



The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com



Est. 1984

P.O. Box 494
Perth, ON K7H 3G1
February 2022

President's Pen

Welcome to 2022.

Another year to look forward. We have put together an interesting program for this year. We will start with the Zoom platform for our February and March meetings, and then we will assess to see if we can meet at St. Paul's Church starting in April and onwards.

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 would like to continue with the Q & A column in the newsletter, so please send us your gardening questions so we can get them answered for you.

This month our speaker will be Carol Onion from Hillside Gardens here in Perth. She will bedazzle us with a talk about all the new and upcoming plants that us crazy gardeners "must have" in our gardens, planters or pots.

Our March speaker will be Ben Canning and the topic will be "Gardening in the North." Growing year round in north climates. From 5A to 1B, growing year round is possible with the right equipment. Ben will share his experiences growing year round in the Arctic, and right here at home.

As it is the beginning of 2022, could you please renew your membership so you can continue to receive our monthly newsletter, informative speaker meetings and all the other benefits of being a member of the horticultural society.

Regards,

Linda

2022 PROGRAM

February 8, 2022

Carol Onion

"What's new for 2022"

March 8, 2022

Ben Canning

"Gardening in the North"

April 12, 2022

Brian Carson

"Treasures of the Ottawa Valley"

May 10, 2022

Candace Dressler

"Colour Through the Seasons with Perennials"

June 14, 2022

David & Madeline Archer

"Treats and Trivia"

September 13, 2022

Cliff Byrnes

"Bringing House Plants Indoors"

October 11, 2022

Blaine Marchand

"A Century of Peonies at the Farm"

November 22, 2022

Christmas Pot Luck/AGM

Looking Ahead to Spring Planting Season 2022

The Farmer's Almanac publishes planting calendars specific to Canadian and US locations. This link outlines when to plant a variety of fruits, vegetables, and herbs in the Perth area: www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar/ON/Perth

On average, our last spring frost occurs on May 22. Certain crops benefit from getting a head start on the growing season, by being started from seed indoors, as early as mid March. Their seedlings can then be planted outdoors as the growing season advances. Other crops are best sown directly into the garden once the soil has had a chance to warm up. The Farmers Almanac planting calendar provides optimal dates for planting based on "frost dates" or "moon dates".



Why Do You Start Seeds Indoors?



Starting seeds indoors (in seed trays or starter pots) gives your crops a head start on the growing season, which is especially important in regions with a short growing season. Starting seeds indoors also provides young, tender plants a chance to grow in a stable, controlled environment. Outdoors, the unpredictability of rain, drought, frost, low and high temperatures, sunlight, and pests and diseases can take a toll on young plants, especially when they're just getting started. Indoors, you can control these elements to maximize your plants' early growth and give them the best shot

at thriving when they are eventually transplanted outdoors.

For most crops that can be started indoors, seeds should be started about 6-8 weeks before your last spring frost date. This gives the plants plenty of time to grow large and healthy enough to survive their eventual transplanting to the garden.

Which Seeds Should Be Started Indoors?

Not all vegetables should be started indoors! In fact, most are better off being started directly in the garden (aka "direct-sown"). The crops that should be started indoors are those that are particularly susceptible to cold temperatures or that have a very long growing season and need a head start. These include tender vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant, as well as crops with a long growing season, like broccoli, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts.

Most other crops do best when sown directly into the garden soil. Root crops, including carrots, radishes, and beets, are especially well-suited to being started directly in the garden, since they do not like having their roots disturbed after planting. The same is true for squash and watermelon, though care must be taken to plant them when the soil is warm enough. Read more about direct-sowing seeds here! (<https://www.almanac.com/direct-sowing-seeds-vegetable-garden>)

When Should You Transplant Seedlings?



When seedlings have grown too large for their seed trays or starter pots, it's time to transplant. If it's not yet warm enough to plant outdoors, transplant the seedlings to larger plastic or peat pots indoors

and continue care. If outdoor conditions allow, start hardening off your seedlings approximately one week before your last frost date, then transplant them into the garden. Get more tips for transplanting seedlings (<https://www.almanac.com/tips-transplanting-seedlings>).

How to Successfully Harden Off Indoor-Sown Plants

“Hardening off” is the process of gradually acclimatizing indoor-sown plants to outdoor conditions.

For most plants, begin hardening off a week before the final frost date for your area. Our Garden Planner uses data from your closest weather station to recommend when it’s safe to plant out, providing a helpful guide to work back from.

