



# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
June 2017



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

President: R. Campbell

Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher

**Website:**

[engleharthort.weebly.com](http://engleharthort.weebly.com)

## A Word From The Editor

### Getting the Most from Your Garden

Continuing from the article begun in May, here are some more hints to improving your garden harvests:

#### ➤ **Grow expensive crops**

Some vegetables cost more than others, ie. carrots tend to be cheaper at the store than fresh tomatoes or peppers and you're definitely getting more dollar value from your garden. Some of the crops that cost a lot at the store: tomatoes, peppers, berries, baby leafy greens (mescluns, arugula, spinach...), organic broccoli & cauliflower, winter squash (cheap per pound but heavy so they add up fast!), lettuce, herbs, garlic. Why pay a store when you can grow some in your own gardens. What you don't eat from the garden can be stored: frozen/canned/dried.

#### ➤ **Try new methods**

Gardening methods such as vertical gardening, succession sowing, using season extenders, or smart garden planning allow you to grow more food in your given space. You don't have to have a huge garden to provide fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables for you and your family. (continued on page 4)

## Mark It On Your Calendar

June 10-17: Horticultural Week

June 21: General Meeting- mini garden tour

## A Few Reminders

\*Don't forget that on Wednesday June 14 at 5:00 pm Ashley Fehr and her Girl Guides and Brownies are looking for any volunteers to help them planting the Community Garden in the Woollings Park (the park with the cenotaph between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave). Bring a trowel and come along.

\*Next month's meeting will be our annual summer bbq at the home of Past President, Carrie Anne Field's home at 73 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Please bring along a salad or a dessert to accompany the hamburgers/hotdogs which will be supplied. There will also be a small 'fun' auction with yours truly as the auctioneer. It would be appreciated if you could donate an article for this auction.

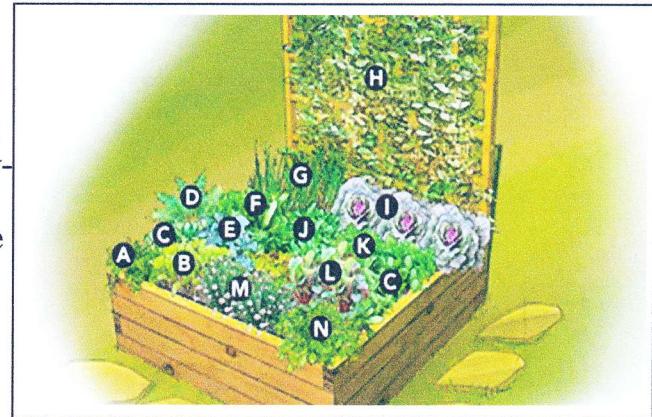
\*Do you know a child who might be interested in entering the Youth Garden Competition? Please contact Bonnie Warner (544 8916) or myself (544 8074) for more information.

## Plant and Bake Sale

Convenor Jean Bott reports that the annual Plant and Bake Sale was another huge success, with a record profit and many happy customers. Once again, there was a busy group of volunteers involved in the setting up and pricing of the plants and baking on Friday. At 9:30 on Saturday the line-up reached to and started down the street. At 10:00 the crowd swooped in and by 10:15 almost half of the many hundreds of plants were gone. It didn't take long to sell most of the donations and we were cleaned up and out of the hall by 11:45. Many thanks to Jean Bott and her committee and helpers for another very successful event, as we raised some money and provided lots of great material for local gardeners as well as delicious baking and preserves. Thanks to the Legion for allowing us to use the hall.

### Not a Lot of Room? Pack it In

I have been asked by several people about how to get the best out of a small area for those who don't have access to a large vegetable garden. The following, from Lowes, may help you to grow a good amount of veggies in a 4' by 4', deep raised bed. The trellis on the back allows for vertical gardening. These crops are great for cool season growing and can be replaced by heat lovers as the summer warms.



### Plant List

A. Parsley	B. Radish	C. Beets	D. Dill	E. Broccoli	F. Romaine lettuce	G. Scallions
H. Peas	I. Cabbage	J. Arugala	K. Carrots	L. Swiss chard	M. Chives	N. Cilantro

## Reports from Your Directors

**Programme:** Bonnie Warner reports that this month our monthly meeting will be a mini garden tour. We will meet just before 7:00 at the Presbyterian Church to car pool. Bring your sharing snack with you and we will enjoy it in Bonnie Warner's yard (#39 First St. N, across the tracks. If the weather isn't good, we'll eat at the Presbyterian Church on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 3<sup>rd</sup> St.). If the weather is really miserable, we will have the tour, same set-up, *the following night*. Come and see what our members can grow in our area. We will be visiting Nina and John Wallace, Carrie Anne Field, and Rick and Carol Heaslip's lovely gardens.

**Social:** Convenor Mary Schippers reminds Len and me that we are the hosts for this meeting and we also bring the gift for the free draw.

**Horticultural Week:** Convenor Deb Murray reports that CJBB will be playing horticultural hints this week; there will be an activity at Holy Family School, and we will be planting the new raised beds in front of EPS.

