

CROSS POLLINATION

Halton Master Gardeners Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2025 | VOL. 18 ISSUE 6

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Tradescantia ohiensis*
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Halton Region
Master Gardeners



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Ohio Spiderwort – *Tradescantia ohiensis*

By Tinamarie Jones, Halton Master Gardeners

For beginning gardeners as well as gardeners looking to incorporate more native plants into their garden, Ohio Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohiensis*, is a real winner. This adaptable clumping perennial with its blue-violet flowers, grassy foliage, and long bloom time is a charming addition to any garden. A member of the *Commelinaceae* or Spiderwort family, Ohio Spiderwort is sometimes called Common Spiderwort, Smooth Spiderwort, or Bluejacket. According to the Missouri Botanical Garden site, the "Genus name honors John Tradescant (1570-1638) and his son John Tradescant (1608-1662), botanists and successive gardeners to Charles I of England."

The history of the name 'Spiderwort' is curious. Some sources say this plant was given this name because it was believed to heal spider bites. Other sources say that the name comes from the liquid the plant oozes when cut or broken; it dries and becomes fibrous and sticky, resembling a spider's silk. Regardless of its history, do not let the unusual common name discourage you from giving this plant a try!

The stems of *Tradescantia ohiensis* are erect, round, ascending, unbranched, and often glaucous. The leaves of the Ohio Spiderwort appear in an alternating pattern on the stem and they are blueish-green and flat with parallel veining and a folded appearance. Each leaf has a distinct groove down the center.

Continued on next page

OHIO SPIDERWORT – *TRADESCANTIA OHIENSIS* (CONT'D)

The leaves are typically between 8-15 inches long and a little over half an inch wide, making them very grass like. Given their length and thinness, the leaves often fold over. Interestingly, each leaf base wraps around the stem. The roots of this plant are fibrous and thick. The growth habit of this plant is to form clumps that grow between 2-3 feet high and spread for approximately 2 feet.



Image by Unknown Author Licensed under CC BY-BC-NB

The flowers of *Tradescantia ohiensis* are just under an inch in size and a beautiful purple in colour. Each flower consists of three rounded petals that have an oval or egg shape and are arranged in clusters at the top of the stem. Each flower is backed by two noticeable bracts and contains 6 blue stamens. These stamens are hairy and have yellow tips. They surround the pistil which is also blue. The flower stalks themselves are hairless. This small detail distinguishes *Tradescantia ohiensis* from *Tradescantia virginiana* or Virginia Spiderwort, which has very noticeable hairs on the pedicel, (the stalk that supports a single flower in an inflorescence). It is interesting to note that these beautiful flowers only last for a day. Fortunately, they tend to blossom one at a time on the flowering stem, which ensures a continual parade of flowers. The flowers themselves have no discernible scent.

Due to their growth habit, *Tradescantia ohiensis* can start to take on a messy, overgrown appearance by the middle of the summer. Gardeners are encouraged to cut the plant back to 6 to 12 inches when this occurs. This will encourage fresh growth and a potential fall bloom.

The Ohio Spiderwort is native to Ontario as well as the central and eastern United States. It can be found in a variety of environments including woodland boundaries, meadows, roadsides and along railroad tracks. Ohio Spiderwort does well in full sun to partial shade; however, it will bloom more abundantly in full sun.

