

Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



July Garden To Do List

- ❑ **Mow** lawn weekly to 3"/7.5 cm.
- ❑ **Perennials** - Stake & support tall plants. Trim spent flower stems.
- ❑ **Deadhead** regularly to promote new flowers (penstemon, baskets, annuals)
- ❑ **Cut back** plants like hardy Geraniums, Delphiniums & catmint after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and further blooms.
- ❑ **Lilacs** - Prune right after they have finished flowering. If reducing size, don't prune more than 1/3 of the lilac's stems off.
- ❑ **Water** - avoid watering in the hottest part of the day; water any spring planted trees & plants regularly, lawn & existing trees less frequently, but deeply; water the base of plants, not the foliage, or use soaker hoses
- ❑ **Wisteria** - remove the whippy side-shoots from the main branch framework to about 20cm from their base (about five leaves from the main stem). Not blooming? Read our [wisteria](#) factsheet for help.
- ❑ **Birds** - Keep hummingbird feeders and bird baths filled & clean.
- ❑ **Aphids** - Inspect plants weekly, especially flower buds of honeysuckle and roses. Take necessary steps for control: crush, blast with strong spray from your hose, or spray with insecticidal soap (follow directions carefully). (Note that insecticidal soap may also kill beneficial insects.) Plant Alyssum which attracts [hover flies](#) who love to eat aphids! Do not over fertilize - aphids like plants with high nitrogen levels and soft new growth. Use slow release organic fertilizers instead.
- ❑ **Veggies** - Water during dry or hot weather to avoid stressing plants. Do not over fertilize tomatoes as it can lead to [blossom end rot](#).
- ❑ **Garlic** - Stop watering 2-3 weeks before harvest. Harvest when tops turn brown (about mid-July) For more information go to [Producing Garlic in Michigan](#)
- ❑ **Trim** - Shorten stems of fall flowering plants like asters, mums, Joe-Pye weed and golden rod to keep them sturdy and compact.
- ❑ **Enjoy and assess** - Take a minute to sit and enjoy your garden. Assess your garden's appearance and function.
- ❑ **Visit a local garden center** - look for native plants that will add interest and colour to your garden and support native birds and pollinators.



The beautiful flowers of Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) - host plant for the larvae of the Monarch butterfly

July
2018

HaltonMasterGardeners@gmail.com

HaltonMasterGardeners.ca



Wow, July is really hot!



Yeah, I'm taking off my cloves...

Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



July
2018

Goldenrod - *Prized or Despised?*

Much-maligned and erroneously blamed for allergies, goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) often gets an unfair shake in these modern times. In fact, goldenrod isn't actually the culprit. Oh, no! It's actually the nasty ragweed that causes our sneezing and itchy, watery eyes. Because ragweed and goldenrod bloom at the same time, the brilliantly blooming yellow of the goldenrod is front and center while the guileful, inconspicuous ragweed releases its loads of pollen to the wind and into our noses. Give goldenrod a break and a place it in your gardens.



Prized as Easy-to-Grow Pollinator Plants

The Canadian Wildlife Federation considers goldenrod to be among the most important of the late-season pollinator plants.

- **bees**, (both native & honeybee), frequently collect large amounts of goldenrod nectar prior to winter; and native bees use the pollen to provision late-season nests.
- foliage provides nourishment for a variety of **insect larvae**
- **butterflies and hummingbirds** are attracted to the nectar

Goldenrods are easy to grow, requiring only average soil, any pH level and thrives in full sun to partial shade.

Prized for Beauty, Colour and Texture in Gardens

Goldenrod adds brilliant late summer/fall colour to your landscape. Be aware that transplanting roadside, native goldenrod into a small garden may be problematic as it can easily fill large garden areas in no time at all. If your space is small, look for 'nativars', such as "Golden Fleece," "Fireworks" or a more recent introduction "Little Lemon" which is only 12" - 16" high. There are even goldenrod cultivars that thrive in shade gardens.

Prized for Floral Arrangements

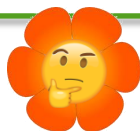
Spectacular as a background or a filler in arrangements or even just on its own, goldenrod blooms well into mid-October. If you've not yet added goldenrod to your garden, head out for a fall hike and simply snap branches along the roadside. Consider goldenrod for your Thanksgiving table this year.



