



# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
July 2018



**Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.**

**General meetings:**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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engleharthort.weebly.com

**Facebook Page:** Englehart and District Horticultural Society

## A Word From The Editor

### Edible Landscaping

Apparently one of the coming trends is to include fruit and vegetable plants in your gardens. Some of us are already doing this, in fact, may have done so for years. But there are some neat ideas in this article, which have been paraphrased from *Better Homes and Gardens*.

1. Plant vegetables with their looks as well as flavours in mind. Alternate, for example, pretty purple cabbage with snowy white cauliflower in a row, or experiment with planting in blocks and clusters rather than rows for a more decorative effect.
2. Many vegetables lend themselves beautifully to containers. Lettuces in various colors are gorgeous in window boxes. Swiss chard, especially the new colourful varieties and patio-type tomatoes are ideal in large pots. Hot peppers ripen to rich colors that are attractive when mixed in with annual flowers such as marigolds, nasturtiums (also edible) and vinca.
3. Tomatoes may grow better in flower beds than they do in the traditional vegetable garden. That's because they should be moved to a different spot each year to prevent disease, and space is often limited in a vegetable patch. Also, tomatoes do better when isolated from other tomato plants because disease can't hop as easily from plant to plant.

## Mark It On Your Calendar

July 18: General Meeting and barbecue at Heaslips (6:00 p.m.)

## Programme

Our programme this month is sure to be a lot of fun. Once again we will be enjoying our annual summer barbecue, this year at the home of Carol and Rick Heaslip at 53- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. This is always a delicious and fun-filled evening. The Society will be providing the hot dogs, buns, condiments, and drinks. Members are asked to bring along a salad or dessert to share, your utensils, and a chair. We always enjoy the auction which will consist of whatever members choose to bring along and donate - and it can be anything! It doesn't have to be a horticulturally-oriented object, although I do hope that somebody brings in some strawberries for me to bid on!



## Creating a Pollinator-Friendly Garden

Many practices that help bees also help to keep your garden looking its best. If you missed our June meeting where the topic was "Plants for Pollinators" the following suggestions may help you and the pollinators.

### • **Plan for Continuous Bloom**

This provides colourful flowers throughout the growing season, as well as a steady supply of food for pollinators. Trees and shrubs can also provide valuable food for them when garden flowers are not in bloom. From spring right into late fall, you can grow plants that are great for them.

### • **Mass Plantings**

Placing several of the same species of plant in a group helps to attract bees. Massing makes plants easier to find so that the pollinators use less energy to collect pollen or nectar. Remember to allow each plant enough space to grow, and keep a variety of plants in your garden.

### • **Avoid Pesticides**

Bees are very sensitive to pesticides, so avoid them if possible. Plants in the garden all benefit pollinators. If weeds are an issue, try to remove them without spraying. Choose single blooms and tubular shaped blooms. Double bloom flowers are stunning, but they are not easily accessed by insects. Planting flowers with single blooms provides nectar and pollen they can gather more easily.

### • **Use Colourful Plants with Scent**

Pollinators also rely on the colours and scents of flowers to find food. Purple, yellow, white and blue flowers are easy for bees to see in the garden. Fragrant flowers are also irresistible to pollinators!



## Reports from Your Directors:

**Social:** Claudette Black is the Social convenor for this month's meeting and Ginny Montminy brings the gift for the free draw.

**Programme:** Next month we will be enjoying a lovely garden tour. Several local gardens will be open to visitors on the evening of August 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow in next month's bulletin.

**Facebook/Website:** I'm pleased (and amazed!) to report that we passed the 200 member mark on our Facebook page. We have 210 members to date. It is wonderful to see people from as far away as New Zealand and British Columbia using our page to share and learn about the importance of horticulture. Rick Heaslip reports that he has updated the website and that we had 319 unique visits to our website in June. To date we have had 2247 visits to our website this year. Rick has updated the site using the latest photos and information from our June meeting. Check it out!

**Membership:** Convenor Ginny Montminy reports that we currently have 69 members... it would be nice to hit at least 72, the same number as last year. Remember - a membership makes a nice gift for a friend or family member.

**Youth Garden Competition:** Don't forget to contact Bonnie Warner or myself if you have a child or know one who is interested in entering this competition. We will be judging in August.



