



The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com



Est. 1984

P.O. Box 494
Perth, ON K7H 3G1
February 2021

President's Pen

Welcome to 2021.

I want to thank each of you for having faith in our society and board of directors by getting your membership for 2021 up-to-date. We have done very well with almost 100 members signing up.

Some of our Board members contacted all of our corporate sponsors and so far most of them have agreed to renew their sponsorship of our society. Since we will not be publishing a Yearbook for 2021, we will be putting our sponsor business cards in every newsletter we publish and we will do a profile of each business in future newsletters so you get to know our sponsors and remember them when you are looking for landscaping, soil, gravel, flowers, plants, gifts, construction, printing, car repairs, or pharmaceuticals.

Jane Avery, our newsletter editor has put together a fantastic newsletter for you all to enjoy. If you have any topics or articles that you would like to see in our newsletter, please let us know. We are starting a Q & A column in the newsletter, so please send us your gardening questions so we can get them answered for you.

I want to take this time to thank all the members of the Board of Directors for all of their help and dedication over the past year.

We have put together an interesting program for the first five months of this year. Most of our meetings will be on the Zoom platform, and we will continue using this platform until we can meet in person in larger numbers.

February we are going to have a short AGM meeting to comply with OHA and OMAFRA regulations and then we are going to have

Brittany Lepage, The Dahlia Darling, speak on growing wonderful dahlias - all kinds, all sizes, great fall colour in your gardens and superb cutting flowers.

We will have a talk on the Science of Soil with Dale Odorozzi for our March 9th meeting. In April we will have Rebecca Last who will speak to us on growing, harvesting and storing Herbs. Our May meeting, Lynn Lavoie will present Dazzling Hydrangeas. We are also planning our annual plant sale for May 22. In June, we plan to have an outdoor meeting at Sylvia's 4th Line Florals. As the year progresses we will come up with more activities for our members.

We are looking for members to be hosts for our annual summer garden tours. If you are interested, please email me at pdhsmembers@gmail.com. We would like to have two or three gardens to tour like we did last year.

I will leave you with this thought.

Linda



New Plant Varieties for Spring 2021

Last February we were treated to a colourful slide show and enthusiastic introduction of new plant varieties by Carol Onion of Hillside Gardens. Carol has kindly shared with us a preview of new annuals and perennials premiering this growing season. Here is a selection of her favorites:

Annuals:

Calibrachoa Superbells Coral Sun

Part sun to sun. Low maintenance with no deadheading needed. Calibrachoa do not like to have constantly damp soil. They do well in ground only with good drainage. For most gardeners, containers are best use for Calibrachoa. Attracts hummingbirds.



tall. Great for hanging baskets as well as combination planters. Full shade to full sun, but prefers part shade.

Lantana Havana Sunset

Punch up the colour volume with these cherry red, pink and gold blossoms. Heat tolerant, drought tolerant, deer resistant, little to no deadheading, versatile, fragrant, attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. Full sun. Needs good drainage.



Calibrachoa Calitastic Augergine Star



Stunning star pattern. Very early to flower, all varieties flower at 11 hours critical day length and stay open and in flower

under low light conditions. Blooms early spring through autumn.

Petunia Crazytunia Iced Berry

Sun. Versatile usage: containers, hanging baskets, garden, landscape. Features: Heat seeker, Hummingbird attractor, pollinator plant.



Verbena Vanessa Compact Deep Pink



Striking bright pink, large clusters of flowers bloom early on Vanessa's upright habit that is known for excellent branching and high tolerance for

powdery mildew. This variety is both cold & heat tolerant and is suitable for pots and hanging baskets.

Begonia Funky Red



Features large double blooms in a beautiful shade of bright red that dangle from your planters. The deep green foliage is long with serrated edges. 8 to 12"

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Perennials:

Andropogon Gerardii "Red October"

Known commonly as big blue stem, turkey foot, bluejoint, is a species of tall grass native to much of the Great Plains and grassland



regions of central & eastern North America. Strong upright habit and dark green, red tipped foliage that turns deep red in fall and winter. Full Sun. Deer resistant and drought tolerant.

Dianthus Constant Beauty Crush Orange



The Constant Beauty line of Dianthus is fragrant and tolerates more heat than other varieties! Blooms

in early spring and then again with deadheading through the fall. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Requires well drained soil. Use near front of the boarder or in rock gardens. Stunning salmon-coloured blooms are edged in white.

