

Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



June
2018

June Garden To Do List

- ❑ **Bulbs** - Divide & replant small spring bulbs while you can still see foliage.
- ❑ **Compost**- Use compost to mulch garden beds and trees. Turn your compost pile and water if dry.
- ❑ **Houseplants** - Gradually bring out for a holiday to a shady protected area, then move to sun if needed.
- ❑ **Lawn** - Fertilize & over-seed. Mow high- 3"/7.5 cm. Keep pulling those weeds!
- ❑ **Perennials** - Stake & support peonies, delphiniums and other tall plants.
- ❑ **Prune** -spring flowering shrubs after they bloomed if necessary. Shear/pinch conifers like yew and juniper.
- ❑ **Roses** - Prune laterals of climbing roses to 6-8" after blooming.
- ❑ **Veggies** - Direct sow warm season veggies like corn, beans, peppers and squash (and flowering annuals.) If you started your veggies indoors you may need to thin them. Mound potatoes to maximize production & protect tubers from sun exposure. (Green potatoes can be poisonous.) Stake or cage vegetables like tomatoes and beans.
- ❑ **Water** - newly planted trees & plants regularly; lawn & existing trees less frequently, but deeply. Pots and houseplants will need more frequent watering.
- ❑ **Birds** - Keep hummingbird feeders and bird baths filled & clean.
- ❑ **Deadhead** regularly to promote new flowers.
- ❑ **Pests & Diseases**- Inspect plants regularly. June is when Japanese Beetles make their appearance. Take necessary steps for control: hand pick, knock into a bucket of soapy water, or use a hand vacuum to suck them up!
- ❑ **Gypsy Moth**: Wrap tree trunks with burlap bands or sticky bands in early June to trap the older gypsy moth caterpillar as it treks from the canopy to hiding places on the ground. Remove trapped caterpillars daily.



'Salmon Chiffon' - Photo Courtesy of Canadian Peony Society, 2012.



Photo from Ojibway Nature Centre -
<http://www.ojibway.ca/fireflies.htm>

Fireflies Need Your Help!

Fireflies are actually flying beetles belonging to the Coleoptera family of bugs. They are also *beneficial insects* as the larvae feed on snails, slugs, earthworms and other insect pests. These magical creatures who make their own light to attract their mates & find prey are in danger due to light pollution. Firefly.org shares [How to Help Tips](#) for making your yard more firefly friendly, including:

- Turn off outdoor lighting at night to minimize light pollution.
- Let logs and litter accumulate -a "good environment" for larval fireflies.
- Don't overmow your lawn or even better, let the grass in one section of your yard grow a bit taller.

For more information: watch Prof Lewis' Firefly TED talk: <https://silentsparks.com/ted-talk/>

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Say “GOODBYE, CHARLIE”! Taking the ‘creep’ out of Creeping Charlie



Creeping Charlie is a perennial weed that is problematic in lawns and thrives in both sun & shade in moist garden areas.

Botanical Name: *Glechoma hederacea*

Common Name: Creeping Charlie, Ground Ivy

Family: [Lamiaceae](#) (mint)

Reproduction: vegetatively (creeping stems, rhizomes), seeds

Identification:

- unpleasant ‘minty’ odor when crushed
- purple flowers in early spring that persist into summer
- grows in a thick mat with many stems covering an area
- distinctive-shaped leaves



Control:

1. Improve soil drainage and reduce shade cover. This may include:
 - raising the canopy of overhanging trees
 - watering less frequently
 - improving soil drainage with the addition of amendments
2. Use plant material that is suitable for shady, moist conditions that will out-compete Creeping Charlie.
3. Affected turf may need to be removed & replaced with a grass species appropriate for a moist and shady area.
4. Mow grass no less than 3 inches in shady areas to maintain a thick healthy lawn.
5. Regularly remove any visible Creeping Charlie stems and flowers to help reduce its spread.
6. If Creeping Charlie has overtaken a large area you can attempt to ‘smother’ it using 10-15 sheets of newspaper (soaked with water) covering the entire area. Add 4” of good soil as well as compost. Plant new material. based on the moisture and sunlight in the area.

Mason Bees - Nature’s ‘Friendly’ Pollinator



- Active in spring during cool weather.
- Often mistaken for flies (bees have 2 sets of wings)
- Most are generalists, having no flower preference, but some are specialists, (often preferring flowers from the Rose family)
- Nest in empty cavities - hollow stems, beetle burrows, existing holes in wood.

Visit [Pollination Guelph](#) to construct your own Mason Bee Home.



DID YOU KNOW?

