



# The Ladyslipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

[www.perthhortsociety.com](http://www.perthhortsociety.com)

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PerthHort>

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

Est. 1984

## President's Pen

Welcome to our second in-person meeting this year.

Spring has finally arrived with a vengeance. Beautiful sunny afternoons to get out to clean the gardens, see what survived and multiplied. The daffodils have put on a bright display of yellow and white throughout the gardens. The tulips are starting to bloom, bringing the garden to life more and more each day.

We will not be having a plant sale this spring due to the restrictions imposed to hold the sale at the Stewart school. We will look at a Fall plant sale, if there is enough interest and we can find the right venue. If you have any suggestions for a venue in Perth, please bring your idea forward.

Our June meeting will consist of a standard flower show (see attached schedule), and a presentation on 2022 Year of the Garden (see next page for more information on that topic). We will have our dessert social, so bring in your favourite dessert, a serving utensil as well as your own plate, cup, fork or spoon. We will have tables set up for everyone. Bring a friend along for the entertainment. David Archer will have a presentation during the dessert social.

We would like to organize some garden tours so if you have any suggestions of places you would like to visit, let me know so we can possibly set it up for everyone who wishes to participate.

*Linda*

## Agra-wool

The ideal Replacement for Floral Foam for the creation of Floral Arrangements

Over time, we have learned that we are destroying the earth quickly but if we all do little things, it will help the earth recover. For many years, our staple in the industry has been green foam for design, and it was the go-to, always use, then throw away staple. We now learn that every block of foam we have used is still here on the planet. Just like plastics, it breaks down very slowly and what's left is not good for anything living.

This new eco-friendly product is non-toxic and made from 97% basalt mineral rock fibers, and completely biodegradable. In order to create this 100% natural alternative to traditional floral foam, powdered basalt rock is spun into fibers at high heat and bound with a patented, sugar based binding agent.

The product can be used for fresh, dry and silk flowers. It easily cuts to the size required using a serrated edge. It absorbs water quickly, even without immersion and supports stems in place. The wool does not crumble nor shed micro fibers in the water. It can be re-used, composted in small quantities, and safely disposed of in a normal landfill.



When the binding material biodegrades, the product becomes rock dust that can act as a soil amendment. This mechanic is both environmentally friendly in waterways and inert to life forms.

Rose Odell introduced members of the Ontario Horticultural Association to the benefits of Agra-Wool at the April 22 Earth Day meeting. Rose advises that a Canadian distributor for Agra-Wool will be announced shortly. For now, please contact [gardenshopsupplies@gardenontario.org](mailto:gardenshopsupplies@gardenontario.org) or [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org) or [www.agra-wool.nl](http://www.agra-wool.nl)

# 2022 Year of The Garden

The Year of the Garden 2022 is a celebration developed by the Canadian Garden Council and members of Canada's Garden-Family to educate and inspire Canadians about the vital impact gardens and gardening have on quality of life, at home, in communities, and across Canada.

No matter where you live, in a house, condo or apartment, your outdoor surroundings contribute to your enjoyment of life. From container kitchen gardens on a balcony, a landscaped backyard, colourful flower beds, to a community vegetable garden providing food to the neighbourhood, all need a little effort on your part to nurture their success.

Supported by the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, The Canadian Garden Council, and its Gardens Canada initiative aims to inspire and inform Canadians about the many health and well-being, economic, and environmental benefits gardens and gardening provide, and along the way provide tips and tricks for gardening success and the enjoyment of gardens.

Passion for gardening has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Canadians sheltered at home and turned their yards into practical and beautiful garden sanctuaries, and research shows that this trend is set to continue.

Knowing that many novices picked up a trowel with nearly 83% of Canadian households tending some form of a garden in 2021, and in the spirit of celebrating the Canadian ornamental horticulture sector's centennial, the Canadian Garden Council (CGC) proclaimed 2022 as the "Year of the Garden". It is an important year for the public to be inspired, entertained, and informed by Canada's Garden-Family – the thousands of plant growers, product manufacturers, retailers, landscape service providers, horticulture societies, garden clubs, and public gardens from across the nation.

