

# The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Michael Woods

*Please Note: All of our Garden Club meetings are on hold until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.*

*We hope you've been enjoying the People's Choice Photo Contest and the Pop-up Garden videos on our new Facebook page. Thank you so much to all those individuals who sent in their photos and have posted videos for us all to enjoy.*

*We will continue to reach out to all of you online, and we will continue with the EYGC newsletter. This could be an opportune time to write that article for the newsletter that you never seemed to have enough time for before. We also want to hear from our members letting us know what sort of things they have been doing to help get them through this very difficult time. If you have any inspiring words, or words of comfort, please send them along for the newsletter. Also, Spring has thankfully arrived, and I'm sure a lot of you have been taking photos of your spring gardens, and we would love to see them! So send a couple of photos of what's blooming in your garden, for all of us to enjoy.*

*Michael Woods, Editor & Art Director, EYGC Newsletter*



The **East York Garden Club** is  
a member of:  
The Ontario Horticultural  
Association, District 5.

Meetings are held on the third  
Thursday of each month (except  
July, August and December) in  
the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373  
Cedarvale Avenue, at 7:30 pm.

Refreshments are available at  
7:00 pm. The Clubhouse is  
wheelchair accessible. Visitors are  
always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are  
\$20.00 for a single, \$30.00 for a  
family. To inquire about  
membership, please contact:

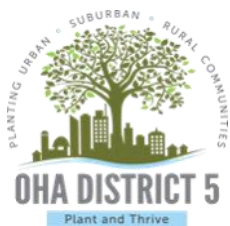
**Cristina Brown at:**  
**416-755-9077**

Visit us on the web:  
**[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)**

**President:**  
Diane Dyson

**Vice President:**  
Rosalind Regnier

**Newsletter Editor/Art Director:**  
Michael Woods



This issue of *The East York Garden* is dedicated to Michael Woods. Michael was our very capable newsletter editor since January 2017, shortly after he and his partner, Alan Barber, joined the EYGC. Michael's photos and writing fill many pages of the newsletters' issues. Also an active Board member, Michael initiated a re-design of the newsletter. His creative eye and EYGC work won awards among Ontario garden clubs and societies. Before his passing in June, Michael gifted us one last time with this final issue by laying out and editing most of it. Michael's touch, talents and time are evident throughout these pages.

As you sit down to read it today, have a thought for Michael and his partner Alan.

## Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:  
*"This is September October in  
East York"?*

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the  
cover of the next or future Newsletter!  
(Landscape format is best)

## July August 2020 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Michael Woods, Anna Leggatt, Nola McConnan,  
Dianne Cavanaugh, Diane Ronan,  
Betty Meyers, Austra Gluens, Patricia Houghton,  
Caroline Smoyer, Jennifer Smith, Karl Auer, Veronica Callinan,  
Barb Fairbanks*

# Message from EYGC's President



**Prez Patch**  
by Diane Dyson

2020's been a bit of a pile-on. So we have had to cancel our meetings at Stan Wadlow. Our bus trips and the District 5 and the provincial OHA conferences were cancelled. Then as we adjusted, the Club lost one of its core members, the editor of this newsletter, Michael Woods. Other members also face challenges with their health or are balancing new demands. At our last Board meeting, the Executive decided to cancel the annual Flower Show and Tea. And because the virus is a particular risk to older adults, we don't yet know when we may host another members' meeting again.

Still, as gardeners, we know life finds a way forward. And EYGC has endured in the face of this:

- EYGC continues to attract new members!
- In April we created a Facebook page for club members. Close to fifty members participate there, offering advice, posting pictures of their gardens, or offering plants.
- In May we hosted our first ever online Club meeting, with a presentation by Lifetime member Anna Leggatt, on the topic "Cut it out: Pruning Essentials." Fifty members joined us for this online meeting launch. Since then, Veronica Callinan has stepped up twice, presenting on "Raising Monarch butterflies" and on "Top Tips for Tip Top Vegetables."
- With lowered expenses this year, the Board has decided that its finances are secure enough to roll this year's membership fees into next year's. So 2020 members will have their membership automatically extended into 2021. 2-for-1!

Even during these strange times, members are offering their time, their effort, and their smarts to make sure gardens are cleaned, photos are shared, meetings are held, speakers are booked, bills are paid, memberships are tracked, articles are written, reports are filed, get-well cards sent, webpages updated, newsletters delivered and social media moderated. Our garden club survives and thrives on the efforts of volunteers.