Choose a sheltered spot to harden off your plants. An unheated greenhouse or cold frame is a great tool for this, or you can cluster pots into buckets, crates or boxes to keep the wind off. Don’t place pots directly on the ground where they can easily be knocked over by birds or attacked by slugs.

Begin hardening off on a still, cloudy day when temperatures are fairly steady. Water plants before they go outside. Place them into your sheltered spot for just two hours on the first day. The next day, leave them out for two more hours, with perhaps an hour’s direct sunshine in the morning. Gradually increase the length of outdoor time and direct sunshine over one to two weeks. You can then leave them out overnight if there’s no danger of frost.

In cold winter regions, plants – particularly tender plants such as tomatoes and peppers – will need to be prepared for the cooler nights early in the growing season. Towards the end of the hardening off period, cover your crops with fleece or row covers to protect them overnight. Once crops have been planted into their final positions, be alert for unexpected cold snaps and cover tender crops if necessary.

It’s a good idea to grow a few more plants than you need so you can hold some back just in case. Bought-in plants may also need hardening off, particularly if they have been kept in sheltered conditions.

What Is Planting by the Moon?



Planting by the Moon (also called “Gardening by the Moon”) is a traditional way to plant your above- and below-ground crops, especially at the start of the season. Here’s how it works:

- ▶ Plant annual flowers and vegetables that bear crops above ground during the light, or waxing, of the Moon. In other words, plant from the day the Moon is new until the day it is full.
- ▶ Plant flowering bulbs, biennial and perennial flowers, and vegetables that bear crops below ground during the dark, or waning, of the Moon. In other words, plant from the day after the Moon is full until the day before it is new again.

Old-time farmers swear that this practice results in a larger, tastier harvest, so we’ve included planting by the Moon dates in our planting calendar, too.

Gardening by the Moon is a growing trend, but the technique isn’t anything new. Gardeners and farmers have been using moon phase gardening for ages! Best of all, it’s a fairly simple process.

Gardening by the Moon

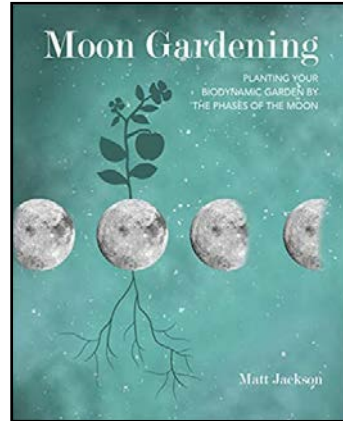
The basic idea behind Gardening by the Moon is that the cycles of the Moon affect plant growth. Just as the Moon’s gravitational pull causes tides to rise and fall, it also affects moisture in the soil.

Therefore, it’s said that seeds will absorb more water during the full Moon and the new Moon, when more moisture is pulled to the soil surface. This causes seeds to swell, resulting in greater germination and better-established plants.

Moon phase gardening takes into account two periods of the lunar cycle: the time between the new Moon and the full Moon (the waxing of the Nova Scotia based Revival Seeds: This forth & fifth

Moon), and the time between the full Moon and the new Moon (the waning of the Moon). It's considered best to plant certain types of plants during the waning of the Moon and other types during the waxing.

For a comprehensive guide to Moon Gardening consult "*Moon Gardening- Planting your Biodynamic Garden by the Phases of the Moon,*" by Matt Jackson



Nova Scotia based Revival Seeds: This forth & fifth generation of seed savers offer Canadians from coast to coast sensational seeds and growing know how



Revival Seeds Byrka Family & Revival Seeds Family Now

In 1903, Iwan and Anna Guryn immigrated from the Austro-Hungarian Empire (which is now known as the Western Ukraine) to Canada with fifteen dollars and a trunk of assorted seeds. They were farmers lured by the availability of the free land grants on the prairies. In 1905 they began breaking land and seeding their first crops near Riding Mountain, Manitoba. It was on this original homestead in 1925 where Katie Guryn would marry Dmytro Byrka. Together, they would establish a market garden business selling and trading their heirloom vegetables and seeds to local merchants and settlers.

They soon gained a reputation for having produce and seeds of superior quality. The heritage of quality seed and hardy selection continued for almost fifty years at mostly a local level, however the Byrka seed saving endeavour would be continued by many of their eight children.

Today, a 4th and 5th generation of Byrka family seed savers are fortunate enough to have retained a few of the original heirloom varieties along with the growing knowledge and seed selection. The seed saving tradition was officially revived in 2017, almost 100 years after the original garden plots and trials were first carried out on the prairie soils near Riding Mountain, Manitoba.

