitchen since January. Some are bulbs that flowered last year. One bulb I bought on clearance at Metro in January of this year.



It had very unsatisfactory flowers that didn't open completely and the stem was very short. In the picture to the left you can see a big bulge at the top of the flower stalk. It grew after I removed the dead flower. The bulge turned into a seed pod. Apparently, amaryllis are self fertile, somehow the pollen must have been transferred onto the pistil.



The seed pod is three lobed and the seeds are flat and papery. I looked up how to grow amaryllis from seed and it will take 2-3 years before they could flower. I am going to try it and will let everyone know if they germinate.

✂ Monica Ross





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## Native Corner: Black Cherry – Prunus

Of the several North American cherry species, black cherry is the largest (none of the others rank as forest trees) and is one of our most common wild fruit trees. It is distinctive in any season, highly adaptable to almost any dry or mesic forest habitat, and one of the most valuable trees to wildlife and people.

As a young, fast growing tree (up to 100 ft. tall), it thrives in full sunlight, but it is also shade tolerant and therefore common in the understory of many forest communities. As it ages and its crown rises into the canopy, it becomes more shade intolerant. A long taproot anchors the young cherry, then gives way to a spreading lateral root system, making older trees quite vulnerable to lots of wind. Fire, cutting, or browsing stimulates new growth from root collars and stumps. The bark of the mature tree is very dark and breaks into many upturned plates (“cornflakes”). The leaves are glossy green, lance-shaped with fine teeth, and are 2-5” long.

Like trembling aspen (but much less finicky in its habitat requirements), black cherry is opportunistic, colonizing openings and edges, but it lives much longer (150 to 200 years). Black cherry is extremely cold hardy and can even colonize deep woodland “frost pockets” where other trees cannot survive.



The masses of white flowers, appearing in drooping clusters when the leaves are new, are bisexual and insect pollinated. The purple-black ripe cherries, about the size of a pea, each contain a pit and hang in clusters like the flowers. Seeds, abundant at intervals of three to four years, remain viable for two years after falling.

Twigs and leaves contain high levels of hydrocyanic or prussic acid (2470 parts per million in young leaves, decreasing to 450 ppm during the first six weeks), so the foliage is toxic to livestock and humans. When looking at the foliage, note the tiny double glands on the leaf stocks, characteristic to all cherry species. They secrete nectar, resulting in an important coaction with ants.

Seldom found in pure stands, black cherry mixes with typical deciduous forest trees including Oaks, Elms, Maples, White Ash, and American Basswood.

Although man and cows are poisoned by foliage, in the spring and summer, a host of mites and insects find it delectable. Insect feeders are mainly the larval forms of various gnats and lepidopterans.

Tiny mites cause formation of wild cherry pouch galls, masses of green or red finger-like protrusions on the upper side of leaves. Bunchy galls on twig tips, bright red in spring, are produced by the cherry bud gall gnat.



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Black cherry is a primary food plant for more than 200 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars. The Red Spotted Purple is one of the many adult butterflies and their caterpillars found on black cherry. Its spiny, humped caterpillars consume leaves from the from the outer sides, leaving the midrib. The Coral Hairstreak, a bright green caterpillar with rose colouration at both ends, is often found on young trees (look for ant activity at stem bases, where these caterpillars rest just beneath ground surface in daytime, attended by the ants). The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail caterpillars (green, humped with a purple eyespot on each side of the thorax) fold sheltering leaf edges over themselves by means of silken threads, often high in the tree.

Some of the most conspicuous moth caterpillars enjoying the black cherry include several species of sphinx moth - large green caterpillars with rearing, sphinx-like postures and projecting rear horns. Skeletonized leaves may be signs of the Cherry Casebearer. These tiny moth caterpillars construct black, pistol-shaped cases of silk and excrement in which they live as they move about the plant.