Hellerocollis Space Coast Seashells

Early-mid season bloom. 5" cream-white flowers have vivid purple eye zone and edging, yellow throat contrasts nicely. Reblooms. Multi award winner! Sun/part shade. 24-30" tall.



Hosta Amazone (bare root)

More sun resistant than other white centred Hosta. Lightly rippled leaves have bright white centres that vividly contrast with bold, dark green margins that flame inwards. Bears lavender flowers. 16" tall.



Hosta Snake Eyes



Fast grower, unique pattern. Very showy! Snake Eyes will grab your attention with its individual markings, white streaks that separate the two tones of green. Hosta are hardy, versatile

perennials that are perfect for shade gardens and require little care. Height 14" They thrive in all soils from pure clay to boggy ground & usually get bigger every year.

Sedum SunSparkler Cosmic Comet

This low growing Sedum in the SunSparkler series has clean disease-free glaucous blue foliage from spring thru fall. Plants are smothered with raspberry pink flowers that contrast nicely against the blue leaves for 4 weeks late summer. Loved by bees. This plant is heat and drought tolerant, deer resistant and grows quickly in any soil. Combines well with chartreuse spiderwort.



February District 2 Mini Flower Show Challenge

Arrangement Design Theme: Heartbeat

A design of your choice

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, we are encouraging members to get inspired to create a flower arrangement to celebrate the season. May these samples get your heart pounding and your imagination running wild.



Anthurium plants don't like continually moist soil. Make sure to water your anthurium plant regularly, but don't over water. Only water your anthurium when the soil is dry to the touch. The plant is susceptible to root rot, so too much water can cause the roots to die. If you allow the plant to become too dry in a pot, it will slow down its growth and the root ball will be difficult to re-wet. If the root ball becomes too dry in the pot, soak the pot the anthurium plant is in for an hour to rehydrate it.



Anthurium Care

Condensed article by Heather Rhoades for Gardening Know How



Anthurium plants can tolerate all levels of indirect light, but anthuriums growing in low light will have fewer flowers and will grow slower. These plants cannot tolerate direct light however, as this can burn the leaves. They grow best in bright, indirect light.

Anthurium care also requires that the soil be free draining but hold some water. If you are growing this plant as a houseplant, a half and half mix of potting soil and orchid soil or perlite will provide the kind of soil anthuriums prefer. Note: Anthurium are a tropical plant, not hearty in our Perth area Zone 4-5 gardens.

Care of anthurium plants does not require too much fertilizer. The plant only needs to be fertilized with a one-quarter strength fertilizer once every three to four months. To get the best blooms, use a fertilizer that has a higher phosphorus number (the middle number).

Read more at Gardening Know How: Caring for Anthurium Growing In The Garden Or Home <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/houseplants/anthurium/anthurium-care.htm>

Please send your photos of your Heartbeat inspired arrangement and Anthurium house plant by noon on Sunday February 28 by email to webdistrict2oha@gmail.com

District 2 is sponsoring monthly Virtual Flower shows over the winter months to encourage us to keep a hand in with plants and designs. These will not be judged but will give us a chance to share our plants and designs.



Question for our Master Gardener: Dale Odorizzi

Q. Kate McLaren would like to know if she can grow a Japanese Maple in the Perth area.

A. Dale does not recommend Japanese Maples for our zone 4 growing conditions. Instead, she offers these three suggestions:

1. A Korean Maple

This article has been condensed. It is by Teo Spengler of Garden Know How.



It's a small maple tree that makes a wonderful substitute for Japanese maple in colder regions. Korean maple trees (*Acer pseudosieboldianum*) look quite a bit like the popular Japanese maples, but they are hardier. The trees thrive in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 4 through 8. The tree is native to China and Korea, where it grows in forested areas. This small specialty maple matures to about 25 feet tall (7.6 m) and wide.

The Korean maple is a delicate tree with some exceptional features. In spring when new leaves open, they are soft and downy. Each leaf has some 10 lobes and is about as wide as your hand. The blossoms appear in spring as well, hanging in surprising purple clusters. They develop into the tree's fruits, winged samaras, in summer. A big attraction of the tree is its spectacular fall color. The dark green leaves flame into shades of orange, purple, yellow, red, and crimson as the weather gets chilly in autumn.