It takes a female Mason bee 15 to 35 trips, visiting an average of 75 flowers on each trip, to gather enough nectar and pollen to support a single egg’s larva. That’s 1875 flower visits for each egg!

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How to Plant a Tree

There is more to planting a tree than digging a hole, taking it out of the plastic pot and then backfilling the hole with soil. Selecting the best tree for the location is essential.

Trees can be purchased throughout the growing season, and they are available from small whips in 2-gallon pots up to large specimens in wire baskets.

Spring planting allows you to give your new tree the care it needs to establish well. Autumn planting is also good--the temperature is cooler and soil is still warm. Hot mid-summer is the least optimal time to plant, unless you are prepared to water at least once a day to help the tree establish.

The Right Tree

You need to first make sure you choose the best type of tree for your spot. What's your climatic zone? (The Hamilton-Burlington area is in Zone 6A.) Will it get enough sun where you are planting it? Enough moisture? Is it in a windy, exposed site? All these questions need to be considered as you make your final selection.

The Right Location

You also need to make sure to plant your new tree in the best position so it will thrive.

-Is it too close to overhead hydro wires? The tree will inevitably be pruned by your local utility company--and they won't care about aesthetics. It may also shorten the lifespan of your tree.

-Is it too close to your home's foundations? Bear in mind that a vigorous mature tree like a maple or a willow can undermine your home's foundation or damage weeping tile and sewage drains.

-Make sure the mature height and spread of tree are appropriate for the site you've chosen. It's sad to see a mature tree--originally planted as a seedling or in a 5 gallon pot--now sixty feet tall and completely out of scale with a house.

-Locate all underground utilities prior to digging. TV and telephone/data cables are quite shallow. And, if you plant over utility wires, they may at some point need to be dug up for service, which will potentially damage your tree.



The average house is about 2.5 m (8 ft) per storey.
A blue spruce can grow to 10 m (+30 ft)!

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How to Plant a Tree (continued)

Plant it Right

- Dig a hole wide and shallow, not deep and narrow. It should be about three times the width of the root ball, but no deeper. Digging a deeper hole--even if you put in new soil and bring it back up to level--will cause the tree to sink once the soil settles and compacts.
- Don't overly enrich the soil you use to plant the tree. You want to encourage the tree to get used to native soil so it establishes well in its new home.
- Identify the trunk flare or root collar, where the trunk swells at its base. It is essential to ensure this remains above the soil level after planting. In heavy clay soils it is better to have the flare up to two inches above the soil level.
- Remove the plastic pot, or cut away the wire basket and as much of the burlap as you are able to without having all the soil fall away from the roots.
- If you see roots spiraling around inside of pot, clip them off. Otherwise they will continue to grow in a spiral instead of out into the surrounding soil. Roots matted on the bottom should be trimmed and any broken or damaged roots should be removed with a clean cut to remove the damaged section.
- Make sure the tree is positioned vertically--check it from all directions before backfilling the hole.
- Tamp soil around the root ball until the hole is half full, making sure to firmly pack it to eliminate air pockets. Then fill the hole with water to settle the soil, before filling the remainder of the hole.
- Build up a small dam or ridge of soil around the root ball to create a shallow, wide depression around the trunk that will catch water and ensure it can flow down to the roots, and not run off. This is especially important if you are planting on a slope.

