



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
July 2019



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:
3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's Emmanuel Community Church

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

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Website:
engleharthort.weebly.com

A Word From The Editor

Hooray for Children!

I was so pleased to see the involvement of youth in our Horticultural Week. Evelyne Nemcsok visited EPS and made pollinator homes from cans and hollow stems with the grade one class. The youngsters were thrilled with their creations. Also during Horticultural Week, Ashley Fehr brought her Earth Rangers into the Millennium Garden to help us weed. For some it was their first time to work in a garden! Build a child's interest in gardening and you will have created a more involved and healthy citizen!



Programme

Our meeting this month will be our annual summer bbq at the home of the Heaslips at 53 Fifth Ave. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided but you are asked to bring a dessert or salad for sharing and your own cutlery. Some chairs will be available but it might be a good idea to bring along a folding chair. We always have an interesting fun auction, so if you can, bring along something to donate and some money to do some 'shopping'! Bonnie Warner is the hostess and Carrie Anne Field brings the gift.

Mark It On Your Calendar

July 17: Monthly meeting/summer bbq at Heaslips

Those Pesky Slugs and Snails

Do you have a problem with slugs or snails? If so, the following article may help...

Diatoms are microscopic green algae with a glass-like (silica based) shell. Diatomaceous earth is made from the fossilized remains of these glassy creatures. If you sprinkle a circle of this special "dirt" around your plants being attacked, this will deter the snails and slugs. For them to crawl over diatomaceous earth, it would be like people walking barefoot over broken glass on the beach. For diatomaceous earth to be effective, however, you will need to reapply it often as it doesn't work as well after it gets wet. Like diatomaceous earth, crushed egg shell will deter snails and slugs due to its abrasiveness to their soft bodies. While egg shells aren't as effective as diatomaceous earth, they have the added benefit of providing calcium and other nutrients to your soil as they break down! Plus, water doesn't affect them as much. Used coffee grounds are also recommended as a way to keep slugs/ snails out of the garden.

(cont. on page 2)

Those Pesky Slugs and Snails (con't)

There is a variety of 'slug baits' available in pelleted form which do work, but are toxic to pets and other wild life. If you don't mind killing your snails and slugs, beer traps are a good option. Dig a hole near the plants that are being attacked. Bury a recycled can, plastic container, or glass jar into this hole so the top of the container is flush with the top of the soil. Pour cheap beer into this container. Snails and slugs are naturally attracted to the scent of beer because it contains yeast but they get disoriented when they drink it. When this happens, they fall inside the container and drown. Be sure to use a container deep enough so they can't just crawl back out again. Snails and slugs are more active at night because it's moister then and they need a damp environment to survive. If you water your plants in the morning, the daytime sunlight will dry the plants out before nightfall and make them less attractive to slugs and snails. If you water your garden in the evening, this just creates a haven for these slimy creatures and they'll be even more attracted to your plants. It is also a good idea to keep an eye open for their egg masses. Remove leaf litter and other plant debris from around the plants where snails and slugs are a problem. It is possible to remove their egg masses before they hatch. They may lay eggs in the litter or in the soil. Dig 1/2 to 1 inch deep into the soil around the plants by using a trowel. Wear gloves if desired. Look for white or clear egg masses that contain about 80 to 85 eggs and destroy them. Repeat the procedure every two weeks as necessary to get rid of snail eggs as they appear. Some species of slugs lay their eggs singly while others lay eggs in clutches of 3-50. Slugs and eggs can also be found beneath pieces of wood or debris or in small crevices or holes in the ground. Keep the area around a garden clear of debris or be prepared to turn the debris over to find both slugs and their eggs.

Horticultural Week

Evelyne Nemcsok and her committee had several interesting and fun-filled activities planned for this week. There was a photo challenge on our Facebook page, activities in the elementary schools, a display in the Library, and a gang showed up to work in the Millennium Garden. Thanks to Evelyne for all her work.



Leisel checks out her insect home. We worked in the Millennium Garden. The Library display.

Reports from Your Directors

Membership: According to Ginny Montminy, we have 68 members.

Youth Gardens: We currently have 10 youngsters looking to participate in the competition. If you know a young gardener who would like to be part of this programme, please let us know about them...their grade as of the end of June phone number, and address. Our judges will let the participants know in advance when they will be visiting them in August. There's still lots of time to join in.

Facebook/Website: We have 282 people using our Facebook page for information about our Society and gardening in general. Rick Heaslip reports that he has updated our website...check us out at engleharthort.weebly.com. Rick does a great job of keeping our website timely and interesting.

Planning Your Vegetable Garden Part 5 (cont. from June)

I use three bins to rotate the materials I add to them. The first bin will have the oldest materials and the last will have the newest materials. This gives me the flexibility to have one bin's contents ready, while the other two continue to age. To these bins I add any weeds, plant material or collected debris, so long as it's disease-free, including trimmings, pruned bits, left over straw, or anything else. It's a lovely and convenient place to dispose of materials, avoiding the use of a city green bin. Then in a year or two when the materials have broken down sufficiently and developed into compost, I remove some and place it on my vegetable garden beds. There is nothing healthier than this beautiful black soil! If you would like to include a space for compost bins, be sure to draw them into your garden design plan.