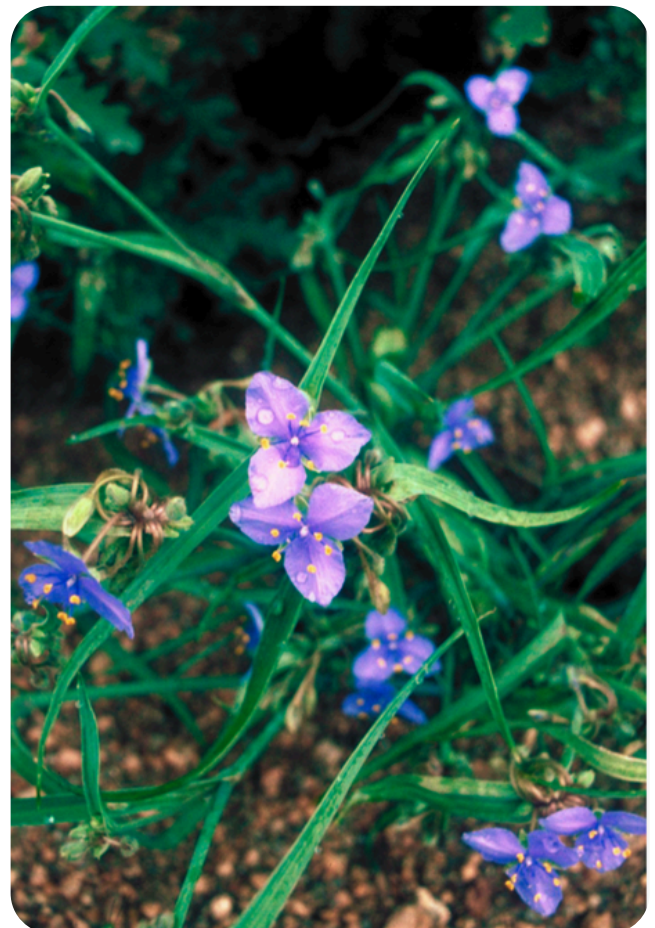


Image UGA1205017 by Unknown Author Licensed under CC BY-NC-NB

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OHIO SPIDERWORT – *TRADESCANTIA OHIENSIS* (CONT'D)

In terms of soil, this plant is incredibly adaptable. If the soil is kept moist and is well drained, this plant can tolerate sandy, loamy, gravel or clay soil but does best in a more acidic soil whatever the texture. In addition, it can grow in dry and drought-prone soil as well as more shallow rocky soil.

In terms of faunal associations, *Tradescantia ohiensis* is very popular with a wide variety of pollinators. It is a favourite of bumblebees and other long tongued bees. *Halictine* bees also like this plant. Syrphid flies are frequent visitors to Ohio Spiderwort but they tend to ingest some of the pollen and are not seen primarily as pollinators for this plant. Spiderwort is remarkably pest resistant. Aside from occasionally being fed upon by *Lema collaris* (Leaf Beetle) the plant has no other real pests aside from snails occasionally nibbling on the young shoots. Rabbits, box turtles and livestock will also graze on Spiderwort as it is not toxic to animals. There is no consensus regarding whether or not this plant is deer-proof.

Given its beautifully coloured flowers and lengthy bloom time as well as its adaptability to various soil conditions and the lack of any significant pests, *Tradescantia ohiensis* is an excellent choice for any gardener from beginner to expert who wants to incorporate an interesting native plant successfully into their environment.

NAME OF PLANT - DETAILS AT A GLANCE

LIGHT SHADE

DAPPLED SUN

FULL SUN



MOIST

MEDIUM

DRY

Plant Type, Family: Spiderwort, *Commelinaceae*

Height/Width: (H) 60-90 cm (2-3')

(W) 60-cm (2')

Features: Beautiful purple flowers bloom on each stem for a day from mid May to early July. When cut back it will bloom again in the fall.

Faunal Value: Long Tongued Bees (*Anthophoridae* spp.), Sweat Bees, (*Halictine* spp.), Syrphid Flies. Rabbits, Box Turtles.

Companion Plants: Ferns, Bee Balm (*Monarda* spp.), Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), Asters, Goldenrods, and Foxglove (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Landscape Uses: Woodland boundaries, meadows, border plants.

Native Range: Ontario

Supports:



[Vascan](#)

**Read More!**

- [North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox](#)
- [Illinois Wildflowers](#)
- [Missouri Botanical Gardens](#)
- [Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
- Dickinson, R. and Royer, F. (2021). *Plants of Southern Ontario*. Lone Pine Publishing, China.
- Gray, R. and Booth, S. (2024). *The Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of the Southern Great Lakes Region*. Firefly Books Ltd., Richmond Hill, ON.
- Johnson, L. (1999 rev. 2017). *100 Easy-To-Grow Native Plants for Canadian Gardens*. Douglas & McIntyre, B.C.



