



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 25, Issue 6

February 2018



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NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2018

Streetsville United Church

274 Queen Street South

Doors open 7 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

The President's Message

It's now halfway through winter and we certainly have had some traditional Canadian winter weather. The idea of spring and the approaching end of winter is very welcome, I have had enough already. One of my English cousins says spring bulbs are up in her garden, and one of my Australian cousins is complaining about the heat, she lives just outside Sydney; it was 47 C in mid-January. Here at home a sign of spring is the promotion of upcoming gardening happenings. If you're suffering from cabin fever check out some of these events.

Canada Blooms runs from March 9 to the 18 at the Enercare Centre at Exhibition Place.

The Milton and District Horticultural Society host their annual seed exchange and garden market in partnership with Landscape Ontario on Saturday, February 24, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Landscape Ontario, 7856 Fifth Line South, Milton, ON L9T 2X8. Speaker presentations happen throughout the day on various horticultural topics. There will be exhibitors and vendors to excite the gardener in you at the Garden Market, and best of all admission is FREE!

Terra Nurseries Winter Market is happening at the Milton Store on Saturdays until March 17 details are available at <https://www.terragreenhouses.com/terras-winter-market-2018-milton/>

Mississauga Seedy Saturday is Saturday February 24, 2018, from 9:30 to 3:30 at the Unitarian Congregation, 84 South Service Rd, Mississauga, ON.



Shake off the winter blahs and visit our exhibitor tables with dedicated community seed exchange centre, take in a gardening or environmentally-themed workshop, treat yourself at the Cozy Café, and place a bid on our silent auction items. Anyone can bring seeds to share with others at our community seed exchange centre, and anyone can take some home. Workshops include:

Credit Valley Conservation: Top Native Plants For Your Yard

Ecosource: Gardening For City Dwellers: Getting Creative With Urban Growing

Susan Elliotson, Medicinal Herbalist: Medicinal Weeds In Your Garden

USC Canada: Seed Saving Around The World

The Bee Shop: City Of Toronto Pollinator Protection Plan

Sierra Club of Peel: Let's Celebrate Our Local Rivers!

Hope Seeds: Seed Selection: Does Local And Organic Matter?

The Brampton Horticultural Society and the City of Brampton present their sixth Annual Seedy Saturday & Garden Show Saturday March 10, 2018 at Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden St E, Brampton.

Free admission, parking, share, swap and buy seeds; get gardening info from exhibits and presentations; Kids' zone - learn about seeds & plants.

Monica Ross, President

Speaker's Corner

Our guest speaker for Feb 2018 is Grace Lockwood, owner of Garden Graces Landscapes in Georgetown, ON. Many of us have small properties, and Grace's presentation will focus on visually appealing small garden design. Grace has gardened and designed in Dubai, South America, and Canada. She will show us how to combine plants with natural materials to create beautiful and functional small landscapes.



Phil Walker introducing Darren Heimbecker of Whistling Gardens in Norfolk county.

Phil Walker, Speaker Chair

From the Membership Desk

Where does time go? Just a few weeks ago we didn't know the ups from the downs, holiday preparations seemed to go on forever, and some "me time" seemed to be something that only a genie could grant if I twisted his arm. And here it is January ... 2018! And in case you are counting down to Spring... only 54 days to go!

A big welcome back to returning members **Maria Gattesco, Anna Leone and Renate Wust** ... so glad to see you!

Forty-three members enjoyed a video of Whistling Gardens in Wilsonville. I proudly own two peony bushes... I cannot imagine the beauty of owning 1000+ peony bushes. WOW!

Please remember to wear your name tag at all times while at our meeting ... it will make it much easier for us to get to know one another. Pick up your name tag when signing in at the desk, and return it at the end of the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at February's meeting! ✂

Vivianne Holmes, Membership Chair

From the Raffle Table

It was so nice to see such a large turnout at our last meeting and great participation at the raffle table! I know where all of us want to go for a visit this summer that's for sure! Arlene and I went to Whistling Gardens last June to see the peonies and irises and the display did not disappoint!

We did great on the table in January bringing \$76.00 and I thank you very much! I have

themed February's baskets to reflect the fact that Valentine's day is the very next day. Please bring your toonies and spend them at the raffle table!

Here is what you have to look forward to winning in February! See you then...

Cheers,



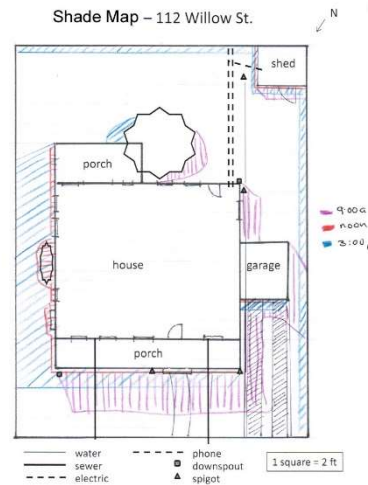


Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

Lug your mug!