Revival Seeds is located in the beautiful Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia, Canada. The farm and business is owned and operated by Ken and Kathy Byrka, along with their daughters Rachel (Elsie Morden), Mallory, and Victoria.

It is our family commitment to provide hardy heirloom, open pollinated, and diverse seed varieties that are grown under organic production principles to our customers, continuing the tradition of the original family farm.

Visit <https://revivalseeds.ca> for a selection of fruit, flower & vegetable seeds + their 'Growing Information' vertical provides a selection of useful planting videos: starting seeds, thinning seedlings, transplanting peppers, soil sampling, hardening off plants, mechanical scarification, germination testing, and more.



Full Moon Lavatera

Garden Art Do-It-Yourself Craft Inspiration

P&DHS member Jane Fish has been busy in her workshop producing stunning-stained glass decorative patio stones.

Jane reports that she gets her stained glass, and all necessary equipment (grinder, cutter, bits, hard plastic forms, etc.) in Ottawa, Northern Art Glass on Gladstone St. There are stained glass stores in Kingston as well.



Jane Fish



Patterns (there are thousands, or you can design your own) are sourced from various stained-glass



locations, and online. Most retail locations offer classes on how to make these stones (check Covid restrictions).

Stone patterns come in different shapes and sizes. They can be used as tabletops, garden benches, bird feeders, etc. Really the only limit is your imagination and how much time and money you want to spend!

What's Involved...

Standard patio stones take anywhere from 5 (very simple) to 40 hours each for a super complex pattern, The birdhouse example above took 25+ hrs. It's a very specific process. After you decide on a pattern you select the type, style, pattern, and colors of glass for the project, cut out pattern, cut glass, grind glass, set glass into the mould "upside down" onto a sheet of 'Mactac', and pour 2 different kinds of concrete, strengthened by chicken wire in the middle. Stones take 24 hrs to set. Once removed from the mold they need to be smooth finished and left for another week or 10 days to cure! This lengthy process ensures that the stones to can be left outdoors through the winter.

How to Make Ice Lanterns (Ice Candles)

By Jessi Wohlwend, From: PracticallyFunctional.com,

Edited by Jane Avery

When the weather is consistently below freezing most days in the Perth area, I think it's the perfect time for ice lantern decorations! Display them on your porch, balcony, or front walkway to add warmth and magic to your home. They're quick and easy to make, are inexpensive and are so gorgeous. This tutorial will show you how to make ice lanterns (or ice candles) in a few simple steps.



All you need are a few recycled cans, water, and some faux greenery which you can find at your local craft or dollar store.

How To Make Ice Candles

- ▶ Time spent doing stuff: 15 minutes
- ▶ Time spent waiting around: 6-8 hours (it takes a while for these to freeze!)
- ▶ Total project time: 6-8 hours

Tools: diagonal wire cutters (if using wire based faux greenery and berries, otherwise scissors)

Materials for DIY Ice Candles

- ▶ two empty tincans, one small enough to fit inside the other with at least 1/2" of room on either side and at the bottom

- ▶ faux greenery and berries
- ▶ rocks or some other heavy item
- ▶ tape
- ▶ tea light candles



Stick a small tea light in the ice lantern, light it, and enjoy the glow of your ice candle! It's just as pretty during the day too!

Note: You can change out the faux greenery and berries for other decorative items, eg. Beads strung on a wire, plastic hearts in honour of Valentines Day, colourful pipe cleaners, marbles, sea glass, etc.

Instructions to make ice candles

Clean out your tin cans and remove the labels. Don't worry about the sticky label residue; it won't hurt the ice lanterns if it doesn't all come off.

Put a small amount of water (about 1/2 C) into the larger tin can. Then put the smaller tin can inside the larger one. The smaller tin can should be floating inside the larger one at this point.

Add a few rocks to the smaller tincan to hold it down so that the tops of both cans are level. Then add tape on all four sides to help hold the smaller tin can centered in the larger one.



Now cut apart your greenery and berries into smaller pieces and stick them down into the water between the two cans. The individual berries float, so I cut them

into "sprigs" and just stuck the whole thing down the side of the can. This helped sort of wedge the greenery and berries between the two cans so they wouldn't all float to the top.

Once you've added greenery everywhere, add a little more water between the cans, until the water is about 1/2" to 1" below the top of the can. If your water is already too full, pour some out. Remember, water expands as it freezes, so don't fill it too full or the water will overflow as it turns to ice.

If it's below freezing where you live, stick the cans outside overnight to freeze. If it's too warm outside, just put them in your freezer overnight.