JULY GARDEN 'TO DO' LIST

By Claudette Sims, Halton Master Gardener

- ☐ **Keep Things Blooming** – Deadheading, pinching, cutting back and thinning are excellent [techniques](#) to keep flowers blooming longer, larger and healthier. Cut back early blooming perennials, e.g., [hardy geraniums](#), [coreopsis](#), spiderwort and delphiniums after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and blooms. Shorten stems of fall flowering plants like asters, mums, [Joe-Pye Weed](#) and [goldenrod](#) to keep them sturdy and compact. Trim just above a set of leaves.

- ☐ **Plants for a changing climate** – Consider adding some of these [drought tolerant plants](#) to your garden. Once established, they require little watering or care: [Butterfly Milkweed](#), [Nodding Onion](#), [Lanceleaf Coreopsis](#), [Hairy Penstemon](#).



Nodding Onion - C. Sims

- ☐ **Common Milkweed** – Trim back some of your Common Milkweed ([Asclepias syriaca](#)) stems the 2nd or 3rd week of July to [stimulate new, young growth](#) which is more attractive to monarchs for egg laying.
- ☐ **Veggies** – Water during dry or hot weather to avoid stressing plants. Do not over fertilize tomatoes, peppers or squash as this can lead to [blossom end rot](#). Snip herbs and chives to encourage new bushy growth. Extend the harvest of lettuce by [snipping greens](#) at soil level for continued growth.
- ☐ **Invasive Plants** – Be aware that invasive plants are still sold at nurseries, so make sure new purchases are not on invasive plant lists. Check this [Grow Me Instead Guide](#) for info on what is invasive as well as non-invasive alternatives.

“Garden problems? Perhaps writing a [Haiku](#) would help?”

The Bunny Ate My Plants

Rabbit sits munching
Suspiciously close to plants
Sporting new haircuts.

Lisa U. Phillips (Facebook)



Invasive Plant Lament

"No fuss ground cover"
they said. Now I weed and weep
On my hands and knees...

Claudette + ChatGPT



- ☐ **Summer Watering** – Water earlier in the day, and at the base of plants or using soaker hoses. Water spring planted trees and shrubs regularly and existing trees less frequently, but deeply. Potted plants may need watering twice a day in hot, dry weather. Stop watering Garlic 2-3 weeks before harvest (about mid-July).
- ☐ **Weeds** – Check this [Ontario Weed Gallery Guide](#) to help ID weeds & find management options. (Note that some native plants like Milkweed are included as "weeds"). Target removal of seedheads to reduce the seed bank for next year. Lawn weeds that are actively growing can be killed using an approved herbicide such as [chloroindole](#) (a naturally occurring organic compound) or [iron](#). Weeds in bricks/driveways can be cut using a line trimmer, solarized or sprayed with an approved herbicide (see links above).
- ☐ **Lawn** – Mow high (3"/7.5 cm) to shade out weeds. Leave the clippings on the grass to return nutrients & water to the soil. Let the lawn go dormant in dry hot spells (it may yellow) by watering only every other week. Water dormant grass if the blades don't spring back upright when you walk on it or if they fold to show their lighter blueish green underside. Learn more about [summer care of lawns](#).



Beauty and the Beasts - Invasive Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)

Kirsten McCarthy, Halton Master Gardener

Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) is an herbaceous, perennial ground cover that is beloved by many gardeners because it is very low maintenance, and thrives in the shade. At a local online gardening centre, it is described as “the most durable ground cover of them all; quite stunning, a low-growing plant with white variegated foliage. Its attractive compound leaves remain green in colour with showy white variegation throughout the season with a spreading habit of growth”.

They also warn of its invasive nature but still encourage gardeners to plant it around trees in a “contained area”. According to The Credit Valley Conservation Area (CVC) Invasive Plants List, Goutweed is classified as a Category 1 Invasive Species:

“This category includes species that exclude all other species and dominate sites indefinitely. Plants in this category are a threat to natural areas wherever they occur because they tend to disperse widely.”