Prized in Traditional Medicine

Solidago is based on the Greek word "solidus" which means "to make whole", referring to the plant's medicinal properties. Historically, it was used to sooth burns, chewed for sore throats and toothaches, or taken as a tea.

Goldenrod is a diverse species within the Aster family that's easy to grow and care for, looks great in gardens and vases alike and helps improve our ecosystem. All in all, the goldenrod is nothing to sneeze at!



Early Flower Power?

In the early 1900s, Thomas Edison experimented with numerous plant species for potential industrial use. In return, his good friend, Henry Ford gave Edison a Model T with tires made from- goldenrod! Read more [here](#).



Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



July
2018



Photo courtesy of Dog Tags Art
<https://www.dogtagart.com/blog/how-keep-your-dog-out-garden>

'Dog-Scaping'

Our pets are an important part of the family. However, sometimes gardeners may find that our favourite four-legged friend has a different view on enjoying the garden & landscape. If you're having some concerns, here are a few ideas to consider.

🐾 Watch your dog to see where and how they spend their time (i.e., walking, chasing, digging, eating, resting, and of course as a *bathroom*)

🐾 Dogs require a lot of exercise. As well as your morning & evening walk, you might:

- create pathways for your dog on a trail they already like to use
- add mulch, pea gravel or stone as a base
- delineate the path with sturdy plants or landscape features (i.e., ornamental grasses, large rocks, fencing etc.)

🐾 Has your dog chosen an area to urinate on the lawn? Why not transform the area into a 'Dog Potty' (see Resources)

- remove the grass & cover the area with pea gravel
- include an item for your dog to use as a marking post (i.e., a log or a piece of driftwood)
- a low wall, row of ornamental grasses, raised gardens or large container plants can hide a 'dog potty' from view
- consider including urine-resistant plants (i.e., Double-file viburnum)



'Dog Potty' photo from WelcomePup.com

🐾 Choose sturdy trees & shrubs if you have an active pet.

- Choose the largest (most mature) shrubs or trees available and appropriate for your space so that it is less likely to be a favourite chewing item or get removed by your dog digging it up.
- Protect new plantings by blocking them off with chicken wire until plants are established. (Restricting pets with thorny shrubs or cayenne pepper may cause an injury and is not recommended).
- Edge flower beds with stone or shrubs about 30 cm or 1 ft. in height to restrict access.



Eating leaves in Dogs,
<https://wagwalking.com/symptom/why-is-my-dog-eating-leaves>

🐾 Leaving bare soil can be irresistible for some dogs to dig:

- Use sturdy ground covers (Ajuga, Sweet Woodruff or Lamium) to fill gaps
- Provide a digging area like a sandbox. Hide toys to pique your puppy's interest.

🐾 Add a place to cool off such as a child's pool, replacing water regularly

(continued on next page)

Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



July
2018

Dog-scaping Cont'd

- Keep your pet safe:
 - Ensure any water features or pool areas that your pet has access to, allows them to safely enter and exit
- Review the toxicity of plants you choose, especially if your pet often chews plant material (Yews, Hydrangeas, Black Walnut-hulls, and Daffodils are all toxic to animals)
- AVOID garden products that may be harmful to your dog's health

Finally, while your garden may not look exactly how you had planned, taking a few steps can minimize the impact of an active dog and create a garden that you can both enjoy



Lexie enjoying a playdate in the kiddie pool.



Delaney relaxing on the mulch pathway.

Resources for this article & Further Reading:

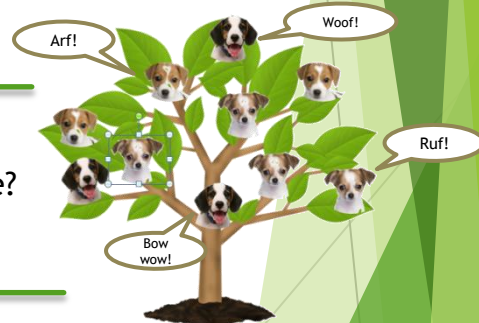
Jennifer Mirosolin, The Non-Roving Rover (or Pets in the Garden), Meeting House News April 2016.