STEP 10: Would you like a greenhouse or tool shed in your garden? Finally, consider adding a greenhouse and/or tool shed to your vegetable garden plan. Neither one is necessary, but either one will make your vegetable garden more convenient and enjoyable. A tool shed is a great place to store your garden tools, gloves, buckets, potting soil and any other materials used in the garden. Some people add a seat or bench to sit on and a spot to make tea. If your garden is away from the house, you could hide in there if it rains, or store your seasonal clothes like a bug jacket, hat, sweater, or rubber boots. It's convenient and saves you time and the hassle of having to carry your tools from one place to another. A greenhouse is a wonderful place to start seeds, grow out seedlings and extend the growing season. It warms up during the day and can make a pleasant escape on a cool afternoon. You may build a small greenhouse in the brightest corner of your garden, but it's not a necessity. If a greenhouse may be a future consideration, plan for it in your garden design and leave that space open until you're ready to build it. These are the 10 steps that I followed when designing my vegetable garden. Prior to selecting the location, I observed the landscape during the changing seasons and watched the light levels, wind direction and the animals that walked through our property. I didn't want to rush into building the garden, before knowing exactly what my chosen location was going to face.

Using these 10 Steps, I believe they will give you a good foundation for planning and designing your own vegetable garden. The first 6 steps are important in the general design of your garden. Location, watering, sun availability, garden size, what you would like to grow and how much are all important foundational factors to consider in your design. The remaining 4 steps are optional and wish list factors that may be considered in beautifying and personalizing your space. Designing your vegetable garden is fun and satisfying. Take your time, enjoy the process and be rewarded with a bountiful harvest. Happy Gardening!
(from an article by horticultural author, Julie Dimakos)

Some Interesting Horticultural Info...

★ Beet seeds are fairly big. No matter how far apart you plant them each year you still have to thin them and you can never figure out why. Mind you, thinning is good because you get to eat those tender green leaves. Yet you know when planting you spaced each big seed at least two inches apart and here are little beets jam packed all over the place. The so-called beet "seed" is actually a cluster of seeds inside a dried fruit. So when you plant a beet seed you are actually planting several seeds in the same spot. Botanically these are called multigermed seeds. Each beet multigerm can contain three to five embryos.

★ When picking rhubarb always grab it at the base of the stalk and give it a good tug and twist to pull it out by the root. Don't cut rhubarb! The 'brains' of the rhubarb plant are in its roots. When you pull the stalk out by the root the plant feels it and says to itself "Oh my goodness I'd better grow more stalks". And it does. If you cut the stalk the plant doesn't know to grow more stems. What is left below the cut rots away. The rhubarb feels very badly then and doesn't grow another replacement stalk.
(Harriston and District Horticultural Society)

Plant of the Month

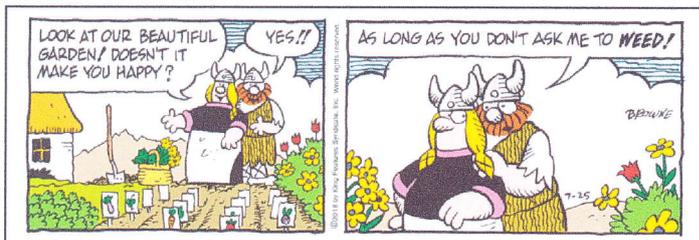
Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum odoratum)

Solomon's Seal are fairly easy to grow in our area. They like dappled shade, rich and organic soils, and plenty of moisture—think woodland plants. Once they are established, they can survive short droughts fairly well but they will need watering in dry times. There are several varieties, ranging from 12 inches to several feet in height, some with variegated leaves, blooming from late May through July. White bell-shaped blossoms dangle below attractive, arching stems. They produce bluish black berries in late summer. The attractive, ribbed foliage turns a golden yellow color in autumn and dries beautifully. False Solomon's seal has similar, opposite leaves, but flowers form on the end of the stem in a cluster. Apparently Solomon's Seal got its name because the scars on the stems where leaves have dropped look like the sixth seal of King Solomon. These beauties grow well in my shady gardens and are great as cut flowers.



Weeding Tips (con't from June)

4. Weed when the soil is moist. Weed after a rain or when you have watered your garden. This makes the soil moist and you'll be able to pull roots of these pesky plants easily.
5. Never let the weed mature, as it'll fix its roots and spill its seeds. Pull up the plant with root ball and if you don't find time to weed, cut the plants and destroy the flowers before they seed.
6. If there are a lot of weeds, ie. if you are just beginning a garden, cover the weeds with plastic or a rug or mat for two to four weeks. It works much better if it's a dark color. This will do two things...either the plants will die from lack of light or from the heat.
7. Instead of weeding the whole day and suffering from back pain for the next week, weed your garden every other day for five to ten minutes. Roaming through walkways and pulling weeds when you see them is a good idea.
8. It is always hard to get out the weeds growing in the cracks in pavements and walkways. To kill, pour boiling water over them.
9. As seeds of weed remain dormant under the garden soil, be careful when you dig up a spot. Don't overturn your soil too much unless you have to.
10. If you're unable to kill tough weeds, a simple solution is to give them a dose of vinegar; it works as a weed killer.



Poetry and Prose

*Once upon a summer day,
Birds chirped in a musical way,
Grass drenched in the
morning dew,
The sky covered in a vast
colour of blue.*

*Once upon a summer day,
Flowers bloomed in full array,
Bright rays of sunlight spilled
upon my garden on the hill.*

*Once upon a summer day,
Thunder rumbled and
prolonged its stay,
But after the rain
tumbled down,
This summer day wore a
glorious rainbow crown.*

J.T. Renaldi

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