Unfortunately, Goutweed is not currently regulated under Ontario's Invasive Species Act and is commonly sold in garden centres and nurseries. Various other common names exist for Goutweed, including Ground Elder, Bishop's Goutweed, English Masterwort, Aise-weed, Dog Elder, and Snow-on-the-mountain.



Photograph: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut
Bugwood.org



Aegopodium podagraria invading an urban forest in Edmonton, AB. Image by Viktoria Wagner Nat-CC-BY-NC

Hailing from northern Asia and Europe, Goutweed was brought over to North America by European settlers in the 1800's but has grown in popularity with homeowners since the 1960's for its low maintenance requirements, adaptability to various soil and light conditions, and its ability to grow and spread with little encouragement. Goutweed grows extensively through its rhizomes, spreading quickly by vegetative means. The flowers are pollinated by a wide variety of insects including beetles, bees, and especially small flies. Once established, Goutweed plants are highly competitive in shaded environments; the seedlings, on the other hand, generally need recently disturbed soil and bright light in order to survive. Even though the rhizomes are a large factor in the spread of goutweed, the primary vector for dispersal to new areas is humans. Most Goutweed colonies spread to neighboring natural areas from intentional plantings, or by dumping yard waste that includes discarded rhizomes.

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INVASIVE GOUTWEED, *AEGOPodium PODAGRARIA* (CONT'D)**Identification**

There are two different looks to Goutweed: one with variegated, creamy white leaves and one without, but they both share the following traits: the leaves are mostly basal, with the leafstalk attached to an underground stem (rhizome); the leaves are divided into three groups of three leaflets; the leaflets are toothed and sometimes irregularly lobed; and foliage of the "wild" type (non-variegated) is medium green in color while the commonly planted variegated form has bluish-green leaves with creamy white edges. Sometimes reversion back to solid green or a mixture of solid green and the lighter variegated pattern occurs within one patch.

Small, white, five-petaled flowers are produced in early to mid-summer and arranged in flat-topped clusters. The flowers rise from a leafy stem to about 3 feet tall. The seeds are small and elongated, similar in size and shape to carrot seeds (as these two plants come from the same *Apiaceae* family) and ripen in late summer. Although Goutweed's foliage thrives in dense shade, it seldom flowers under these conditions.

Removal

There are a variety of methods for controlling Goutweed, depending on the extent of the infestation, and the amount of time and labour available. Regardless of which method is used, the patch should be carefully monitored for a few years following removal, and any new shoots should be dug up and destroyed.

Hand Pulling/Digging

One method is digging down to a depth of two feet, then screening the soil to remove all roots and rhizomes. The plant is very unlikely to regenerate from such a depth. Small patches of goutweed can be eliminated by careful and persistent hand-pulling or digging. It is easiest to hand-pull plants when the soil is moist, in June or July, when the plant is at its maximum growth stage and the roots have depleted their carbohydrate reserve. Of course, this is a major job because properly sifting soil is a very slow process.



Image: [Grow Garden Blog](#)
Goutweed and its underground network of roots and rhizomes.

Tarping/Sheeting

For larger patches, preventing Goutweed photosynthesis in early spring can control the plant by depleting it of its carbohydrate reserves. After leaves are fully developed in April or May, cover the patch with black plastic tarps, sheeting or cardboard, so no sunlight is able to penetrate. The cover should expand to an area larger than the infestation (at least 3 ft beyond the patch boundaries), and the edges should be secured to the ground with sandbags, bricks, or landscape staples. Note that tarping is a non-selective control method and care needs to be taken not to suppress native plant populations. In addition, site selection should also be taken into consideration because tarping may damage soil microbial activity. The area surrounding the cover should be monitored and checked regularly to see if the Goutweed has escaped beyond the covered area.

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INVASIVE GOUTWEED, *AEGOPodium PODAGRARIA* (CONT'D)

Disposal

Following any of these control methods, plant material should be removed from the site to prevent re-rooting or re-establishment. It is important to place all material in a black garbage bag and dispose of it in the garbage. Ensure you are disposing of all rhizomes. If any rhizome fragments are left behind, they can re-root and sprout new plants.