Making a Garden Sunlight Map



Why is this a good idea? There are several reasons; if you have recently moved house knowing which areas of your new garden get more or less sunlight is important. How the amount of light varies over the course of a day and over the seasons will allow you to plant the right plant in the right place. If you have lived in the same house for several years, or as I have for 25 years, the amount of sunlight available now will be different from when you first moved in.

When we moved in, the potential garden was construction rubble and mud, the backyard faces south west and it was in full sun from about 11 a.m. till sunset. Now there are several trees that are large enough to create significant amounts of shade in some parts of the garden. Some of the original sun loving plants no longer get enough sun to thrive. When I realised how much shade there now is in one area it explained why my tree peony was no longer flowering. I didn't want to move it so we thinned the tree canopy. In some long established gardens the sudden death of or



removal of a tree may change the amount of sunlight drastically requiring a new planting plan.

You may find some surprises such as more sun or shade than you anticipated in an area. On



the north-west side of my house I have a shade garden, with ferns and hostas, the shade is created by the house and also by two trees: a serviceberry and a large amur

maple. However, in the spring before the trees leaf out there is plenty of sun for daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths, trilliums and Virginia bluebells. I also use the less shaded part of the space to grow romaine and arugula later in the summer when the vegetable bed is too hot for them.

To do this, you'll need to spend some time outside. Not such a bad task, is it? You can start this project at any time of the year and add information over time. Start by making a simple sketch of the

yard. Make sure you include anything that might cast a shadow, everything including fences, trees,



sheds both in your own yard and those of your neighbours. On the first day of spring, or the first day of fall the sun is directly south at noon, standard time or 1 p.m. daylight savings time. Once you know where south is, you know where the strongest sun will come from during the growing season.

Now, sit somewhere comfortable, drink something hot or cold and watch the sun. Depending on how precise you want to be you can do this every half-hour, or at longer intervals, on your sketch put the time and draw a line to mark the area where the sunlight ends and the shade begins. At the next time draw another line, and so on.

You can also record this information with photographs. Make sure the date and time is set correctly on your camera and you will have a visual record of how the sunlight changes in your garden over a day. Programs such as Google Earth provide some information, they usually use only overhead imagery that could easily be several years old and don't provide the details you need. The reason you need to really observe this and not just guess is that unless you're really watching, you may not take into account an important factor, such as the shade cast from a neighbour's tree, hedge or gazebo.

If you repeat this at intervals over the growing season you will also have information about changes in available sunlight during the year.

Remember that some factors affecting sunlight in the yard will change

during the course of the year. In May a maple tree might not affect the amount of sunlight received, the leaves have not grown yet or are still small, but by mid to late summer it will shade a much larger patch of your garden. And as the angle of the sun changes during the season, so too will the amount of sun your garden gets in different parts. If you are consistent with this process you'll be able to make a complete sunlight map, with the total number of sunlight hours for each area of garden.



Vegetable gardening ideas

An accelerating trend in home gardening is growing your own food, over the past few years the quantity of vegetables available for sale in



garden centres has jumped dramatically, if you want to you can now buy tomato plants that are 2 feet tall and will produce fruit much sooner than the traditional four plants in a cell pack, of course they are much more expensive. If you don't have space for a vegetable garden,

or you don't want to give up your flower space there are other ways to grow food. I have



grown tomatoes and peppers very successfully in pots on my patio for several years where they get lots of sun. In the fall they benefit from the warmth absorbed by the patio stones. If it gets cold at night I group the pots together and drape a clear plastic painting drop cloth over

the pots. A common issue with pots is the

amount of water they require, look at the pot in the picture, underneath it is one of the clear plastic domes used on fruit or vegetable platters, but turned upside down. I fill them with water that is absorbed by the soil as needed.

You can grow cucumbers in a pot on a tomato cage. You can grow cherry tomatoes in hanging baskets. If you have a wall or fence in the sun consider this idea, attach several plastic or wood planter boxes to the surface and



plant shorter vegetables like various varieties of lettuce or herbs in the boxes. If you have a garden

arch or arbour made of metal or wood, you can grow any kind of vining vegetables



on it, squash, beans, small pumpkins or melons. You can even grow morning glories with your veggies!

If you have more space, try a bigger trellis!

Vegetables can be grown in the same beds as



flowers, some of the fancier kales and cabbages look great with flowers. Tuck herbs such as parsley, basil or oregano into your flower gardens, they attract pollinators, repel pests and cover bare ground so weeds have less space to grow.

Grow edible flowers in your garden for use as garnishes and in salads. Nasturtiums like full sun and add a nice spicy touch to salad. Petunias have a mild taste while tuberous begonia flowers have a citrus flavour. There are lots of online sources for edible flower lists.