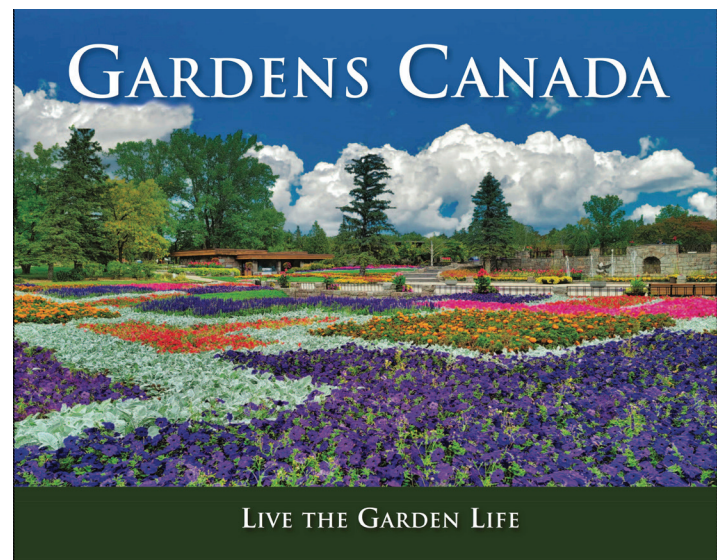
"We encouraged everyone in the Garden-Family, from horticulture professionals to horticulture societies and public gardens, to embrace 2022 as an opportunity to share our passion and knowledge to help more Canadians enjoy the benefits of gardens and gardening", says Michel

Gauthier, Executive Director of the Canadian Garden Council. "We want people to 'live the garden life' and think about gardens indoors, on their balconies, in their yards, in schools, at work and in their communities. We want them to appreciate gardens while cooking on their barbecues, traveling on trips, and shopping in their downtowns. We will commemorate Canada's rich garden heritage, celebrate today's vibrant garden culture and create legacies for a sustainable future, and in doing so, nurture a nation of gardeners."

<https://livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca>

**Note:** Michel Gauthier will be our speaker at the June meeting, just in time for National Gardening Day on June 18.

## Gardens Canada- Live the Garden Life: Book launch June 2022



Renown Ottawa Valley photographer John McQuarrie (Perth- The Spirit of Place) has partnered with Canadian Garden Council to publish a new book to celebrate Canadian gardens from coast to coast. A limited number of copies will be available to PDHS members at our June 14 meeting. This inspiring and stunning coffee table book to be released in early June, will be available at Chapters/Indigo for \$39.95. For a limited time, copies will be available to PDHS members for \$30.00, with partial proceeds going to our society.

# Ask a Master Gardener?

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

## Moles vs Vole? What is the difference? How do we keep them from destroying our garden?

The easiest way to tell the difference between Moles and Voles is to remember that Moles are Meat eaters and Voles are Vegetarian. Both make tunnels in your lawn but there the difference ends. When a mole tunnels, it leaves piles of soil on top of your grass. This soil can easily be spread onto surrounding grass and does little to damage your lawn. Voles on the other hand, make tunnels that destroy the grass and cause trenches. Apart from the soil on top of the grass, Moles are beneficial to your garden as they eat insects, grubs and earthworms.

Voles look like mice. In our part of the world, the most common species is the meadow vole. There are up to 10 generations of voles per year but few live longer than a year. Voles and their damage are scarcely noticeable during the summer as there is an abundance of things for them to eat—seeds, insects, and leaves but in the winter, when the ground is frozen, it turns to other foods such as the bark of shrubs and young trees, bulbs (mostly tulips) and the roots and crowns of grasses and perennials. We gardeners rarely notice anything is wrong until spring.

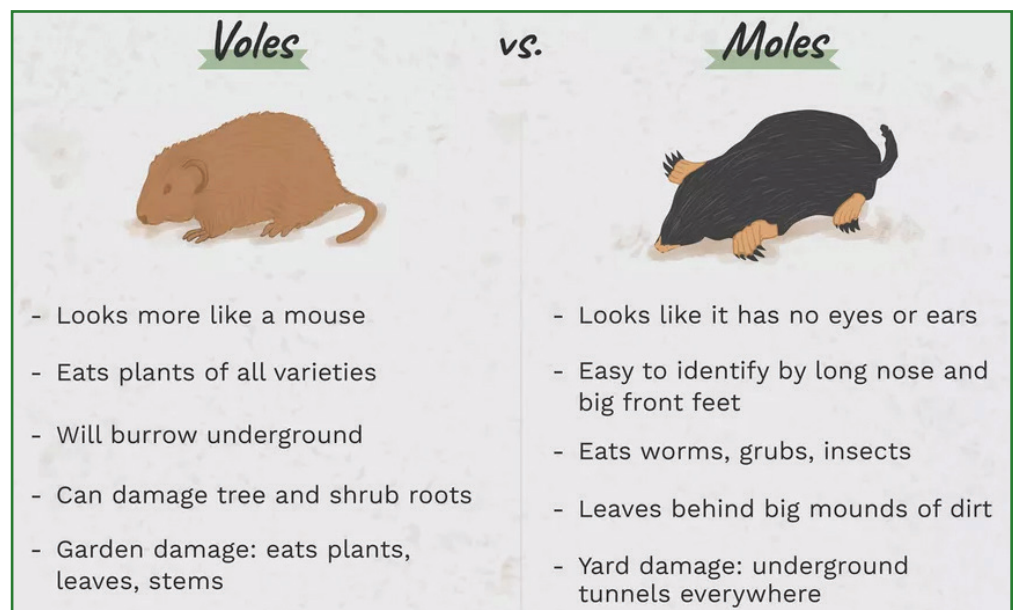
Voles are their most numerous in the fall and become more active when their many predators are absent. They travel under the snow looking for sweet bark to gnaw on.

