

CROSS POLLINATION

Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners



**October
2018**

October Garden To Do List

- ❑ Fall Garden clean up - make sure to leave some plant material such as leaves & plant stems for insects that overwinter in your garden - many are important predators that keep garden pests in balance. ☺
- ❑ Grasses & tall perennials - leave the stems and seedheads on for native insects & birds and to create winter interest.
- ❑ Bulbs - Continue to plant spring flowering bulbs such as crocus, tulip, hyacinth & daffodil now, until before freeze up of soil. Water bulbs after planting.
- ❑ Perennials -
Divide or transplant overcrowded or underperforming perennials as the weather cools. Make sure you water in the new divisions well.
- ❑ Roses - Prune non winter hardy roses such as Hybrid Tea, Floribunda and Grandiflora after a hard frost has killed any growth. Climbers can be anchored securely so they do not whip in the wind. After the ground is slightly frozen, hill-up the plants to 8 " - 12" (20 - 30 cm) with fresh soil or compost to protect the bud union from the winter freeze/thaw cycle.
- ❑ Dig tender bulbs like dahlias, caladiums, cannas and tuberous begonias. Clean, dry and store in a cool, dark, frost free area.
- ❑ Trees - Transplant trees and shrubs to new locations. Water trees until freeze up, especially if planted this year. Keep grass trimmed around trees to discourage small rodents. Wrap young trees to protect them from sun scald, rabbits and rodents.
- ❑ Feed the soil - Empty your compost bin into gardens and cover bare soil with organic matter such as compost, leaves, straw, mulch or manure.
- ❑ Leaves - Rake, compost or mow fallen leaves and use as mulch in gardens.
- ❑ Houseplants - Decrease watering as the days become shorter. Increase humidity by misting plants. Check for pests weekly.
- ❑ Garden Ponds - Cover with netting before leaf fall or remove leaves in pond with a bamboo rake. Decaying leaves left in the pond over the winter will affect water quality and harm fish.
- ❑ Birds - Clean and disinfect bird feeders and bird baths to keep birds healthy.
- ❑ Lawn - Rake or mow leaves and remove to garden beds. Keep on weeding to reduce weeds in spring. This is a great time to sharpen lawn mower blades.
- ❑ Weed Watch - Hand pull, rake or cut off at ground level with a sharp spade or garden tool. Remove seedheads to reduce seed bank in your soil. Watch for garlic mustard seedlings.
- ❑ Invasive plants - Remove periwinkle, English ivy, goutweed and other invasive plants. Replant with suggestions from Grow Me Instead.



Fall asters



I'm so glad that I live in a world where there are OCTOBERS.
Lucy Maud Montgomery - Anne of Green Gables

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New RBG Rose Garden Halton Masters Gardeners Tour



The Rose Garden at the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) underwent a major transformation this year. A new more sustainable rose garden was opened to the public in June. The new collection features disease-resistant cold-hardy roses with a focus on Canadian introductions. To augment the garden, reduce disease pressures and attract beneficial insects, many companion plants were interspersed throughout the

beds. The result is a beautiful informative garden that will be a pleasure to watch evolve.

Halton Master Gardeners were given a tour of this new garden by horticulturist Alex Henderson, Curator of Collections at RBG. He described the impetus for the makeover, the design concept and the installation process. With his wonderful sense of humour and great knowledge, Alex made for a delightful guide.



For those who regularly visit the RBG over the years, the decline in the old rose gardens had been a source of sorrow. The collection that had featured some exquisite hybrid teas and floribundas was simply not robust without the input of pesticides and fertilizers. After the Ontario government banned pesticides for cosmetic purposes, the garden began to really languish and it was time to rethink the plants and design.



Consulting with Peter Kukielski, the former curator of Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at New York Botanical, Alex began a journey to renovate the garden. The journey began by identifying roses with improved genetics that were resistant to diseases like black spot. New varieties by the respected German breeder Kordes along with new additions from Canada's National Hardy Rose Program are among the dozens of beautiful rose varieties blended into the collection.

The garden flows from pinks and whites to deeper reds and back to pastels. In between plants are an array of long blooming annuals and perennials, including the striking *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks,' large stands of *Verbena bonariensis*,

Continued...