Gardening Jobs for February

- Spider mites are apt to thrive in warm, dry houses. Frequent misting under the leaves of houseplants will discourage them. A solution of 1 cup flour, 1/4 cup buttermilk, and a gallon of cool water, applied in a mist, is a good organic deterrent.
- Houseplants will be sensitive to overfeeding at this time of year. Provide lots of sunlight, fresh air, and frequent bathing for plants that seem a little worse for the winter.
- Forced paper-white narcissus will bloom more quickly now than earlier in the season.
- Shop early for seeds from catalogs and garden stores. The early shopper gets the best choice of seed varieties.
- Plan some window boxes. Good choices for plants: zinnias, nasturtiums, petunias, geraniums, begonia. Edible choices: cherry tomatoes, lettuce, kale, and herbs.
- Test the germination of last year's surplus seeds before ordering new ones. Place ten seeds between damp paper towels. Keep them consistently damp and in a dark place. Check germination rates to determine how many seeds to use for your real planting.
- Take an inventory of your preserved seeds in the freezer, in cans, or the root cellars. This should help you decide your seed order for the upcoming season.
- Spread wood ashes around lilacs to benefit growth and bloom in the spring.
- Set up birch branches that may have been bent by snow or ice, as soon as possible. If neglected, the branches will permanently adopt their leaning position.
- Cut poles for peas, beans, and other climbers now. Peel off the bark and set them in a dry area until they are needed.
- Keep this in mind while pruning: Fruit usually grows on the horizontal branches, rather than the vertical ones. Vertical branches may be trained to become horizontal by weighting them down for a few weeks. This may also be done in the summer.
- Start onions from seed now. They'll be ready for setting out in April. Onions from seed are generally firmer and longer lasting than from sets.
- Start parsley indoors now. You may think you have successfully wintered over the plant, but it is a biennial and will soon go to seed.
- Avoid walking on the lawn during a winter thaw.
- Don't forget winter birds! Put out water, seeds, and suet.
- Remember to prune your houseplants regularly. Pinch back new growth to encourage bushier plants.
- Rotate houseplants so they get even sun and growth.

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

Streetsville Blooms

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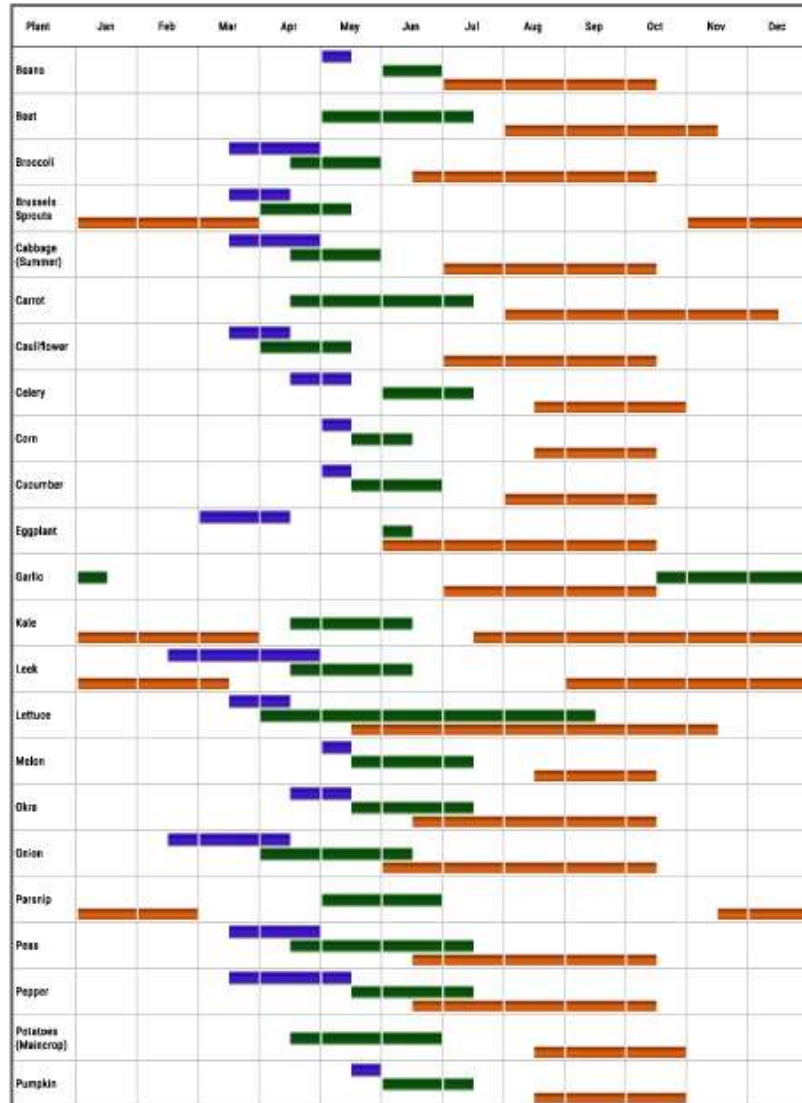
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THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC GARDEN PLANNER

PLANTING CALENDAR

■ = Sow indoors / undercover
 ■ = Sow outdoors / plant out
 ■ = Harvest



<https://www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-dates>