**Civic Planting:** Bonnie reports that we will be planting the two beds in the park, the Legion Hall, and the cenotaph garden in red and white to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the members who have volunteered to plant these beds.

**Website/Facebook:** Rick announced that we had 537 unique hits in May and reminds people to check the site at [engleharthort.weebly.com](http://engleharthort.weebly.com) for all the latest news and photos of Society events. I can report that we have 135 people posting and enjoying the Facebook page. Thank you to all who are sharing their pictures and ideas with us. We're all learning from the page.

## Peonies (continued from May)

Tree peonies are long-lived, hardy shrubs provided they are grown in a suitable spot. They are not trees but are actually deciduous shrubs. To plant a tree peony, dig a hole 30cm (12") wide and deep, adding some garden compost and a handful of bone meal. Plant bare root tree peonies deeply as most are grafted, and so the graft union should be at least 8cm below the soil. This will encourage the tree peony to make fresh roots and basal shoots. Be sure not to overwater. Their woody stems allow them to stand upright without staking. They will produce dinner-plate-sized flowers on plants that can grow from 3 to 7 feet tall. Tree peonies, native to Asia can be grown in zone 3 but they will often have die-back, so should be mulched heavily with leaves in the fall, and will often grow more like an herbaceous peony, sprouting from the base every year. Tree peonies grow slowly, producing 1 to 6 inches of new growth each year. They prefer well-drained soil and dappled sunlight. Their woody structure allows them to stand upright without staking. They produce gigantic dinner-plate-sized flowers on plants that grow from 3 to 7 feet tall. Tree peonies grow slowly, producing 1 to 6 inches of new growth each year. These beauties prefer well-drained soil and dappled sunlight. They are rather expensive, but their amazing blossoms make them worth the money and care.



## Grow Your Own Tomatoes

*A few hints from Plant Care for tomato growers may help increase your crop.*

1. Choose a bright airy location and don't crowd the plant (this helps avoid diseases)
2. Pass up overgrown transplants at the garden center (the larger, more advanced plants may be rootbound and actually take more time to recover after planting)
3. Feed the soil first (apply compost/fertilizer and work into the soil well before planting)
4. Preheat the soil in your garden (I've never done this but applying black plastic or mulch before planting may give the plants a head start in our short growing season)
5. Plant them deeply, bury the stems (roots will develop along the stems and help hold the plant more firmly and allow greater uptake of water and nutrients)
6. Provide lots of light, space seedlings when planting (tomatoes require lots of sunlight to set fruit and allow for strong green growth.)
7. Mulch. (Tomatoes require lots of moisture so mulching later in the season helps hold that moisture in the soil on those long hot summer days.)
8. Grow them up...grow vertically (it's important to keep the plants off the ground to prevent soil borne diseases from taking hold)
9. Remove the bottom leaves, (as above, to avoid disease from the soil)
10. Water deeply but infrequently (watering lightly every day encourages the growth of small roots close to the soil surface; watering less often but applying more encourages roots to grow more deeply, which is better for the plant)
11. Pluck the first flower, remove suckers (I've never removed the first flower just because I'm so happy to see it, but it does make sense as flower and fruit formation takes a lot of energy which is not good for smaller plants). Also, remember to remove the suckers (mini plants forming where leaves meet the main stem) early to avoid overcrowding.



## *Plant of the Month*

### **Coreopsis**

Commonly called 'Tickseed', this plant ranges from 46–120 cm (18–47 in) in height and has fine, feathery foliage. It is fairly drought tolerant and is an easy-care plant that is native to the U.S. In the summer it can be covered with smallish bright flowers in shades of yellow, pink, red, and white, and are often two-toned with a darker eye. Regular dead-heading (removal of spent blossoms) helps to keep this pretty plant blooming longer. Several varieties of this perennial are hardy to our area. The picture to the right shows the colours of coreopsis available.



## **Getting the Most from Your Garden Part 2**

- **Use season extenders:** Using season extenders can add weeks to your pre and post crops. Covering your crops early in the spring and late in the fall can be a bit of a job, but can extend your growing seasons, to get crops to maturity, or simply get more of the same vegetable. Nowadays there are specially made lightweight materials to use to protect crops. Planting inside cold frames, close to buildings, or using hoops covered with a gauzy material all help.
- **Succession Sowing:** Succession sowing involves sowing a crop multiple times throughout the growing season instead of all at once. This allows you to harvest certain vegetables continuously over many weeks because you sow that crop every 1-3 weeks instead of all at once. Crops that are great for succession sowing are ones that grow quickly and can be harvested within 2-4 months. (I do this with my wax beans as they are my favourites!)
- **Vertical gardening:** Vertical gardens are such wonderful use of space, add appealing architecture to your garden and are edible when you grow food on them. Vertical gardening is the perfect way to have edible crops in a beautiful way. Pole beans, cucumbers, even squash can be trained to grow vertically. Walls, fences, stick teepees, trellises, A-frames are great for vertical gardening. (to be continued)



## *Poetry and Prose*

*It was June,  
and the world  
smelled of roses.  
The sunshine was  
like powdered gold  
over the grassy  
hillside.*



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