How to Grow a Korean Maple

If you want to grow a Korean maple, find a site with moist, organically rich soil and excellent drainage. Korean maple trees will not be happy with wet feet. You can plant these beauties in a full sun area or a spot with sun-dappled shade. Don't pick a site that is hot and dry. Once you have your tree started, caring for Korean maples includes watering. These are quite thirsty trees and require regular irrigation. Provide Korean maple trees with water every week throughout the growing season, but offer extra water during dry periods. You'll also need to protect these trees from strong winds. Protection is also required in the coldest zones. You won't have to worry much about insect or disease problems. While the trees are susceptible to stem canker, leaf spots, and anthracnose, they do not have any serious pest or disease issues.

Read more at: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/maple/growing-korean-maple-trees.htm>

2. Elderberry *Sambucus Canadensis*

Condensed insights from The Spruce

The elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) is a deciduous shrub that comes from North America. It is also known as the pie elder, American elder, black elderberry, elder-blow, sweet elder or just elderberry. Each spring the plant is covered with clusters of tiny white flowers that are followed by purplish-black fruit. The flowers and fruit have applications in alternative medicine, though its sibling (common elderberry, or *Sambucus nigra*) is the species that is usually used for healing.



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The botanical name associated with this shrub is *Sambucus canadensis* and it is in the Adoxaceae family or Caprofoliaceae, depending on the botanist. Some consider this to be a subspecies of the common elderberry and write the name as *Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*.

How to Grow Elderberries

Elderberry shrubs are prolific in the wild, so it's no surprise that when planted in a garden, they're easy to maintain and tolerate a wide variety of growing conditions. Hardiness Zones 3-10. Once established,

elderberry shrubs will be with you for the long haul. Sun Exposure: Full sun to part shade.

Elderberry shrubs are 10 to 15 feet tall and wide, growing into a rounded shape. They're an excellent addition to a wildlife garden since birds love to eat the fruit. Its flowers will also attract butterflies. If you have a stream or pond on your property, elderberries can provide erosion control when planted on the banks.

Soil

The elderberry *Sambucus Canadensis* is a good choice if you have a location that tends to be moist or wet. That said, the site should also drain well to discourage root rot. Elderberry shrubs are able to handle a pH range from acidic to alkaline, but do best in slightly acidic soil.

Water

Elderberries need a lot of water, but as long as the roots have had a chance to anchor themselves, the shrub can handle periods of drought. The soil around an elderberry shrub should be moist, but not waterlogged.

Fertilizer

Before planting elderberry shrubs, amend the soil with compost. Then, fertilize annually with additional compost in the springtime.

Pruning

This shrub does tend to form a lot of suckers. This can be a beneficial characteristic if you're trying to populate a native garden inexpensively, for instance, but it can be annoying otherwise. It may even become invasive in some areas. Your local garden center should know if this is the case.

You can make the shrubs into a standard (small tree) form by choosing and developing a central leader. Otherwise, it is usually a multi-trunked shrub.

Plan on removing dead, damaged and diseased canes (flexible branches) at the start of spring. You should also remove canes that are over three years old since younger ones produce better and this pruning will encourage new growth. Pruning can also be used to make a shrub's appearance neater, as it can become a bit lanky.

Caution: You need to cook elderberry fruit before eating or it can be poisonous. The fruit can be tasty and useful as long as you prepare it correctly. The rest of the plant is also potentially toxic.

More information: <https://www.thespruce.com/american-elderberry-growing-profile-3269147>

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3. Pagoda Dogwood *Cornus Alteriflora*

Condensed insights from Cannon Nurseries

A truly special plant for northern landscapes, valued for its almost “oriental” horizontal branching habit; white flowers in spring, blue berries and purple fall color; quite fussy, needs a cool, moist site with afternoon shade, also prefers acidic soil. Hardiness Zone: 3a

Pagoda Dogwood has clusters of fragrant creamy white flowers held atop the branches in late spring. It has emerald green foliage throughout the season. The pointy leaves turn an outstanding burgundy in the fall. It produces navy blue berries in mid summer.



Pagoda Dogwood is an open multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a stunning habit of growth which features almost oriental horizontally-tiered branches. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Pagoda Dogwood will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America.



Communities in Bloom campaign encourages yellow-themed gardens

'Hope is Growing' will be non-profit's motto for 2021, writes Mark and Ben Cullen, YorkRegion.com

Canadians are ready to start looking up and so are gardeners. That is why Communities in Bloom has embraced Hope is Growing as the banner for their 2021 campaign.



Ben and Mark Cullen

What is Communities in Bloom?

It is a celebration of urban environmental sustainability across Canada. CIB is a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization that partners with municipalities to enhance residential and public spaces.