Goutweed Flowers
Image: by Kirsten Johnson

**If you are having trouble with
Goutweed, visit:
Goutweed Support Group on Facebook**

Native Alternatives



Choosing Large Leaf Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*) for your garden instead of Goutweed will give you a lovely lush, green ground cover of heart shaped basal leaves from early to mid-summer. Later in the season, you'll be rewarded with beautiful small blueish-white rayed flowers that function as necessary food for late season pollinators as well as being the host plant for the Pearl Crescent Butterfly. Large Leaf Aster spreads by rhizomes but is not aggressive. Adapted to the soil and sun conditions of deciduous forests, Large Leaf Aster likes moisture in the beginning of the growing season but can tolerate the dry conditions that occur in the late-season understory. It thrives in both dry sand and heavy clay soils as long as there is some organic matter in the soil. In the fall, mulch with leaves.

Further Information:

- [Goutweed](#)
- [Invasive Species Centre](#)
- [Native Asters for Ontario - In Our Nature](#)
- [CCIPR](#)

The ornamental plant trade is the largest pathway for the introduction of non-native invasive plant species in Canada. Preventing introductions and reducing the spread of these plants is the most cost-effective means to protect against their harmful impacts. To protect our environment, economy and public health from invasive plant species, the **Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR)** believes Canada should improve policies, tools, and regulations.



Thrips: Tiny Insects, Big Trouble for Gardens Worldwide

By Nikolina Radulovich, Halton Master Gardener



They may be no bigger than a grain of rice, but thrips are increasingly among the most destructive pests in both home gardens and commercial farms. Their damage to flowers, fruits, and vegetables is widespread—and their ability to reproduce, adapt, and spread globally has made them formidable opponents in pest control.



Onion Thrips originally from the Mediterranean have been established in the Great Lakes for 100 years.
[Image by Summerfield et al. 2024.](#)

According to a recent [review](#) in *Entomologia Generalis*, four thrips species now dominate as major global pests: **western flower thrips** (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), **onion thrips** (*Thrips tabaci*), **melon thrips** (*Thrips palmi*), and **chili thrips** (*Scirtothrips dorsalis*). These thrips are **polyphagous**, meaning they feed on many types of plants including vegetables, flowers, and fruit trees. That broad diet allows them to thrive in a wide range of environments and seasons. They lay their eggs inside plant tissue, and their young stages often remain hidden in buds or the base of leaves. This hidden lifestyle makes infestations hard to spot until plants are already showing serious damage.

Their spread has been helped by international trade, especially in cut flowers, nursery plants, and produce. In fact, nearly half of all thrips intercepted at European borders between 2005 and 2020 belonged to these four sectors. Once introduced to a new region, their ability to reproduce rapidly and without mating allows them to quickly build up populations. Some species can produce offspring from unfertilized eggs, a form of asexual reproduction that accelerates their expansion and helps resistant genes pass on quickly.

Resistance to insecticides is one of the biggest concerns in managing thrips. Because they feed on so many types of plants, they have evolved enzyme systems that can break down a wide range of plant chemicals—and unfortunately, those same systems help them survive pesticide treatments. As a result, populations of *F. occidentalis* and others have become resistant to common sprays like [pyrethroids](#) and [carbamates](#) in many parts of the world. Resistance can emerge in just a few years and persist for generations, even without ongoing exposure to pesticides.



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Thrips: Tiny Insects, Big Trouble for Gardens Worldwide (CONT'D)

Thrips are strategic invaders. Their success is partly due to how well they outcompete local species. In gardens and farms around the world, these invasive thrips often dominate because they can reproduce faster, feed on more plant types, and tolerate harsher conditions than native insects. For example, *T. palmi* is now a leading pest of cucurbits and solanaceous vegetables in tropical regions, while *F. occidentalis* has become dominant on peppers and ornamental flowers in temperate climates. Once established, these species tend to push out other thrips, leading to fewer natural checks.

