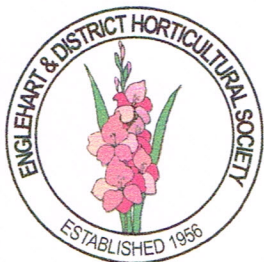




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
June 2015



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:

3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church basement

- *Speakers, workshops, demonstrations
- *Civic Improvement
- *Youth Involvement
- *Displays and Competitions
- *Environmental Stewardship

President: C.A. Field
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher
Website:
engleharthort.weebly.com

Growing Strawberries in Containers

Most of us love strawberries but don't always have room to grow them. How about trying a container garden? Because strawberries like lots of root room, choose a container that is at least 8" (21 cm) deep and set the crowns 8" apart. Fewer plants with more space will produce more berries than more plants crowded into a too small container. Always fill the container with fresh soil to avoid diseases. Planting certified virus-free crowns into fresh potting soil is the best way to insure that your plants will grow and produce for three seasons before needing to be replaced. A soil mix with lots of humus that drains well is the best planting medium. This will provide the berries with all the nourishment they need during their first growing season. In years two and three, supplement by sprinkling a slow-release granular fertilizer on the surface of the soil in late spring. Don't overfeed them as too much fertilizer can affect the texture of the fruit.



Mark It On Your Calendar:

- June 7-13: Horticultural Week
- June 13: Civic Planting
- June 17: General Meeting/Mini Garden Tour

Here is an interesting article about a favourite Canadian vegetable... **the carrot:** Did you know carrots were originally purple, and occasionally, yellow and white? In the late 16th century, Dutch farmers used mutant strains of the heirloom carrot, by crossing yellow and white ones, which gradually developed the common sweet orange carrot we have today. The purple pigment in heirloom carrots is anthocyanin. Anthocyanins are a type of flavonoid, which give many fruits and vegetables their deep rich colours. They have anti-oxidant effects, and may also have anti-viral, anti-inflammatory, and even cancer-preventing effects. Some think the reason the orange carrot became so popular in the Netherlands was in tribute to the emblem of the House of Orange and the struggle for Dutch independence. While this is possible, it also might have just been because orange carrots are sweeter and often more plump.

(Credit www.erinjanus.me/)



Looking Ahead:

In May and June, our roses are building up strength for their summer blooming. In early spring, or when planting a rose, they would love to have some bonemeal worked into the ground around them or into the hole, as it takes several months for bonemeal to work. Right now they would appreciate a dose of a high nitrogen fertilizer or some good compost, to build up the strength in stems and leaves. Starting in late June or early July, they'd love a high phosphorous fertilizer (middle number) to set buds and grow beautiful blooms. Don't forget there are several classes in the show schedule so you can enter these queens of the garden in the Festival of Flowers. Watch for some hints coming up in July or August on how to prepare your roses for the show.



*It was June and the world
smelled like roses.*

M. Lovelace

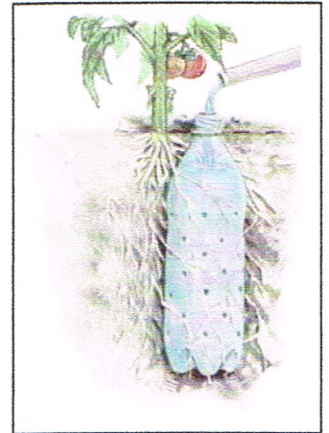
Hints and Tips

1. Got a problem with weeds, especially growing in the spaces between bricks or stones in a path? Try this homemade weed killer:

1 gallon of white vinegar **1/2 cup salt,**
liquid dish soap (any brand) **empty spray bottle.**

Put the salt in the empty spray bottle and fill it the rest of the way up with white vinegar. Add a squirt of liquid dish soap. This solution works best if you use it on a hot day. Spray it on the weeds in the morning, and as it heats up, it will do its work.

2. The picture to the right shows an easy watering idea for your tomato plants. Simply 'plant' the large plastic bottle with holes poked in it with the tomato plant, leaving the open top above ground. Water into the hole for easy distribution of water to the roots without splashing dirt up onto the plant when watering.



Reports from Your Directors:

Civic Improvement: Convenor Carrie Anne asks that, weather permitting, members meet at the cenotaph to get planting instructions for the town beds and boxes. She and her committee have been busy planning for this day for some times. We hope that lots of members will turn up with their trowels to help beautify the town. Hope to see you there at **10:30 on June 13th.**

Horticultural Week: Convenors Len and Eileen Fisher have been busy placing displays around town advertising the Society this week. They've also worked with both elementary schools, planting with the grade three classes. Make sure you listen to CJBB for some horticultural hints as well. To bring the week's activities to a close, we invite all members of the Society to enjoy their lunch at the Museum as they are putting on a barbecue at that time.

Social: This month's host/ess are the Fishers, and they also bring the gift for the free draw.

Programme: This month we will enjoy a mini-garden tour of 4 lovely gardens in our community. We will meet at 7:00 at Carrie Anne Field's house to begin the tour and carpool to the others. Please bring along a small shared snack for us to enjoy after the tour.