Since 1995, the goal has been "to enhance the quality of life and the environment through people and plants in order to create community pride." We are delighted that our professional trade association, the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), acquired control of Communities in Bloom just over a year ago. This provides an opportunity for new ideas, growth, and vision.

The first endeavour of the "new" Communities in Bloom is the 'Hope is Growing' campaign, which encourages Canadians to plant a garden of hope for 2021, featuring the colour yellow. The goal is to create front yards, boulevards and playgrounds brimming with yellow flowers, foliage, and vegetables.

As always, friendly competition is at the heart of Communities in Bloom. If your community participates in the broader CIB program, planting a bright yellow Hope Garden can enhance your odds for this year's awards.

How to Design your Hope Garden

Forsythia, one of our favourite flowering shrubs which is enrobed in a coat of yellow flowers in early spring — perfect timing for the heralding of new hope. If you have not already planted forsythia, you can enjoy its colour with cuttings placed in a tall vase. Forsythia cuttings tend to root easily by pushing the bottom third of each cutting into damp ground as soon as the ground has thawed.

Sunflower (helianthus) for sunny days ahead — there could be no more obvious choice for a Hope Garden. Shop now for a wide variety of sunflower varieties from seed catalogues or go online and check out the



seeds that are available from a myriad of suppliers. Plant directly from seed in early spring, enjoy throughout late summer and fall as the birds show up to enjoy a feast on big yellow sunflower heads.

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), a native perennial that produces bright yellow flowers from late summer into autumn and attracts pollinators to beat the band.

Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), another great native plant that is a relative to the sunflower. This one is different, though, as it features an abundance of yellow pollinator-attracting flowers and produces an edible tuber that can be cooked like a potato.

Marigolds (*Tagetes erecta*) are a fun annual with edible flowers. All marigolds are technically edible, but in our opinion the best tasting species are French marigold (*Tagetes patula*). Big Duck Gold marigold is one of our favourite varieties.

Speaking of vegetables, one of our favourite yellow vegetables is the Golden Delight summer squash, or simply yellow zucchini. One of Mark's favourite tricks is carving the grandkids' names in zucchinis with a knife when they are young and giving them as gifts from the "zucchini fairy" after they have matured for a few days. Why not carve a hopeful message in your zucchini?

Canadians took up gardening in record numbers last year: we hope to see a yellow-washed repeat in 2021 — after all, Hope is Growing in the garden.

Mark Cullen is an expert gardener, author, broadcaster, tree advocate and member of the Order of Canada. His son, Ben, is a fourth-generation urban gardener and graduate of University of Guelph and Dalhousie University in Halifax. Follow them at markcullen.com, @markcullengardening and on Facebook.

An advertisement for Images Inter Alia, a graphic design studio and print shop. The ad features a purple and black background with white text. The logo "Images Inter Alia" is at the top. Below it, a list of services includes business cards, wedding invitations, flyers, large and regular format photocopies, stationary, binding, postcards, scanning, graphic design, brochures, canvas, laminating, photo restoration, and art reproduction. Contact information includes the phone number 613-267-0078, email info@imagesperth.com, website www.imagesperth.com, and address 50 North Street Perth ON. The bottom of the ad features the "Images Inter Alia" logo and the text "Graphic Design Studio and Print Shop".

Yellow Garden Design

A harbinger of spring, the color yellow usually has an uplifting and positive effect on people, especially at the end of a cold, dreary winter. Yellow color schemes may also incite feelings of anxiety in some folks, if not carefully designed. So, how to create a yellow garden utilizing its positive traits? Yellow plants as a single color scheme greatly enlivens the garden, especially when the area is small or shaded, brightening and enlarging the garden space. Yellow gardens also bring warmth to the landscape at those times of year when the sun's rays are not at their peak, such as spring and autumn.

How to Create a Yellow Garden

When designing garden schemes with yellow plants, beware that a monochromatic planting can look unpleasant. Care must be taken when designing garden schemes with yellow, lest they appear over stimulating rather than being an accenting, calming space. While yellow color schemes lighten darkened areas, they can also be overpowering and are best used sparingly to emphasize other plants. That said, designing garden schemes with yellow flowering plants placed strategically is a great way to draw the eye to a particular spot in the garden and is often well used with a variety of hues, shapes, and textures. Yellow plants, after all, can be found anywhere within the range of lemon yellows, greenish yellows, amber yellows, and combinations thereof.

Groupings of any combination of yellow is sure to make an impression in your yellow garden design but is most visually satisfying when limited to no more than two shades. Also, two separate areas of yellow provide balance and refrain from overwhelming the eye when designing yellow garden schemes.