To prevent their damage, start early in the fall. There are several ways to reduce vole predation in the winter:

- ▶ Avoid cleaning up flower and vegetable beds in the fall. This can be voles' primary food source in the fall. Remove this and you are tempting them to go for your trees, shrubs, grass roots, bulbs, and perennial crowns.

- ▶ Clean the area immediately surrounding tree trunks. You can cut the grass very low around these tree trunks or remove it all together to discourage them.
- ▶ Put anti-rodent tree guards around tree trunks in the fall (plastic spirals). Make sure the spirals come higher on the tree than the average snow fall. This may mean using 2 of these spirals. Only put this protection on at the start of winter and remove when snow melts so they don't become shelter for insect pests.
- ▶ Apply animal repellents such as Critter Ridder, Bobex or others. Do this very late in the year so it doesn't wash off before it is needed.
- ▶ Trap them in a simple mouse trap with an apple slice covered in peanut butter. It may be necessary to set many traps and empty daily. Note: this does kill the vole. You can use live traps but then have to get rid of the vole. It is not neighbourly to release these in someone else's yard.
- ▶ Pack down snow. In winter get in the habit of walking around fragile young trees to form a barrier of hardened snow that voles cannot cross.

If the bark is chewed off less than halfway around your tree or shrub, it is very likely the plant will survive. Do not do anything to the woody stem and it is likely that the chewed area will grow over. If it is chewed all the way around, it will not survive.





# Planning and Planting a Pollinator Garden

Adapted from Garden Gate magazine, April, 2022

Lenora Larson is a Master Gardener who has a passion for pollinators as well as native plants. She lives in Paola, Kansas and 2 acres of her 27-acre property focuses on plants which pollinators love at all stages of their lives. Her garden is certified as Monarch Waystation #875, a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and as a pollinator garden by the Xerces Society.

Here are some guidelines Lenora suggests are essential to creating a garden that appeals to all pollinators:-

1. Full Sun is a Must. Plants produce alluring flowers and nectar to attract an array of pollinating insects which takes a lot of energy and all plant energy comes from the sun. A vast majority of insects are cold-blooded and need the sun's warmth to function.
2. Native Plants & Heirloom Flowers are Safe Choices. Native plants and animals including pollinators, evolved together to meet each other's needs. An advantage of native plants is that they are open pollinated and have pollen and nectar. Hybrids are bred for colour and size and not for fertility, so they may be sterile without pollen or nectar. Heirlooms will usually self-sow. Good candidates include spider flower, cosmos and calendula.
3. Do Not Use Insecticides. Insecticides such as synthetic neonicotinoids and organic ones like pyrethrins, can persist in the tissue of plants for months or years, poisoning pollinators when they eat and as bees feed nectar to their larvae, future generations can be killed or disabled.
4. Plant for Continuous Bloom. Early in the season pollinators depend on flowers like dandelions, hellebores and bird's eye speedwell while cabbage butterflies seek early blooming mustard for nectar and egg-laying.

Here are some ideas, but not limited to, for Pollinator Gardens

Dame's rocket  
(*Hesperis matronalis*)



Colewort (*Crambe cordifolia*)



Anise hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

Weigela (*Weigela florida*)

Soulmate Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

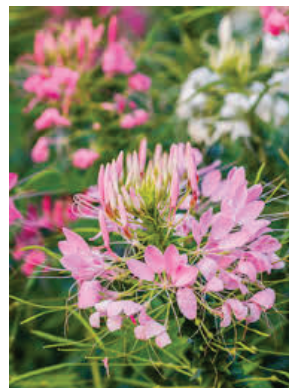


Zinnias (Annual)



Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)

Spider flower (*Cleome hassleriana*)



Sirea (*Spiraea* spp and hybrids)

Catmint (*Nepeeta* spp and hybrids)

Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculate*)