The Eastern Tent Caterpillar forms grayish, webbed tents in forks or crotches of the tree. These gregarious, hairy, brownish caterpillars often defoliate entire trees in outbreaks that cyclically occur for two or three years in succession at about 10 year intervals. The outbreaks subside when egg parasites radically diminish the population. Birds such as cuckoos and northern Orioles consume the caterpillars. On trees located near ant nests, a competitive interaction sometimes occurs; the ants, attracted to the leaf stock nectaries, attack any caterpillars they encounter on the tree.

Another cyclical leaf feeder is the cherry leaf beetle, a small red beetle whose brownish, spotted larva may suddenly appear in large numbers and not be seen again for several years.

A "shot-hole" pattern of perforated leaves may indicate presence of a sac fungus called Cherry Leaf Spot, the most common leaf disease of cherry.

With the ripening of fruits come numerous bird foragers. Some 70 bird species are known to feed on black cherries. Game birds such as Ruffed Grouse and Ring-necked Pheasant devour many fruits on the ground, while other birds, notably woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwings, Thrushes and Grosbeaks, consume them in the tree. Occasionally birds will become intoxicated on dead-ripe, slightly fermented cherries. A bird with glazed eyes and uncertain balance in or near a late season fruiting tree, may have had a few too many! Cherry pits are dispersed by birds in their droppings and by regurgitation of pits after marathon eating sessions. A birds digestive process improves the seeds germinating capacity.

Mammals also relish the fruit and disperse seeds. Black bears, red foxes, eastern chipmunks, cotton tail rabbits, white footed mice, and red, grey, and fox squirrels frequently forage on fallen cherries. Bears and raccoons, among others climb trees for the fruits, sometimes leaving broken branches and torn bark. And the high cyanide twigs and foliage do not deter the browsing of white tailed deer and moose. Voles are common winter feeders on the bark at snow level.

On twigs, insect signs are often abundant even in winter. Dead, rolled leaves fastened to twigs with silk may shelter hibernating caterpillars of the Red Spotted Purple butterfly. A large, bag-like cocoon attached lengthwise to



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a twig is probably that of a Cecropia Moth. Portable cases of the Cherry Casebearer also remain attached to twigs over winter. Shiny, brown varnished bands of insect eggs encircling twigs near their ends are the wintering egg masses of the Eastern Tent Caterpillar.

Probably the most common and conspicuous fungus seen on cherries is black knot, a black, warty, parasitic growth on twigs and small branches. Black knot may infest a tree only spottily or may litter the entire crown with tumor like masses, which kill branches and eventually the entire tree. Trees infested with this sac fungus are most easily seen in winter when the leaves are gone. A number of small insects, among them the Dogwood Borer, have adapted to living and breeding in these growths.

For fine furniture, cabinets, interior paneling, and veneer, black cherry wood is considered second only to black walnut. Hard but easily worked, it holds up under shock and pressure, making it valuable for such uses as tool handles, gunstocks, printers' blocks and backing. The wood's reddish-brown colour deepens with age.

Cherry bark has been used in the manufacture of prussic acid cough medicines. The smell and taste of broken twigs have the distinctive bitter almond flavor of this acid, the ingredient that makes the tree toxic.

Native Americans consumed the black cherry as a fresh fruit, sometimes using it in breads and cakes. The fruits were also often dried and were an essential ingredient in pemmican. The dried cherries were even ground up and used to make soup by the Ojibwa tribe. The Chippewa used the twigs to make a beverage, while the Potawatomi mainly used the fruit for alcoholic spirits. Medicinally, the dried inner bark was commonly used to make a tea or infusion that treated a variety of symptoms, including colds, fevers, diarrhea, labour pains, and general pain, due to its tranquilizing and sedative qualities. The root was also used for things such as intestinal worms, burns, cold sores, and other dermatological symptoms. The fruit was used to make cough syrups and many early settlers continued to follow this practice.