So finally, I need to thank the three members who stepped forward to complete the work Michael started on this edition of the newsletter: Maureen Ballentine, Nola McConnan, and Jennifer Smith brought their combined talents to bring this issue across the finish line. And promised to do it again.

Grow on!

*Diane, [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)*



# The Elusive Blue Colour...



## Garden Blues

by Anna Leggatt

### Pantone's 2020 colour of the year is Classic Blue.

(Shown here)

Blue flowers are most gardeners' favourite plants. There are many to choose from. However, many "blues" have pink or purple tones. The following are some of the purer blue flowers I love.



***Meconopsis*, the Himalayan Poppy**

*Meconopsis*, the Himalayan Blue Poppy, is one of the bluest of the blue and is on everyone's wish list. Sadly, I have given up trying to grow this amazing plant. I provided rich, well drained soil in a sheltered spot in partial shade, with mulch in winter. I proudly watched my plants as they grew well. Then they vanished in the late

spring, more or less overnight. Why? Toronto has hot nights which kills them. These beauties can be grown outside Toronto where the temperature stays below 18°C at night.

### Bulbs, etc

Early spring brings carpets of bulbs. Many are a true blue. Check carefully - how blue do you want your flowers to be - do you want a purplish tinge? And remember, many bulbs are dormant in summer so remember where you planted them.

I love the English bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, though I find it difficult to grow. They should grow anywhere. I think they need better drainage and dry soil during dormancy. The deep blue flowers dangle down from a 30cm stalk.



***Hyacinthoides*, English Bluebells**

Early flowering scillas, *Scilla siberica*, and Glory-of-the-Snow, *Chionodoxa lucillae*, both rapidly form blue carpets, 10cm high, in sun or

# The Elusive Blue Colour...

deciduous shade. The latter has flowers with a white eye in the blue.



***Chinodoxa***

Grape hyacinths, *Muscari*, *Bellavalia*, and Hyacinths, *Hyacinthus*, have flowers in a range of blues. My favourite is *Muscari armeniacum* 'Valerie Finnis', a soft, powder blue.

Most species of *Crocus* flower in the spring. *C. chrysanthus* 'Blue Pearl' is a soft blue. Many "blue" cultivars are a pinkish blue. Some fall blooming *C. speciosus* are closer to a true blue.

*Tecophilila cyanocrocus*, the Chilean blue crocus, cultivars have a range of wonderful blues from violet blue to pale blue and white. These bulbs are expensive to buy and are not hardy for us. I grow mine in the greenhouse.

The *Iris reticulata* group has several early flowering blues. Look for 'Cantab', 'Alida' or 'Joyce' for good blues.



***Iris reticulata***

Tuberous anemones flower later in the spring. *A. blanda* 'Blue Shades' is quite short and needs more sun than the taller woodlander *A. nemorosa*

'Robinsoniana'. This has drooping pale lavender blue flowers which turn up in the sun.

Late spring finds our western native camas lilies in flower. There are several species and cultivars of *Camassia*. Look for the sky blue varieties. They do well in meadows growing from 30-50cm tall.

Ornamental onions have an enormous range of plants with different heights and colours, flowering from spring to late fall. *Allium cyaneum* is variable but has forms with good blue. It flowers in the sun in mid summer, growing to about 25cm tall.



***Allium cyaneum***

*Corydalis* has some species with corms and true blue flowers. However, they are difficult to find. *C. flexuosa* group is rhizomatous. It grows 25cm high with ferny leaves and beautiful blue flowers. It needs shade and hates drying out. It becomes dormant in summer heat and winter cold. I find it short lived. It has only been available commercially for less than 25 years.



***Corydalis flexuosa***



# The Elusive Blue Colour...

Other beauties will give a long season of bloom. These plants all need a sunny position, not too hot, with well drained soil and protection from late winter wet. A slope will help. Many of the above bulbs grow splendidly in a rock garden.

You may read about a plant here, or in a horticultural publication. Where can you find it? It is becoming increasingly difficult to find some of these treasures. There are still some small, specialized nurseries and amateur gardeners who sell surplus plants. Horticultural Society plant sales often have treasures. Growing from seed is another option.