Monochromatic garden design is not a new concept; in fact, garden designer's such as Gertrude Jekyll* and Vita Sackville-West* are famous for their single hued gardens, which pack an overall visual wallop. So, how to create a yellow garden that emulates those created by the above master gardeners? First of all, if using perennials, you

will want to consider the bloom time. To stretch the blooming period throughout the season, visit a nursery or garden center every three weeks or so to scout out varieties that will suit your yellow garden design. Select the yellow color schemes that will make the most impact while not overwhelming the yellow garden design. Consider the location. Yellow, as mentioned, reflects more light than any color and is great for lightening up shaded areas. Yellow Plant Options: Plants such as variegated hosta, yellow coleus and feverfew ('Aureum') will glow in your yellow garden design. Setting yellow plants against dark evergreens, such as golden barberry, elder 'Aurea' or yellow leafed ninebark, will highlight not only the evergreens but brighten the locale. Try yellow flowering varieties of the following plants: Pansy, Petunia, Marigold, Zinnia, Rose, Rudbeckia, Coreopsis, Marguerite daisy, Columbine, Calendula, Snapdragon, Nasturtium, Sunflower, Goldenrod, Chrysanthemum, Dahlia.

Remember, less is more and some of these more vibrant yellow plants will do well paired with the cream to pale yellow hues found in 'Moonbeam' coreopsis, some daylilies, or rose varieties such as 'J.P. Connell,' 'Windrush,' or miniature 'Easter Morning' and 'Rise n Shine.'

Of course, spring bulbs of crocus and daffodil and early primulas or forsythia are always a welcome sight, reminding us that we have survived yet another winter. Iris, such as 'Harvest of Memories,' which will rebloom in some climates will make an impact in a yellow garden. Whichever plants you choose when designing garden schemes with yellow, discovering the correct combination may be a bit of trial and error but will surely result in an effective and gloriously eye catching landscape.


Read more at Gardening Know How: Designing Garden Scheme With Yellow Plants <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/spaces/designing-yellow-gardens.htm>

Renown Gardeners

*Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) is well known to many enthusiastic gardeners and landscape designers alike. She was held in high esteem by the gardening world in the 20th century, when she was acknowledged for her extensive design work alone and in partnership with Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect.

Gertrude concentrated her design work on applying plants in a variety of settings, woodland gardens, water gardens, and herbaceous borders, always striving to achieve the most natural effect. Gertrude became a prolific designer, completing around 350 commissions in England and America.

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Loseley Park Garden is just one splendid example. More can be explored at www.greatbritishgardens.co.uk

Vita (Victoria) Sackville-West was the daughter of the 3rd Baron Sackville. She was born in 1892 at Knole House in Kent. In 1913 she married the diplomat and journalist, Harold Nicolson. The couple bought Sissinghurst Castle in 1930, a ruined Elizabethan manor house, and spent years creating a garden that would be a tribute to their love and a visible expression of their personalities.

It was Harold Nicolson who provided the architectural framework for his wife's romantic profusion of planting. He had a love of firm classical lines, which made up the overall design of the garden. This was the perfect setting for the subtly coloured and informal planting schemes. They wanted the garden to have not only a formal structure with extensive views, but to provide a sense of privacy and intimacy. This was achieved by dividing the garden into separate enclosures, creating the now famous White Garden, Rose Garden, Orchard, Cottage Garden and Nuttery.



Vita Sackville-West was not a professional gardener, being first and foremost a poet and writer. She wrote a weekly article on gardening for the Observer, which she continued to do for fourteen years up until a year before she died. The enthusiasm she had for gardening together with her practical and experimental approach made her very popular with the gardening public.

Arguably, Sackville-West's finest achievement was the creation of the one-colour gardens at Sissinghurst. This she created by relating groups of plants in mass and height and trying colours against each other until satisfied with the right combination.

This condensed bio was written by garden designer Sarah Topp: www.toppdesigns.co.uk

Share your love this Valentine's Day



Why not try your hand at creating your own homemade Valentine's day greeting cards? My heart doodle, when photographed using my phone is emailable. Better yet, personalize your Valentines and pop them into the mail. Who wouldn't be thrilled to receive a warm message from you in the post? This year in particular, we all need to reach out and share the love. You can use my doodle if you want to send a quick greeting to your loved ones.

Happy Valentine's Day All!

Jane Avery, your newsletter editor



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