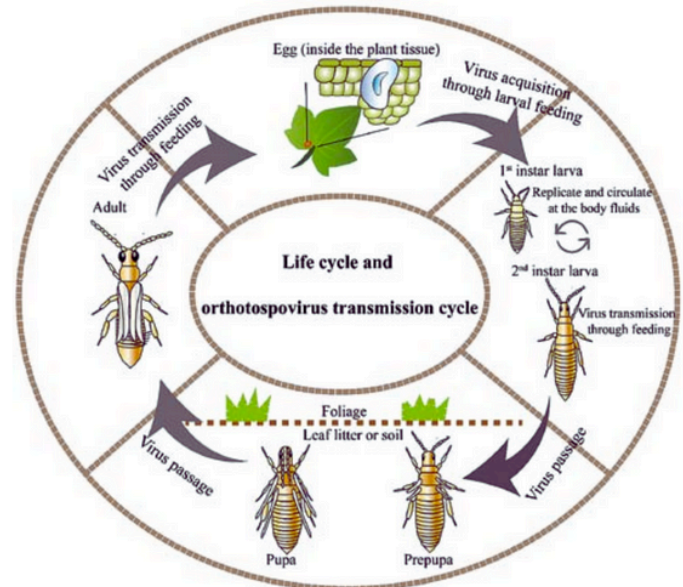
In addition to feeding damage, these thrips also transmit plant viruses. Western flower thrips is a well-known vector of [Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus](#) (TSWV), one of the most damaging viruses in modern horticulture. Thrips must acquire the virus as larvae, but once they do, they can spread it for life. Some studies have even found that infected plants become more attractive to thrips, leading to faster population growth and wider viral spread.

Climate change may be tipping the scales even further in their favor. Rising temperatures and elevated CO₂ levels have been shown to enhance the survival, reproduction, and virus-spreading ability of *F. occidentalis*. In laboratory studies, this species grew faster and laid more eggs on virus-infected plants grown under high-CO₂ conditions. Researchers believe that some plant viruses can actually alter host plants to become more attractive and nutritious to their thrips vectors.



Thrips damage of leaves

[Image by Nature Garden](#)



Thrips Lifecycle

[Image by Wu, S et al. 2025.](#)

For gardeners, early detection is key. [Sticky traps](#), regular inspection of buds and young leaves, and removal of plant debris can help reduce the chances of a major outbreak. However, sticky traps should be used with care, as they can unintentionally capture beneficial insects if placed outdoors. They are best suited for use in greenhouses or indoor settings. Beneficial insects like lacewings and predatory mites are important allies. If insecticides are used, it is important to rotate chemical classes and avoid repeated use of the same product. Buying healthy plants from reputable sources also helps prevent new infestations.

Thrips may be tiny, but they remind us of how much impact a small insect can have—especially when science, trade, and climate shifts give them a helping hand. With better understanding and careful management, gardeners can take action to reduce the damage and protect both plants and pollinators from these persistent pests.





By Hariette Henry, Halton Master Gardener

According to a study published in the Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification (University of Guelph, 2011), Stephen Luk, the main researcher, has identified 23 species of fireflies native to Ontario. A lot of research is still being done on this group of insects, including identifying new species. It can be difficult to study fireflies as they are active only after twilight. During the day, they are thought to be resting on trees or on tall grasses. Their active season in North America runs from late May to early July.



Image: Stephen Luk

[Pyractomena borealis larva](#)

Fireflies typically live in the warmer regions of the province, near woodlands and wet areas. In the larval stage, fireflies feed on snails, slugs, worms and other soft-bodied insects. Researchers believe that adult fireflies eat pollen and/or nectar and are therefore pollinators.

How do these insects achieve the fire they are so well known for? The insects take in oxygen and, inside special cells, combine it with a substance called luciferin to produce light with almost no heat. They use these flashes of light to communicate and attract a mate. It is believed that most, if not all, species have their own flash pattern. Some females of some species are known to mimic the pattern of other firefly species in order to lure males in and then eat them.

Understanding how fireflies make light, and researching the chemical components of luciferin, enabled scientists to recreate this naturally occurring luminescence in products useful to humans. "Luminol" is used by forensic scientists to solve crimes, and "Glowsticks", originally developed by the US Navy in the early sixties, is used as float lights for men overboard.