## Rock Garden and Perennial Plants

**Gentians** When you think blue in Rock Gardens, you think of gentians. *Gentiana verna*, the Spring Gentian, only grows 5cm high with bright blue flowers up to 2cm across. There are several related species and cultivars. Buy them in flower to obtain the bluest. Plant them where they will be shaded from the hot summer.



***Gentiana verna***

Trumpet Gentians, the *Gentiana acaulis* group, will form low mats with bright blue, upward facing 7cm trumpets, often with spotted throats. True *G. acaulis* prefers neutral to slightly acid, well drained soil, not minding if its roots reach clay 20cm down. Closely related *G. clusii* needs alkaline soil. These beauties are all long lived when happy. These species often have so many flowers that the leaves are hidden.

Easy *Gentiana septemfida*, the Summer Gentian, grows to 20cm tall, but sprawls. It is more leafy but still has good blue flowers.

*Gentiana sino-ornata*, the Chinese or Autumn gentian, has cultivars in a wonderful range of blue. They are more tricky to grow in the Toronto area. They need a cool, rich, acid soil. Here, we need to provide full sun with afternoon shade. When happy, you will have a 10cm high mat of beautiful blue 5cm trumpets, spreading to 30cm.

*Gentiana asclepiadea*, the willow gentian, can be grown in a rock garden with dappled shade, or a woodland garden. It has arching stems to 50cm high with blue flowers in the axils of willow-like leaves. Cultivars are in various shades of blue or white. Give it a rich, well drained soil.

**Campanulas** are an important group with predominantly blue or purple blue flowers. Many are biennial or short lived, but self-seed. They flower from late spring through the summer.



***Campanula rotundifolia* - Harebell**

*Campanula rotundifolia*, the harebell, has true blue flowers. It forms a loose mat with thumbnail sized down facing bells on stalks up to 30cm high. It is easy to grow in well drained soil.

Try growing more compact varieties from seed. *C. cochlerifolia*, or Fairy's (Fairies') Thimbles, forms a mat with flower stalks up to 10cm high. The light blue flowers, often double, dangle down. *C. carpatica* 'Blue Clips' is a 25cm cushion covered with upward facing bells. Remove the flowers for a longer season of bloom.

Look for other small campanulas for the rock garden or edging the perennial border.

Taller *Campanula* look well in a perennial border. Many self-seed so be careful where you place them. Avoid the blue-purple perennial *C. rapunculoides*. It has tuberous roots and 1000s of seeds. It is extremely difficult to eradicate though

# The Elusive Blue Colour...

I am told all parts are edible. The peach leaved bellflower, *C. persicifolia*, is biennial. It self-seeds. Some forms are a beautiful clear mid blue. *C. lactiflora* grows to 100cm tall with clusters of bells; some cultivars are blue.

Biennial *C. latifolia* is a little shorter with violet-blue flowers hanging down from leafy stems.



***Delphinium elatum***

**Delphiniums** have many species and selections with blue flowers. We think of these as tall perennials with massive flower stalks up to 200cm high. These *Delphinium elatum* hybrids are known as English Delphiniums. They need staking. Look for Canadian hybrids instead. These are shorter and sturdier with the same glorious flower spikes.



***Delphinium grandiflorum* "Blue Mirror"**

Issue Date: July August 2020

Plant in well drained soil, amended with compost. Do not let them dry out. After flowering, cut off the spent flowers above the leaves. Cut back when new shoots grow up from the base - perhaps there will be more flowers in the fall. There are many shorter delphinium species suitable for the rock garden. *D. grandiflorum* is easy to find or grow from seed. Short lived, but will seed around.

**Columbines** Many *Aquilegia* are a good blue. A few are difficult to find and are short lived. Most are easy from seed. My favourite is *A. flabellata nana*, 10cm high with blue and white flowers. It self-seeds politely.

There are more purple blues for the perennial bed. *Aquilegia vulgaris* has stubby spurs. I prefer those with long delicate spurs. *A. caerulea*, the Rocky Mountain Columbine, is blue and white, growing to about 35cm. The McKana hybrids are similar with a varied range of colours. Few are blue.

*Dracophyllum* 'Fuji Blue' is another good rock garden plant. It is in the mint family but clumps, not creeps. Handsome blue flower spikes are about 20cm above dark green leaves. There are several others, all easy from seed.