**But he that dares not grasp the thorn.
Should never crave the rose.**

Anne Bronte, 1820 - 1849



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Persicaria affinis, *Gaura lindheimeri*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, asters and many umbelifera. These companion plants were chosen not only for beauty, but also for the many benefits they provide. *Apiaceae* or *Umbelliferae*, the family that includes dill and parsley, for instance, were planted to attract tachinid flies known to parasitize Japanese beetles (a dreaded pest of roses).



Pest and disease control requires an integrated pest management strategy that includes scouting for early signs of problems, monitoring existing problems, hand picking and cleaning and finally using least harmful pesticides as a last resort. As this is the first year, few problems have manifested. Sawfly larvae were manually removed and some treatments applied midseason. Nematodes were applied to soil to help manage Japanese

beetle larvae and for this year they were not problematic.

Soil preparation and proper irrigation were key to the early success and quick establishment of the gardens. 18 inches of soil were removed from the garden area (and saved for other purposes) to reduce the chance of spreading pre-existing diseases. New soil was tested for proper pH and nutrients and installed with compost and mycorrhizal and nematode inoculations. A grid of 7km of drip hoses was installed throughout the beds.



After the roses and companions were planted, 3" of shredded composted pine mulch was added. This was intended to reduce weed pressures, retain moisture, and feed the soil over time. While the gardens were regularly watered this season, next year irrigation will cease in an effort to encourage deep rooting. The idea here is that a truly 'sustainable' garden should be adapted to local rainfall and not require significant input of water. Plant material will be selected over time that suits this criterion.



Continued...



The Real
Meaning
Behind Rose
Colours

According to Reader's Digest...

RED = love & romance

WHITE = purity, innocence, sympathy, spirituality,

LIGHT PINK = gentleness and admiration,

YELLOW = friendship, joy, get well

ORANGE = desire, enthusiasm & passion,

See more at: [Reader's Digest](#)

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This garden is about learning and teaching. Gardeners will learn which plants thrive and which, like some euphorbias that quickly melted out, are not suited for public display. The public will learn which roses and companions will thrive in their home gardens and can repeat combinations they find attractive. It is a splendid garden to see and will be a joy to watch evolve.



This plaque pays homage to the rose aficionados of days gone by and today.

Learn more about the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Gardens by clicking on the link [here](#).



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Try me!
I'm cheap & easy.

The term stinking rose dates back to Greek and Roman times according to Danielle K. Blood, a prolific writer on the website Quora.com. She goes on to suggest that one possibility for the name is that if looked at from underneath a bulb of garlic does slightly resemble a white rose with the large ends of the cloves forming the petals.

*Eva Keuhlem, a Master Gardener for over 15 years and a garlic grower for many years before that, shares her experience with us.
Why not give it a whirl in your garden?*

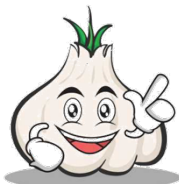
Garlic is one of the easiest things to grow. I plant about 250 plants each year. Most articles make it sound complicated, but it is not. It tolerates almost all types of soil and rarely has a problem. In over 25 years of planting I have never had a problem with my garlic!

In fact it is so eager to grow, that if you throw your peel away after using a clove, the bottom root end will even grow. I used to put the whole peel in my compost pile and after using the compost I would get garlic plants where I had never planted any! It took me a while to figure that one out!! They now go in the green box for garbage.

Follow these easy steps and you'll not go wrong.

1. Fall is the best time to plant garlic but in a pinch you can plant very early in the spring, once you can work the ground. Generally plant around the end of October to middle of November, as long as the ground has not frozen, making sure to rotate the planting location each year.
2. Get the garlic that you wish to plant from a reputable source. E.g. William Dam Seeds or any other local supplier. I have been lucky to have started with garlic my Dad had been planting for over 60 years.

Continued...



*"A nickel will get you on the subway,
but garlic will get you a seat."*

(old New York proverb)

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The Stinking Rose cont'd



3. Cultivate the area you will be planting in to remove weeds. Add some compost or even peat moss if the ground is very heavy.