## *Fabulous Foliage in Our Gardens*

Each year we can hardly wait to see those first daffodils and tulips, followed by the peonies, roses, phlox, and daisies. The blooms of beauties like these are so pleasing to the eye, and often to the nose, that sometimes we overlook plants that also offer beauty...through their foliage. There is something to say for inviting plants known for their leaves, whether it be for their size, shape, or colour. Blooms come and go, some lasting only a day, but interesting foliage lasts a long time. Some foliage plants also have pretty blossoms but many have rather insignificant little blooms that are outdone by their leaves. Keep your eyes open for ground covers to splash up dry or difficult areas of your gardens, watch for tall, architectural plants with interesting foliage to give some height, try to place plants with great foliage near to a plant whose blossoms may last only a short time. Below is a list of some favourite foliage plants to consider for your gardens. (**wp** stands for 'with winter protection')

Perennials	Shrubs	Annuals
Hostas Heuchera Ferns Variegated Phlox Cimicifuga Eryngium Jacob's Ladder Pulmonaria Sedum Angelina Sedum Purple Emperor Lady's Mantle Mayapple Darmera Peltata	Ninebark- gold/ black,/apricot Barberry- purple/gold Golden Elder Cutleaf Golden Elder Sumac/Cutleaf Sumac (wp) Spirea False Spirea Smokebush- purple/lime (wp) Weigela (wp) Tricolour Willow Dwarf Burning Bush Weeping Tamarack (wp) Weeping Norway Spruce (wp) Elderberry	Persian Shield (Strobilanthes) Polkadot Plant (Hypoestes) Dusty Miller Sweet Potato Vine Cosmos Coleus
<b>Bulbs, etc.</b>	<b>Grasses</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
Alocasia            Colocasia Caladium           Calla lilies Canna lilies        Oxalis Iris                    Begonias Gladiolus (all but iris need to be brought in for winter)	Foxtail grass (wp) Big bluestem All Calamagrostis Some Carex Most Deschampia	Ornamental Kale and Cabbage



## *Creating A Pollinator Friendly Garden (con't from page 2)*

### • **Water and Fertilize Adequately**

Watering plants properly promotes nectar production. This means more food for bees and other pollinators. Too much fertilizer decreases nectar production in most plants. Try to use slow-release (chelated) fertilizers or natural alternatives such as compost. Be sure to use all fertilizers as instructed.

• **Dead-Head and Prune:** Removing spent flowers helps promote longer blooming. This means more colour for you, and more food for bees! Pruning plants to promote bloom will ensure plant health and bee food supplies each year (thanks to the University of Guelph- 7 Ways to Help Bees in Your Home Garden)

### Plant of the Month

#### Epimedium rubrum

Epimedium rubrum is a pretty little plant which grows easily in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in part shade to full shade. This pretty little plant prefers loose, organically rich loamy soil, with even moisture but it tolerates drought once established. Sometimes called red barrenwort, it is a clump-forming perennial which typically grows 8-12" tall. Small red flowers (red sepals and pale yellow petals) appear above the foliage in spring. It has heart-shaped leaflets (about 3" long) on wiry stems which make attractive mounds of foliage even when the flowers are gone. New leaves in spring emerge with a red tinge, mature to green and turn reddish in fall. (I grow this lovely little plant and always look forward to its dainty little flowers dancing in the breeze.)



#### Edible Landscaping (continued)

4. Don't let a little shade deter you from planting vegetables. Fairly shade-tolerant veggies include beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, leaf lettuce, spinach, turnips, radishes, and beans.
5. Pole beans have pretty heart-shaped leaves that are fairly decorative. They're good for planting on arbours, along fences, or on a trellis. Bonnie Warner also grows Scarlet Runners in her pots, which have, of course, beautiful scarlet flowers.
6. Some mustard greens and kales have gorgeous fall color and are ideal for tucking into containers and borders for colour late in the year. Try Osaka Purple mustard greens or one of the red or purple kales.

#### Horticultural Humour

##### **You know you are a serious gardener when...**

- ...You can remember the date to plant the potatoes better than you can remember your own birthday.
- ...You suffer from zone envy. No matter what winter hardiness zone you live in, you will insist on growing plants from the next warmest zone.
- ... You're running out of places to garden, but under your fingernails looks promising.
- ...You would rather share your toothbrush than your hand pruners.
- ...You carry more photos of your garden on your phone than photos of the kids.
- ... You never have dinner before sunset during the summer.

#### Poetry and Prose

*No bought potpourri is  
so pleasant  
as that made from one's  
own garden,  
for the petals of the  
flowers  
one has gathered at home  
hold the sunshine and  
memories  
of summer,  
and of past summers  
only the sunny days  
should be remembered.  
- Eleanor Sinclair-Rhode*

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