*Globularia* forms mats, often taking the shapes of the rocks they slowly cover. The dark green leaves are only a few cm high, depending on the species. The flower heads are little blue pom-poms on 5-10cm stalks.

*Myosotis*, the forget-me-nots, will self-seed in the rock garden or in the perennial beds. Their blue often forms an excellent contrast to tulips and other spring bulbs.



*Penstemon* species are the North American equivalent of the foxglove. They all need well



# The Elusive Blue Colour...

drained soil and many are short lived. My favourite is *P. nitidus*, with electric blue flowers and leaves with almost a turquoise cast. It grows well but slowly from seed. *P. strictus* is about 50cm tall and is a long lived clump. The flowers have a tinge of violet, like many penstemons.



***Penstemon nitidus***

*Platycodon*, the balloon flower, is a close relation of *Campanula*. The flowers are large, mostly up facing. The buds swell like a balloon and then pop open. The flowers are the same size, whether 20cm rock garden cultivar, or 75cm stand in the perennial border. They are easy and a good blue.

*Pulsatilla*, prairie crocus or pasque flower, will be flowering during a late Easter. They need space, well drained soil and hate being moved. Many of the blue have a tinge of purple. My favourites are *Pulsatilla* 'Budapest Group' and the nearly blue, North American *P. patens* is mostly pale violet but can be bluish.

*Salvia*, the sages, have a range of colours from reds, blues, to purple, pinks and whites. They may be annuals, half hardy perennials and shrubs or true perennials. Some of the annuals have the bluest colour as do the half hardy species. *Salvia patens* 'Cambridge Blue' is the bluest of all and has a long season of bloom. It is tuberous so you can overwinter it like a Dahlia. Most Salvias need dry soil. However, *Salvia uliginosa* prefers the damp and overwinters with a good mulch. There are also some good, but difficult, tiny salvias for the rock garden.

*Veronica*, or speedwell, is also a genus with many blue flowers for the border edge or the rock garden. My favourite easy one is *Veronica umbra* 'Georgia Blue'. It makes a mat with blue flowers from summer to fall. The foliage has a bronze tinge. *Veronica spicata* 'Blue Candles' lives up to its name. It is a darker blue, up to 45cm in height.

## Perennials

*Aconitum*, or Monkshood, is poisonous. However, there are several good cultivars ranging from steely blue to dark blue. *A. carmichaelii*, 120cm high, flowers the fall. It is violet blue.



***Monkshood, Aconitum carmichaelii***

*Amsonia*, Bluestars, live up to their name with clusters of flowers. Summer flowering, varieties may be as low as 40cm or up to 150cm. Many have good yellow to orange fall foliage.

*Aster*, the Michaelmas Daisies, are now *Symphyotrichum*! Fall blooming, most blue cultivars are more purple and have a yellow centre. *S.* 'Little Carlow' is my favourite. It is 60cm tall and is difficult to find.

Rhizomatous *Iris* start to bloom in early spring. Different cultivars will flower till the summer. Some re-bloom in the fall. The earliest are short. There is a range of colours and many bicolours. A favourite is frilly, light blue 'Victoria Falls'. This often reblooms in the fall.



# The Elusive Blue Colour

*Echinops*, the globe thistle, is a magnet for bees and other pollinators. Some are beautifully scented and a good blue. Their drumstick heads give texture to a perennial border.



***Echinops***

*Centaurea montana* - Cornflower, *Eryngium* - Sea Holly, perennial *Geranium*, *Linum* - Flax, *Nepeta* - Catnip, all have blue varieties which can be used in a perennial border.

## Perennials for Damp Semi-shade

*Mertensia* is our native Virginia Bluebells. This has fresh blue flowers in May woodlands, though a pink tinge appears as the flowers fade.



**Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia***

*Pulmonaria*, or lungworts, do not like hot mid-day sun. Plant them in deciduous shade. Many have attractive silver markings on the leaves, reminding herbalists long ago of a diseased lung! The flowers are often pinkish blue. Older cultivars

are prone to mildew. Look for good blues, such as *P.* 'Roy Davidson'.

## Annuals

There are several good blue annuals. Morning Glories (*Ipoemea*) are great blue climbers. Plant them in situ at the end of May and watch for slugs on the seedlings. Position the plant so you, not your neighbors, will see the morning flowers as they turn to the sun.