4. Separate the head into individual cloves (usual yield is about five cloves per head) and always use the biggest cloves for your planting.

5. Plant the cloves about 4 inches apart and about 2 to 3 inches deep with the pointed end up. The tip should be below the ground.

6. Cover with soil and then cover with shredded leaves or a mixture of shredded leaves and grass about 2 or 3 inches deep. Another option would be a layer of straw, again 2 to 3 inches deep. This will help to keep down the weeds in the Spring and Summer before you harvest as it is very labour intensive trying to weed between the plants.

You may see the cloves sprouting a bit in the fall already but do not worry, they will not be harmed or freeze. In the spring they will start growing vigorously.

7. When you see the garlic scapes coming up (immature flower stalks which is them wanting to go to seed) pull on the scapes to remove them (they may make a popping sound) and let the plant continue growing. Scapes are sold in stores and are delicious steamed or sautéed.

8. In the beginning of July stop watering the garlic. You will also see the tops of the plants starting to turn brown. This means they are almost ready to harvest which is usually about the middle of July.

9. Dig each plant up carefully so you do not bruise them with the shovel. Some may even pull right out of the ground. Shake off the excess dirt.

10. Lay your whole plants in a single layer in a dark, dry place for a week to two weeks to let them cure. Garage or shed works well.

Continued...



Garlic Scapes



Garlic after curing



"You're a monster, Mr. Grinch, Your heart's an empty hole, Your brain is full of spiders, You've got garlic in your soul, Mr. Grinch." Dr. Seuss. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*

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The Stinking Rose cont'd

11. After curing, cut off the dried roots and leave the stalks longer if you want to hang or braid them, or cut shorter to store.

12. Tie about five of the stalks together, or braid if you like and then hang them in a garage or shed. They will not freeze over the winter and you can use them all year long. In spring when the weather gets milder, they may start sprouting. Cut most of the stem off and put in a bag in the refrigerator to slow the sprouting. You can keep on using these until your new crop is ready.

That's all there is to growing your own garlic. Why not give it a try?



Garlic Fun Facts



The Stinking Rose restaurant opened in San Francisco 27 years ago in 1991. It has become famous for celebrating the culinary euphoria of garlic and serving over 3,000 pounds of the pungent herb each month.

Closer to home, Toronto has been celebrating the flavours of the humble bulb for 8 years in mid-September. Check them out at <https://www.torontogarlicfestival.ca>.

It's a fun read with garlic quotes, history, famous chefs and recipes and much more.



History from the Toronto Garlic Festival Website:

Allium sativum, commonly known as garlic, is a species in the onion genus, *Allium*. Its close relatives include the onion, shallot, leek, chive, and rakkyo. Dating back over 6,000 years, garlic is native to central Asia, and has long been a staple in the Mediterranean region, as well as a frequent seasoning in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

It was known to Ancient Egyptians, and has been used throughout its history for both culinary and medicinal purposes.



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What's Growing On?

Halton Master Gardener Events

"Bees" and "Creating a Pollinator Friendly Garden"

Wednesday, October 10th 7:30 p.m.

Halton MGs Walter & Janet who will be presenting important information about bees & pollinators.

Burlington Horticultural Society
Burlington Seniors' Centre
2285 New Street



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Garden Hacks - Nifty ideas to make your gardening easy and fun!

Crown Point Garden Club
[L.G. Wallace Funeral Home](#), Hamilton
Wednesday, Nov 28th
7:00 p.m.

Join HMG Claudette for this fun presentation!



radio

**Halton MGs Online Chats
with CBC Radio are finished
for the year.
Join us again in May!**



"Why try to explain miracles to your kids when you can just have them plant a garden?"