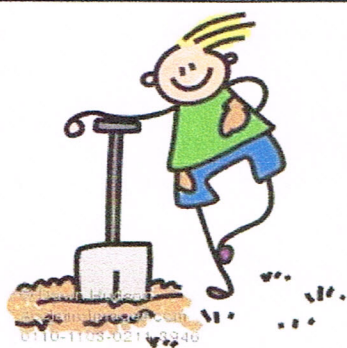
Website: Don't forget to keep checking our website for all of the latest news and information about the Society's business and for hints on growing and showing. Webmaster Rick Heaslip does a great job keeping the site up to date. You can even find the past bulletins there.

Festival of Flowers: I hope you have your copy of the Show Schedule for the 2015 Festival of Flowers. If not, please contact Secretary Bonnie Warner to get it asap. I also hope you'll take some time to look through your show book as you're planning and planting your gardens. The committee continues to solidify plans for our flower show. Due to perceived problems with space, (as we are moving the show to the Legion Hall on 4th Ave.), we have deleted 4th prizes in all classes but the Youth and the residents of a long term care residence. Last year I included hints in our spring and summer newsletters to help you. You may want to check them out again or go on our website where convenor Rick Heaslip has posted all of the past "Through the Garden Gates". You'll find them at englehartort.weebly.com. I hope that as you plant your gardens, be they flower or vegetable, that you will be thinking about entering your efforts in the August show. The photo to the right shows Rick Heaslip's winning basket of dahlias in last year's Festival of Flowers



Membership: Ginny Montminy reports that we have 75 members to date.

Something new coming up...our Society may soon have its own Facebook page! I'll keep you posted.



Attention All Students:

The Englehart and District Horticultural Society is once again sponsoring the Youth Garden competition. This competition is open to all students from Grade One to OAC. The offices of Englehart Public, Holy Family and Englehart High School have forms and information about this, or you can call Mrs. Warner at 544 8916 or Mrs. Fisher at 544 8074. Gardens will be judged in early August. Remember, this is open to all students in Englehart and the surrounding townships. ***Please share this info with any youngsters you know.***

Epsom Salts Revisited

Last year, I wrote about the many uses of Epsom Salts. I hope you remembered to add a tablespoon or two to the soil in the bottom of the holes when you planted your tomato plants this year. Another good idea is to side-dress with it during the growing season. Work one tablespoon of Epsom salt per foot of plant height around the base of each plant. Side-dress plants every 5-6 weeks, continuing to the end of your tomato harvest. You can also spray your tomato plants with Epsom Salt. Add two tablespoons of Epsom salt to a gallon of water and use a sprayer to apply the mix once a month. Use one tablespoon per gallon of water if you apply Epsom salt spray more often than once a month. Begin foliar spraying when blooms first appear.

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all, it teaches entire trust." Gertrude Jekyll

Plant of the Month

Basil

This annual herb is a fragrant and pretty addition to the garden. It comes in many flavours, including licorice, lemon, cinnamon, and colours of green, purple and a beige-purple. It's used as a flavour for many foods, especially Italian. It can be started indoors at the end of April or purchased in pots at nurseries. Warmer temperatures and lots of sunlight are important; water more often in hot weather. They like a moist but not wet soil and should be pinched when young to ensure bushy plants. In the garden, make sure to pick the leaves regularly to encourage growth. Pinch out the middle shoot in mid-summer to prevent blooming or pick flowers off. Watch for aphids and spider mite and if it is damp keep an eye out for weak stems where fungus can set in. Fresh basil adds a lovely taste and aroma to any dish or salad and is very nice in a floral design as well.



Another Latin Lesson

We haven't had a Latin lesson for a while. Since many people are probably spending time in greenhouses this month and will be trying to figure out what exactly they are getting by interpreting the names and tags of their plants, here are a few helpful hints.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Globulosa: | <i>rounded</i> | 4. Mono: | <i>single</i> |
| 2. Gracilis: | <i>graceful</i> | 5. contorta: | <i>twisted</i> |
| 3. Magnus: | <i>large</i> | 6. Occidentalis: | western, from the Americas |

Our 4th President: Zia Pollock



Zia Pollock
1963-1964

Many of you will remember Zia for her beautiful gardens. I especially loved her Oriental poppies and gorgeous iris. I was lucky enough to have Zia as a teacher at EHS. She made history and geography come alive for me. Thanks to a friend, I am also the proud owner of a piece of Zia's salmon poppy.

Poetry and Prose

*Then followed that
beautiful season...
Summer...*

*Filled was the air with a
dreamy and magical light;
and the landscape lay as if
new created in all the
freshness of childhood.*

*Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow*



Published 11 times a year
Englehart & District Horticultural
Society
Box 677, Englehart, ON
PoJ 1H0

President: C.A. Field
Secretary: Bonnie Warner
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy
Editor: Eileen Fisher
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith
Labels: Rick Heaslip

Printing: Courtesy of Englehart &
District Hospital