Low growing *Browellia* has blue star shaped flowers and will grow in the shade.

*Bacopa* is a trailing annual, usually white. Look for blue cultivars. It requires constant moisture and is a useful indicator in a hanging basket. If it starts to wilt, water quickly!



***Lobelia***

There are 100s of annual *Lobelia* choices. They come in a range of blues and some whites. They are bushy or trailing. Flowering is over most of our growing season, except in the hottest part of summer. They will grow in part shade.

(To be continued)

## Anna

This is Part One of Anna's very compelling article on "[The Elusive Blue Colour](#)".

Check out the next newsletter for part two of Anna's article on blue flowers. She will be talking about clematis, wisteria, lilacs, hostas, and grasses.



# Come What May...

Send us some photos of what helped you cope and get through this situation and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

Please send photos to: [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)



***Jennifer Smith's backyard garden***



***Diane Ronan's spring garden flush with winter aconite, crocus, and snowdrops***



***Nola McConnan's Rhubarb, Hepatica, and Double Bloodroot***



# Come What May...



***Nola McConnan's Red Trillium, Daffodil, and hopeful seedlings***



***Austra Gulens' red tulips with bleeding heart, and duck family on parade***



# Come What May



Joyce Crook's Poppy

Photo Credit: Barb Fairbanks



Photo Credit: Anna Leggatt



Photo Credit: Patricia Houghton



Photo Credit: Anna Leggatt

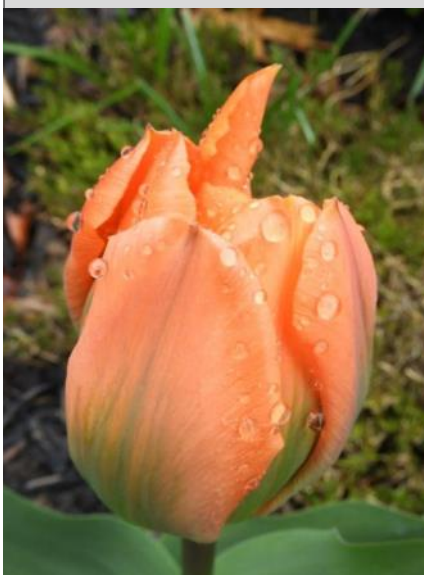


Photo Credits: Austra Gulens



Photo Credit: Nola McConnan



Photo Credit: Caroline Smoyer



# Inspiring Words, Thoughts & Garden Photos...

## A Tip for Watering Seedlings...



A sippy cup is a very good seedling watering can. It delivers water to the seedlings at a very controlled dribble.

The newly rooting bonsai and sprouting cyclamen are both benefitting from this new gardening equipment.

That's a film canister and an old salt shaker for the new bonsai.

The cyclamen only showed up yesterday. It is the second generation from my original

*Cheers, Nola*

Nola McConnan



"SEEDSMEN RECKON THAT  
THEIR STOCK IN TRADE IS NOT  
SEEDS AT ALL...  
IT'S OPTIMISM."

*GEOFF HAMILTON*



"Blue, blue, blue, melting,  
cerulean, altogether  
exquisite and desirable."

*Reginald Farrer  
(1880 - 1920)*



# Inspiring Words, Thoughts & Garden Photos...



I shall never have the  
garden I have in my mind,  
but that for me is the joy  
of it; certain things can  
never be realized and so all  
the more reason to  
attempt them.

*Jamaica Kincaid*





# Inspiring Words, Thoughts & Garden Photos



Beneath these fruit-tree boughs that shed  
Their snow-white blossoms on my head,  
With brightest sunshine round me spread  
Of spring's unclouded weather,  
In this sequestered nook how sweet  
To sit upon m Orchard seat!  
And birds and flowers once more to greet,  
My last year's friends together.

*William Wordsworth*

**Photo Credits: Nola McConnan**



***Daffodil***



***Variant Green Trillium***



***Ramps or Wild Leek***

# EYGC Climate C.H.A.N.G.E. Ideas

What can we as **gardeners** do to help mitigate climate change? There are lots of things we can do, from small to large, to help. To assist with developing our idea list we have put together the **EYGC CHANGE Concept**:

**C** - Creative  
**H** - Horticultural  
**A** - Activities  
**N** - Now, for  
**G** - Gardeners  
**E** - Everywhere

Climate Change is very real, and we should all do everything we can to assist in mitigating this global concern. Sometimes it can be very overwhelming to think about what needs to be done to change this situation, but what we as **gardeners** can be concentrating on is what we

can do everyday, however small, to assist in changing the course of events.