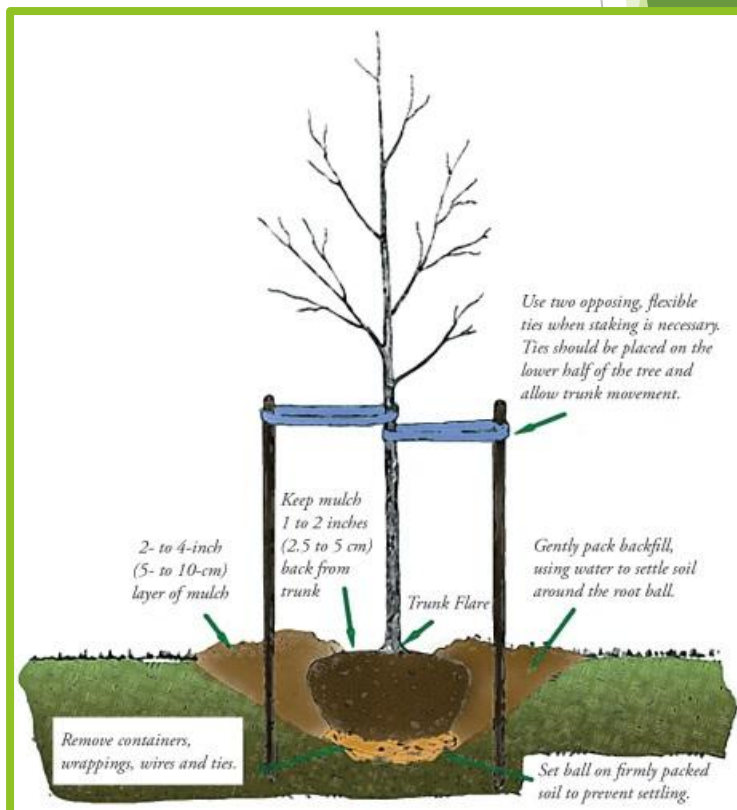


Image: Courtesy of ISA ©2011 International Society of Arboriculture.

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How to Plant a Tree (continued)

After Planting

Trees lose a significant portion of their root system when dug at the nursery, or when their roots need to be trimmed due to damage before planting. This can cause transplant shock. It's essential to provide good follow up care and regular watering to ensure your tree will thrive.

-Water your tree at least once a week, and more often during hot or windy weather. Do not rely on rain. The tree has not yet established feeder roots in the new soil and it will die if not watered sufficiently.

-Don't stake your tree unless it is in a windy, exposed area. Studies have shown that trees establish more quickly and develop stronger structure if they are not staked. More trees are damaged by stakes and overly tight ties than by lack of staking.

-Mulch lightly around the base of the tree, making sure the mulch does not touch the trunk. Mulch will help reduce evaporation, reduce weed competition for nutrients, and moderate soil temperature.



Image: www.arborday.org/trees/tips/mulching.cfm

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

Chinese proverb

Native Trees to Nurture Native Wildlife

- Serviceberry (berries for birds, flowers for bees)
- Redbud (flowers for pollinators)
- Tulip Tree & Red Buckeye (hummingbirds)
- Host trees for specific butterflies -Sassafras (Swallowtail), Dogwood & Sumac (Spring Azure), Poplar/Elm/Willow (Mourning Cloak), Paw Paw (Zebra Swallowtail), Tulip tree (Eastern Tiger Swallowtail), Oaks, Aspens, Black Cherry, Birch, Hackberry (various spp.)



For more information:

- [Ontario Trees and Shrubs - List of Native Species](#)
- [Recommended Native Trees, Shrubs & Vines](#)
- [Planning your Butterfly Garden](#) (Halton Master Gardeners)

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What's Growing On?

Farmers' Markets

Visit Halton MGs in person to ask questions!

Burlington Mall Farmers' Market

June 2nd & 9th 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dundas Farmers' Market

Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m. on

• June 7 & 21

• July 5 & 19



Claudette & Eva at Burlington market

June
2018

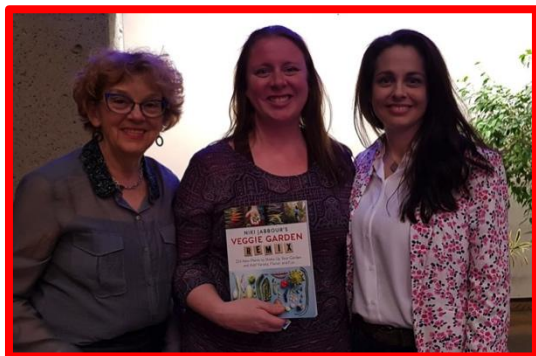
A Perfect Lunchtime Pairing- HMGs Online Chats & Ed Lawrence

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 June from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.



radio



Halton MGs Sponsored RBG Speaker Series

Congratulations to Crystal from Hamilton who won Niki Jabbour's book "Veggie Remix" during our sponsored speaker event at the RBG!

Halton Coordinator Kate on left, with Crystal and Niki on the right!

Stay healthy in the garden this sunny month!

Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide



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What's Growing On ? (continued)



Visit the [Garden Days](#) website for a complete list of garden events across Canada!



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Oakville Horticultural Society "Secret Gardens of Oakville"

Garden Tour

Sun. Jun. 17, 11am-4pm

Halton MGs will be on site to answer your questions!

Crown Point Garden Club Tour of Public Gardens

Hamilton, Ontario

A tour of native plant gardens

Tue. Jun. 19, 6:30-9pm



New Rose Garden at the RBG

Opening Weekend

Sat. Jun. 23 & Sun. Jun. 24 10am-8pm

also:

Hamilton/Burlington Rose Show

Sat. Jun 23 1:30-5pm &

Sun. Jun. 24 10am-3pm

A Walk Through Gage Park

Hamilton, Ontario

Sat. June 23, 9am-2pm

Tours every hour on the hour