Landscaping Do's & Don'ts <https://www.houselogic.com/by-room/yard-patio/landscaping-for-dogs/>

Creating a Dog Potty: High Five! A Dog Blog <http://www.welcomepup.com/blog/how-to-build-an-outdoor-dog-potty-area/>, July 1, 2013



-How do you properly identify a Dogwood tree?
-By its bark!



Lending a Helping Hand to Monarchs

Monarch butterflies have been listed as Endangered by the Government of Canada, Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, (Nov. 2016). One key to boosting the Monarch population is to plant milkweed, and native milkweeds are simply the best choice. Spread seeds in autumn, raking them into the soil or start indoors in late winter after a period of stratification". How do you "stratify" seeds? Place seeds on a damp paper towel and insert into a sealed plastic bag. Put them in the fridge for a period of 8 - 10 weeks to simulate a Canadian winter - then plant into containers or directly in soil



Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



What's Growing On?

Farmers' Markets

Come and ask Halton MGs your garden questions in person!

Burlington Mall Farmers' Market

Saturday July 7 & 21
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dundas Farmers' Market

Thursdays, July 5 & 19
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Lynn & Janet at the Dundas Farmers' market

July
2018

A Perfect Lunchtime Pairing HMGs Online Chats & Ed Lawrence



Spend a relaxing lunch hour listening to Ed Lawrence on CBC radio while following HMG's answer gardening questions online. Send your own questions to us by Tweet to [@CBCHamilton](https://twitter.com/CBCHamilton) or via email to hamilton@cbc.ca

Every Monday in July from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Except **Tuesday, July 3rd** (because of Canada Day)

Photo from Halton Master Garden Lynn:
"One of my favorite early spring flowers,
Spurge (Euphorbia) taken this spring."



Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners

What's Growing On?- Events in Our Community

The Milton & District Horticultral Society Secret Gardens of Milton

**July 8, 2018 - 10 am to
5 pm**

Halton Master Gardeners
are very excited to be part
of this event and will be
available to assist you with
your gardening questions.



**July
2018**



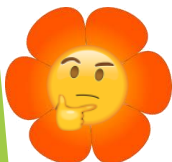
**Royal Botanical Gardens
July 14 & 15**
**Ontario Regional Lily Society's
Annual Show**
Entry included with General Admission

Historic Garden Tours City of Hamilton Dundurn & Whitehern

Saturdays & Sundays in July
Check the [website](#) for details
This is a free event.



*Dundurn's historic Kitchen Garden catered to the nutritional needs
and aesthetic desires of the MacNab family 150 years ago.*



HaltonMasterGardeners@gmail.com

HaltonMasterGardeners.ca

Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



Follow Halton Master Gardeners on twitter @HaltonMGs
Why?

- informative articles
- regional gardening events
- community connections
- interesting facts



July
2018



What's bugging YOU in the garden?

Let us know if you are struggling with a plant, disease or pest issue in your garden and we'll include some possible solutions in our newsletter for others who may have the same problem.

Email haltonmastergardeners@gmail.com with your garden concerns.

Here's a question we received from Dundas:

"Something's eating my roses and leaving perfectly round holes. Do you know what it is?"



It may be that one of our native pollinators, a Leaf Cutter Bee - (*Megachile melanophaea*) is visiting your roses. They cut the circular leaf pieces to create chambers for eggs in their nests. They often favour newer leaves from plants in the rose family as well as redbuds (*Cercis* spp.) and are active in June & July. Please do not disrupt their behaviour by spraying your roses with any substance, but do take pride in how your garden in supporting a native pollinator species!



Pollinators are the animals that pollinate over 90% of all flowering plants, and primarily include bees, flies, butterflies, moths, and other insects, although birds, bats, and other animals can also be pollinators. Together they are an indispensable natural resource, and their daily work is essential for over a billion dollars of apples, pears, cucumbers, melons, berries, and many other kinds of Canadian farm produce.

Pollination Guelph - Fun Fact <https://pollinationguelph.ca>