We know that some of you are already taking steps to make a difference, and we would like all our members to think about how we as **individual gardeners**, and as a **garden club**, can effect change.

We anticipate this will be an on-going feature in the newsletter where we share ideas that we can all consider adopting to help make a difference.

Please tell us what you are doing already. Send to: [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

## The Novice Gardener: Compost Basics

By Karen Bell

*(originally published July/August 2003)*

If you expect your garden to be productive, you have to give something back to the earth. Your plants need nutrients and your soil may need amending. Clay soil needs to be made lighter and sandy soil can use organic material to help it hold water.

Composting is an old technique, getting popular again with today's ecologically-minded gardener. My father, and his father before him were into composting. (My grandfather kept a very large garden in England featuring spectacular roses, vegetables of every kind, and fruit trees, and he didn't have the money to spend on fertilizer for all those plants.)

For the new gardener, a compost heap is an early priority because it will save you time on garden waste disposal and money on soil amendment. Composting is also ecologically friendly; the City of Toronto would like us all to compost, in order to reduce the volume of waste they must pickup.

Use a plastic compost bin, build a container from old lumber, or simply pile the stuff in a small trench in a corner of the garden. Put in kitchen vegetable and fruit scraps. You can even add coffee grounds, tea bags, pet hair and dryer lint – no meat, fat, oils or dairy.

Always cover the food scraps with grass cuttings, leaves, twigs or other garden refuse. Top with a thin layer of soil. This is part of the composting formula and it keeps odours down and pests away. (If there is any odour, you are not covering the food scraps well enough.) Water occasionally, turn it now and then, and what you put in will begin to break down.

Patience is key; the process of breaking down the vegetable matter can take from three weeks to a year, depending on how hot the pile gets, but the resulting gorgeous, rich, dark soil will help your garden grow.

If you're not currently composting, try it. You'll reduce the amount of garbage at your curb and your plants will love it.



# Victory Garden 2.0—Summer Maintenance

The concept of a Victory Garden came about during World War II, when access to fresh fruits and vegetables was compromised, and food in general was hard to get. The following article and accompanying graphics are courtesy of the U.S. National Garden Bureau:

## ***“Are my vegetables ready to pick?”***

One common mistake novice vegetable growers make is not harvesting quickly. It's tempting to leave that row of lettuce heads, for example, because they look so beautiful.

Yet when it comes to our veggie gardens, keep in mind that constant harvesting can also mean more food for your table...

- Cut off the largest leaves on lettuce, chard, and kale plants and use those in your salads.
- Pick green beans every other day so that the plants will continue to flower and produce more.
- Cut broccoli heads when they “look like broccoli,” even though those heads might be significantly smaller than the ones you find in the supermarket. (Another broccoli fun fact: most plants will continue to produce side shoots of tiny heads all summer. Pick these before they go to flower and you'll have enough small, tender broccoli for salads, omelets, and pasta dishes into the fall.)

Finally, once your lettuce, radishes, or other greens start to flower it's time to pull them up and plant again.

## ***“What about all these weeds?”***

The weeds that seemed insignificant in June can explode into gigantic plants in July. Even experienced vegetable growers will walk into their garden and say, “*Where did that huge weed come from?*” Some heat-loving weeds prosper close to the ground as well, so during your summer maintenance, you might be seeing crabgrass, carpet weed, and purslane in the garden. Unfortunately, there is no magic wand for this. **They need to be pulled.**



## ***How do I water in the summer?”***

When you planted your vegetables, they were easily moistened with a wand on the end of a hose. Chances are, you even enjoyed this ritual. But in the heat of the summer, hand watering is seldom enough. First of all, people get bored long before those plants get a good, deep soaking, and a thorough drenching ensures deeper stronger roots. Secondly, it's human nature to aim the water at the base of the stem, ignoring the surrounding soil which is where the roots are actively growing. If local ordinances permit watering with soaker hoses or a sprinkler, use these, **watering deeply but less often.**