Image: Guelph Today

“Where have all my fireflies gone?”

Fireflies are beneficial insects. Their larvae hunt snails, slugs, earthworms and other insect pests at night. Firefly population is declining, and the main issues appear to be loss of habitat, pesticide use and light pollution. **You can help!**

1. Grow the perimeter of your yard: wild - taller grasses provide firefly habitat during the day.
2. Create a water feature. Moisture is important during mating season; they thrive around standing water.
3. Turn the porch and yard lights out to minimize light pollution.
4. Plant native trees such as pines. They provide blackout light so as not to interfere with mating; needle drop is also an ideal environment for larvae.
5. Avoid pesticides, especially lawn chemicals (including nematodes) - these can kill firefly larvae who live in and at soil level.
6. Add a variety of native plants that are rich in nectar and pollen to your yard.
7. Let logs and litter accumulate - fireflies like to lay their eggs in rotting logs.



Image: Scientific American

Fireflies in the Garden

Here come real stars to fill the upper skies, And here on earth come emulating flies, That though they never equal stars in size, And they were never really stars at heart Achieve at times a very star-like start. Only, of course, they can't sustain the part. By Robert Frost

Additional Reading:

- [Beetles of Ontario](#) – iNaturalist
- [Firefly Watch](#): Resources to Learn More
- [Lightning Bug, Lampyridae](#) (Encyclopedia of Life)
- [Canadian Wildlife Federation, Fireflies & Lightning Bugs](#)
- [Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification](#)
- [The 4 Stages of the Firefly Life Cycle](#)



*Garden Inspiration!***So Much to Do, So Little 'Thyme' to Do It!**

Overwhelmed by a never ending list of things that "HAVE" to be done in the garden?
Start by picking an item on your gardening list, and ask yourself, is it a task or a project?

Task

A routine garden activity

Project

A change that will improve your garden

Does this task even need to be done?

**No! Skip these:**

- Most weeding. 20% of weeding provides 80% of the value
- Tilling - working the soil deeply
- Fall clean up
- Fertilizing
- Applying herbicides and pesticides
- Cultivating - working the top layer of the soil

Yes! In priority order:

1. Harvesting
2. Pest & disease inspection
3. Weeding noxious, invasive & aggressive plants
4. Mulching
5. Preparing beds for planting
6. Hoeing
7. Strimming & mowing
8. Hand weeding

Will something bad happen soon if you don't make this change?

e.g., erosion from a weather event

Yes!
Make time to do it.

No!
Fit it in when you can.
Sounds like fun!



What's Growing On?



HALTON REGION MASTER GARDENERS

Come Grow with Us

Garden Journeys and Monarch Awards

These FREE summer events are happening in the City of Hamilton including:


Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Glanbrook, Stoney Creek & Waterdown!





Applications ARE being Scheduled!
Look for updates [HERE!](#)
Hamilton Garden Visitors Stay Tuned!




FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED IN ECO-FRIENDLY, SUSTAINABLE GARDENS!

 Tour Native Plant Gardens


 See Biodiversity in Action

 Get Inspired by Local Gardeners

 FREE - No Ticket Required!

 Scan QR or Visit Site for Information

 In the City of Hamilton

 Mark your calendars for two weekends of
inspiring garden tours:
August 8–10 and August 15–17, 2025

[Garden Journeys](#)



Applications ARE being Reviewed!
Visits are being Scheduled!
Hamilton Gardeners Stay Tuned!



The MONARCH AWARDS TEAM



who will visit your garden, are volunteer community members with expertise and passion for eco-friendly gardening. They love visiting gardens, offering feedback, and encouraging all the great work that local gardeners are doing to support healthy ecosystems 🌍.

THANK YOU FOR APPLYING!