Fruits, slightly bitter even when ripe, aren't very palatable to humans, but with a little sugar they transform into excellent jelly. Used for flavoring rum (hence the alternative name Rum Cherry) and brandy, they also appear in the guise of a liqueur known as Cherry Bounce.

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

## **A gardener's guide to invasive plant management through the seasons"**

**From: Canadian wildlife Federation Mar 25, 2021 Webinar**

Gardens contribute to our mental and physical well-being, as well as the ecological health of our communities. If left unchecked, invasive plants can diminish these benefits. Species to be addressed include Dog-Strangling Vine, Garlic Mustard, Japanese Knotweed, Common Buckthorn and three invasive groundcovers.

A number of invasive, and potentially invasive, plant species were introduced to Canada as garden plants. Japanese knotweed, autumn olive, English holly, Tatarian honeysuckle, glossy and common buckthorn, dames rocket, Scotch



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broom, and Norway maple are just some of the once-popular ornamental plants which over-extended their welcome.



Dog-Strangling Vine



Garlic Mustard



Japanese Knotweed

Of the approximately 4,200 plant species in Canada, almost one third are exotics (originating from other areas of the world). While many of these do not cause major problems, those considered "invasive" are becoming an alarming concern and a serious threat to natural habitats in Canada. These aliens directly threaten a number of our endangered species by bullying them out of house and home. Invasives are able to out-compete native species for food, light, and space. While some may argue, "let the best plant win", ignoring the problem diminishes our environment.

Most ecosystems are made up of a great diversity of plants. If an alien plant takes over a natural area, many native plants will disappear. This one aggressor then dominates the ecosystem. As the variety of plant life diminishes, so does the diversity of food available to wildlife. Many wildlife species, which evolved in connection with native vegetation, will also disappear.

Invasive plants share some common characteristics. Generally, they are adaptable to a variety of soil and climate conditions, produce abundant, easily dispersed, and long-lasting seeds, and have effective defences to ward off potential predators. In addition, they have a decided advantage over native plants since their natural predators did not follow them from their homelands. The absence of the insects or diseases that would normally keep them under control allows them to reproduce without restraint in their new homes.

## CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS

There are a number of options for the control of invasive plants:



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- Physical removal. This time-consuming and labour-intensive option is effective in the removal of small infestations but care must be taken to ensure all seeds and rootstocks are removed. If done early enough, physical removal can prevent an invasive alien from becoming established.
- Controlled burning. An option for trained professionals only, this method requires extreme care.
- Use of herbicides. Chemical herbicides have obvious drawbacks and therefore the decision to use them in the fight against invasive non-native plants must be a question of balancing two evils. It should be part of a greater effort that includes re-establishing the natural balance of the area to prevent reoccurrence.
- Biological control. This method introduces species that naturally feed on invasive plants to infested areas. Its great potential must be balanced against the extreme risk of introducing new organisms into natural ecosystems. If not screened carefully, the new species can create greater problems than their intended targets.
- Preventing plants from invading new areas avoids the incredible cost of controlling them once they become established. If a plant has become invasive in one area we must learn from this experience. We also need to be very aware of the potential of any exotic plant to overstep its welcome.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Avoid the use of aggressive spreaders that are not native to your area.
- Favour native plants in your garden.
- Check with environmental or horticulture groups in your community for lists of locally invasive or potentially invasive plants.
- Check out the Invasive Plants of Canada Project website at <http://infoweb.magi.com/~ehaber/ipcan.html>
- Start a community project to combat local infestations of invasive species.