Robert Brault



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Garden Events in our Community

Brantford Master Gardeners

Presentation by

Michael Albanese - Landscape drainage specialist

Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7 PM - 9 PM

[Brantford Police Service](#)

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or email
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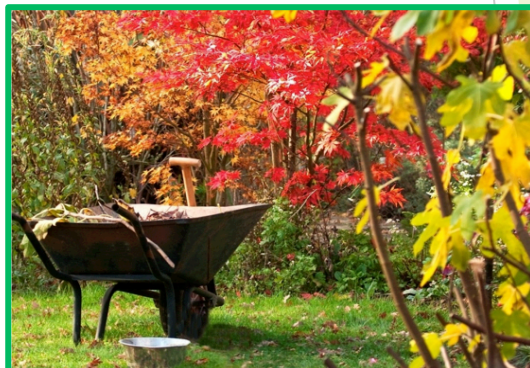
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In the Garden with Charlie: Preparing the Garden for Winter

RBG - Monday October 1, 2018
6:30-8:30 pm

To register visit: www.rbg.ca events

or call 905-527-1158



Caring for Your Green Yard

Sat. Oct. 13th, 9:30-11:00 am

Riverwood Conservancy, Mississauga
Learn about an environmental approach to maintaining
your garden this fall.

To register for this event go to:
<https://cvc.ca> and go to the
Learn & Get Involved Tab - Events

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Visit Our Website & Register for Updates

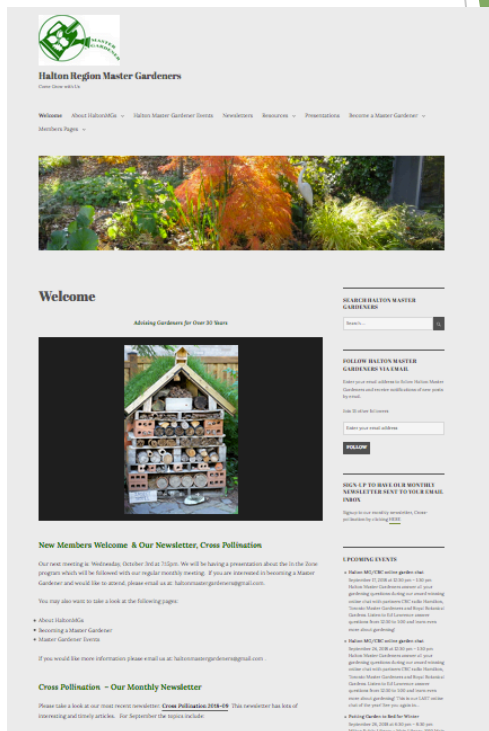
Our website has recently been updated to include links to our Facebook and Twitter accounts. You can also view upcoming **Halton Master Gardener Events** and **register** on the website to receive emails about upcoming events in the Halton/Hamilton region, presented in coordination with Halton Master Gardeners.

Did you know you can also?

- view past newsletters
- find out about becoming a Master Gardener
- access gardening fact sheets & news articles written by Master Gardeners
- request to book a presentation by a Master Gardener
- search for information by keywords
AND MUCH MORE!

Visit:

<http://www.haltonmastergardeners.com>



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*Follow @HaltonMGs
for links to timely
and well-researched
articles about
gardening in our
region.*



Robert Macfarlane @RobGM

Word(s) of the day: "sentinel tree position, that has 'kept watch' for many years. Also, in forestry, a tree that is itself watched for signs of disease as part of a network of monitored trees. What sentinel trees do you know?"



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Looking for reliable garden information? Check out our Facebook posts! Search for “Halton Region Master Gardeners” and “Like us”!



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



Email HaltonMasterGardeners@Gmail.com with your garden concerns.

Reader's Challenge Quiz



1. *Tender bulbs like Dahlias should be stored:*

- a. in clear plastic bags in an unheated area like a garage
- b. in a cool, dark, frost-free area
- c. a humid room, heated by sunlight

2. *The renewed Rose Garden at the RBG went through a transformation that includes a strategy called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).*

Which comment best describes IPM:

- a. monitor the roses closely for signs of disease or pests, hand-picking & cleaning, before considering a pesticide
- b. import predatory insects that will out-compete pests or diseases before they're problematic
- c. plant companion species that will hopefully slow the progress of pests & diseases

3. *You know that garlic is ready to be harvested when:*

- a. the garlic scapes develop into bulbils (flower-like formation)
- b. all the leaves on the plants have withered and turned brown
- c. the tops of the leaves begin to turn brown

1.b, 2.a, 3. c