We truly appreciate the time and effort you put into growing gardens that support biodiversity. Every garden helps build a healthier community, and we celebrate everything you're doing! 🌻🌿🦋

Key Dates:

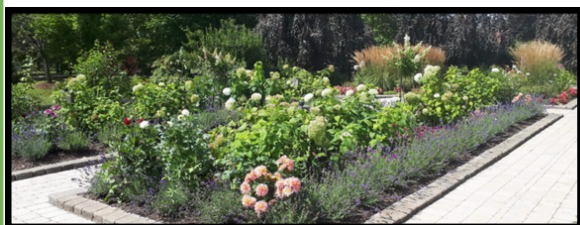
- July 15 – Garden Visits Begin
- September 1 – Garden Visits End
- September 20 – Monarch Awards Recipients Announced
- October 15 – Wrap-up Celebration for the 2025 Monarch Awards

*Let's show our city how green – and
wildly alive our gardens can be.*

Media Contacts: Janet Mackey, Pam MacDonald
Co-Chairs of the Halton Region Monarch Awards
Questions? Contact: monarchawards.hmg@gmail.com

What's Growing On?

By Trish Moraghan, Halton Master Gardener

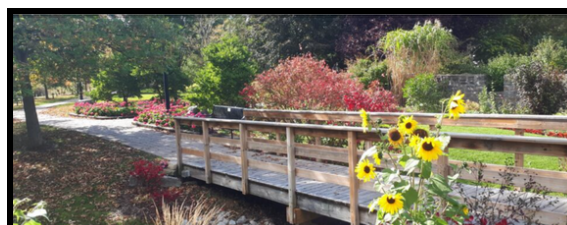
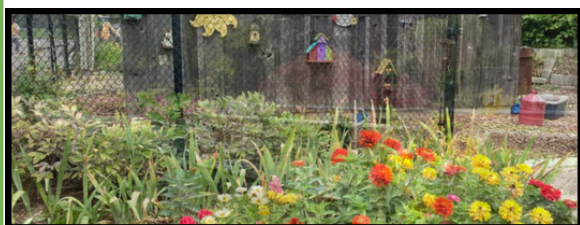


Plan a Visit to



Georgetown

[Learn more here](#)



Ontario Garden Tours
2025



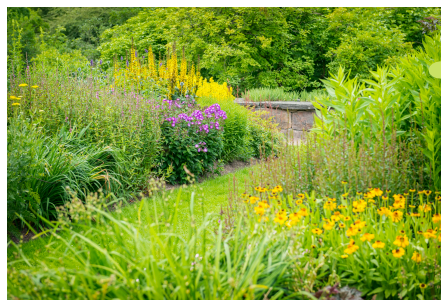
Start
the car!



[Learn more here](#)



The Secret Gardens of Milton Tour



Sunday, July 6, 2025
10 AM to 5 PM
[Learn more here](#)

Find Your Bird Garden Zone

Follow the steps to maximize your
gardening success for birds

BIRDS CANADA OISEAUX CANADA

1

INTERACTIVE MAP

2

PLANT SELECTOR



3

PLANNING YOUR GARDEN

[Learn more here](#)

What's Growing On?



[Guided Tours](#)



[Bloom Watch](#)



[Hendrie Park](#)



[Rock Garden](#)



[After Dark](#)

Check our [calendar](#) for events





JUL

2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



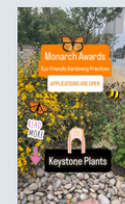
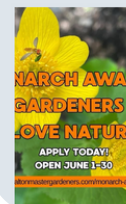
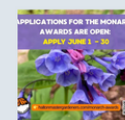


HALTON REGION MASTER GARDENERS

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About Our Newsletter

Cross Pollination is published monthly from February to December and is written and prepared by our dedicated volunteers. Halton Master Gardeners are experienced gardeners who have studied horticulture extensively and continue to upgrade their skills through technical training. We strive to provide science-based, sustainable gardening information to the general public. The information in our newsletter has been verified by our volunteers to the best of our abilities, but given the scope of horticulture and science some concepts may not reflect current knowledge. The content displayed in our newsletter is the intellectual property of Halton Region Master Gardeners and their authors. It can be shared in its entirety, but specific content should not be reused, republished or reprinted without the author's consent.

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