<https://www.mississauga.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/18112420/Invasive-Species-Management-Plan.pdf>

## GROW ME INSTEAD GUIDE

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Southern-Grow-Me-Instead-1.pdf>

This practical and easy-to-use guide is part of that thoughtful approach. It informs gardeners about the invasive tendencies of common garden plants and suggests appropriate non-invasive alternatives. In addition, it provides tips for ecologically-sound gardening and a list of related resources. Examples of the invasive species and alternatives from the guide:



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## INVASIVE: ENGLISH IVY

Native to Europe, western Asia and northern Africa. It has been developed into hundreds of varieties and can now be found in gardens throughout North America. Although technically a vine, this evergreen perennial is commonly used as a groundcover in dense shade. Whether in shade or sun, English ivy will persist and spread vegetatively through its long vines that root at the nodes in almost any soil type. Despite its pervasiveness in gardens and nearby natural areas, not a single North American animal uses

English ivy for food. Indeed, this is one of the causes of its invasive nature, the other being its considerable adaptability.

## ALTERNATIVE: Wild Strawberry

Garden use: groundcover for sunny gardens Growing conditions: sun; sand, loam or clay; dry to average soil

Size and shape: low-growing and spreading; 15 cm tall Flower and fruit: small white flowers in late-spring; small edible red berries early-summer Leaves: three-lobed and toothed Additional info: spreads by runners and forms colonies



## INVASIVE: DAYLILY



It is a perennial flowering plant introduced from Asia in the early 19th century. This popular garden plant was admired due to its beauty, hardiness, ability to spread and showy blooms. It is commonly found having escaped cultivation in urban environments, along roadsides, and encroaching into open meadows, woodland edges, and riparian (shoreline) areas. Daylilies are tolerant of a variety of conditions, from full sun to partial shade, in dry to moist environments. These plants spread via seed and a network of tuberous roots, and can reproduce and proliferate from a small fragment left behind during removal.



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## ALTERNATIVE: Michigan Lily (*Lilium michiganense*)

Garden use: native plant garden; prairie and meadow gardens

Growing conditions: partial shade to full sun; moist soils (will tolerate a range of conditions)

Size and shape: 50 – 100 cm tall; can produce dense stands with cultivation Flower and fruit: several flowers from one flower stalk; 6 deep red-orange tepals, spotted in brown, curve backwards deeply Leaves: blade-like and tapered (15 cm, becoming smaller as they ascend the stem); whorled around the round stem in groups of 5 to 9

Additional info: great attractant for swallowtail butterflies and ruby-throated hummingbirds



## INVASIVE: MULTIFLORA ROSE



Usually formed as a fountain-shaped shrub, or as a scrambling shrub climbing over other plants to a height of 3 – 5 m. Originally from Japan it was introduced to North America as a soil conservation measure due to its adaptability to different soil conditions, salt tolerance, and ease of transplanting. Multiflora rose is distinguished from native North American roses by its fragrant white flowers that are arranged in clusters of more than ten flowers, whereas native roses rarely exceed three per cluster. Multiflora rose is spread by birds and is a prolific seed producer. It can re-sprout roots from stems that come in contact with soil. It readily invades open areas and forms dense thickets, replacing native vegetation.

## ALTERNATIVE: Wild Roses (*Rosa carolina*, *R. virginiana*)

Garden use: specimen planting; edible ornamental

Growing conditions: sun to partial shade; wide moisture and soil tolerance Size and shape: 30 – 150 cm tall shrub Flower and fruit: showy cream to pink flowers in spring and early summer; orange to red “rose hips” Leaves: medium green leaves growing from small-thorned branches

Additional info: edible rosehips commonly used to make tea





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Toronto and Region conservation authority: Planning Your Community Garden Plot/

Sat, Apr 24, 2021 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM EDT

Toronto and Region conservation authority: Composting at home.

Wed, Apr 21, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EDT

## Royal Botanical Gardens at Home Virtual Learning Live

### April sessions now available for registration!

Gather the family to join us Tuesday afternoons for a live 30 minute session with our interpreters, learning about and connecting to the natural world around us. Whether it's learning how animals stay warm in winter, how seeds travel from place to place, or creating natural art outdoors, your family will have the opportunity to ask questions live with our nature experts in this interactive learning experience – free to all with natural curiosity.

Upcoming Topics:

April 6 - Fantastic Frogs

April 20 - Owls are a Hoot