Once the water is frozen, run slightly warm water over the outside of the can and inside of the smaller tincan to help loosen the ice. Once the outsides melt a little bit you should be able to slide the ice lanterns right out of the tin can molds!

DIY Hubcap Flowers

By Reeves @ the Weathered Door

I have started a new sport. Hubcapping. Pretty much you keep your eye peeled while driving, and when you see a hubcap, you pull over, jump out of the car and grab it. I have done it with my friends, and my mom. Both times I have not been driving so I do not feel like I'm being too dangerous. The best part is I get free hubcaps to upcycle and some of the things lying on the side of the road get picked up. Really, I am doing the community a service.



I was looking for hubcaps to upcycle them into yard art. I found three to use for this project. They had been lying on the side of the road or in the median for a while and had even been propped up against trees by the gardeners. The hubcaps were VERY dirty. After I hosed each of them off, I used a Clorox wipe to get ALL the dirt and grime off of them. Then I sanded them, focusing more on sanding the places that were scuffed and scratched. These people were not the best drivers. I started painting one of them a bright blue, but I went out and bought some yellow, orange and red spray paint to have bright "flower" colors.

I love that they all have different designs! Here they are after getting a few coats of paint:

I added some embellishments to make the hubcap flowers look more unique. I used extra craft supplies and other fun things we had around the house. The stems are broken shovel handles, and I added some foam leaves and one wood leaf to make the hubcaps look more realistic :).

Show Your Love and Kindness this Valentine's Day - Feb 14

Now more than ever friends, family and members of our community will appreciate your efforts to make a connection. Whether it's a senior dealing with isolation, a child challenged by on-line learning, a first responder feeling fatigued, a neighbor facing the winter blues, we could all use a lift from lockdowns and loneliness.



Everyone loves to receive personal mail

Dropping off a card is sure to produce a smile. Keep it simple or get creative...

Valentine Balloon Craft

From: <https://www.purewow.com/family/valentines-crafts-for-kids>

Tap your kid for a quick photo shoot & pull out the paint, markers, craft paper and glue stick for this mixed media work of art all ages can create.



Candy Pizza Heart

From: Taste of Home <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/candy-pizza-heart/>

Ingredients

- ▶ 1-1/2 cups milk chocolate chips
- ▶ 1 cup butterscotch chips
- ▶ 3/4 cup miniature marshmallows
- ▶ 3/4 cup chopped salted peanuts
- ▶ 3/4 cup crushed potato chips
- ▶ 2 tablespoons sweetened shredded coconut
- ▶ 7 maraschino cherries, halved
- ▶ 1/4 cup milk chocolate M&M's
- ▶ 2 tablespoons vanilla or white chips
- ▶ 1/2 teaspoon shortening



Directions

1. Using a pencil, draw a 10-in. heart on a waxed paper. Place paper, pencil mark down, on a baking sheet; set aside.
2. In a large microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate and butterscotch chips; stir until smooth. Stir in the marshmallows, peanuts and potato chips. Immediately spread on prepared pan into heart shape. Sprinkle with coconut; top with cherries and M&M's.
3. In a microwave, melt vanilla chips and shortening; stir until smooth. Drizzle over top. Refrigerate until firm, about 1-1/2 hours. Remove waxed paper. Let stand for 10 minutes at room temperature before cutting.

Tomato Soup with Cupid Croutons

Warm hearts with this simple addition to your favorite tomato soup. Cut out hearts from bread using a cookie cutter, butter, season, and toast... enjoy!



Community Gardens – Flag Garden, Cenotaph and Museum Garden– 237.5 Volunteer Hours

Lynda Haddon, Community Gardens Coordinator and the PDHS volunteers have done a great job beautifying these gardens again this year.

The work that the Horticultural Society does for the Town is amazing, and the community truly appreciates it!! From Shannon Baillon, Director of Community Services, Town of Perth



INGE VA GARDENS – 233 VOLUNTEER HOURS

This is a new project Lynda Haddon and our Communitygarden volunteers embarked upon.

The Perth & District Horticultural Society Board of Directors truly appreciates all the time Lynda Haddon dedicates to the Community Gardens along with all the PDHS Volunteers who work tirelessly every week to keep these gardens looking amazing.



Lynda Haddon of Perth Horticultural Society was presented with a District 2 appreciation award for her untiring leadership in the maintenance of four gardens in a Perth - Inga Va, the Perth Museum, the Cenotaph and the Flag Garden.

In the photo from the left are Linda Bartlett, President Perth HS, Lynda Haddon, Madeline Archer, Asst District Director, Mississippi Valley and Anne Harbord, OHA Director, District 2.