## ***“Some crops have gone by. What now?”***

Once your peas and lettuce have gone by and the garlic heads harvested, you have open real estate where more food can be planted. In many parts of the country seeds for carrots, kale, arugula, lettuce, pak choi, and chard can be planted in these spots. These are all crops that will thrive even as the temperatures cool, so don't hesitate to **sow something new.**

Written By: C. L. Fornari, Plantrama

# A Walk in the May Garden...



## A May Walk in my Garden

By Nola McConnan

In May our cottage in Muskoka was reached by the Shennamere Road which passes through a sugar bush. It was a sea of Trillium Grandiflora. At the cottage they were everywhere, in White, Red or Painted.

First Rule from Father! "Don't touch the Trillium. You cannot pick Trillium. You will kill it."

Trillium requires early spring sun and, later, more or less full shade. It also needs an undisturbed leaf litter bed. I set out to accomplish the goal of a native and spring landscape that supports Trillium. To accomplish this I collected "Muskoka" by finding and planting a Sugar Maple, an American Chestnut and a Red Oak to surround the central shade Spruce. I also stopped tidying and throwing out leaves in the fall. Then I created a natural pond and stream surrounded by Spiderwort, Native Columbine, and Ostrich Fern. And in the spring came my Trillium.

The Trillium started with a white pair from the cottage driveway. The OMG Trillium Patch of 64 blooms in 2020 developed from a couple of seeds collected from the bush in the early 90s. The tiny White single turned up in 2019, self-seeded. The Red too came from Muskoka. The Green and Striped ones were saved from a road widening in Parry Sound. I was told they were infected with a virus and would die. They haven't. They have spread in classic white.

Other sprouting May delights include: Blue Cohosh on the back path; Mandrake or May Apple and Bloodroot on the north fence line; False Solomon Seal by the main path. Trout Lily grows with the Spiderwort, Jack-in-the-pulpit and Ostrich Fern. Wild Columbine has decided that it likes to be beside the pond. The Hepatica has already bloomed safely at the base of another Spruce. Most of these were collected from Muskoka.

The plus for all this? Very little leaf raking in the fall.



# A Walk in the May Garden





## A Selection of Members' Spring Contests Photos



Photo Credit: Dianne Cavanaugh



Photo Credit: Daisy Auer

Here is an additional selection of some of the photos from the Spring Photo Contests. If you won any award, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM, or are particularly proud of your photo, please send a digital copy to the newsletter so we can publish them in a future issue.

*Thank you.*



Photo Credit: Veronica Callinan



# Pop-Up Gardens ...On Our Facebook Page?

With most events cancelled these days, the Executive Board was reluctant to cancel all Pop-Up Gardens, but it seemed the only thing to do to keep people safe. However, the suggestion of having *VIRTUAL* pop-ups sounded like a great idea and reasonably feasible to achieve.

We had already decided that having a Facebook page would be one good way of keeping in contact with each other since our meetings are still on hold. It turns out that posting videos on our Facebook works well, too.

So, if you want to share your garden at its best, why not video your garden and post it on Facebook? Not into videos...you can post photos of your garden too.

Please have a look at our new Facebook page and consider joining. You don't have to friend anyone other than the EYGC Garden Club page, so your privacy will not be invaded.



# Notices to Members



Photographs will be taken at many East York Garden Club (EYGC) meetings and events.

It is assumed that by attending an EYGC meeting or event you are giving tacit approval for your image to be used in EYGC publications (e.g. yearbook and newsletter) that will subsequently appear on our website, or to be used for publicity for future events.

If you have any questions about this please approach a member of the Executive Board or contact us at:

**[gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca) or  
416-469-5593**

## EYGC Code of Conduct

In keeping with the City of Toronto's Anti-harassment policy when using any City of Toronto properties, East York Garden Club, with the kind assistance of the Leaside Garden Club, has designed an **EYGC Code of Conduct** to adhere to the City's regulations.

In short it says: ***A guiding principle of the East York Garden Club is that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Although EYGC promotes freedom of expression and open communication, we expect all members to adhere to this principle as outlined in the full "Code of Conduct".*** The full document will be published in an up-coming newsletter.

### EYGC MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

"CANNABIS, IN ANY FORM, IS NOT TO BE AT ANY EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB MEETING, ACTIVITY OR EVENT, SUCH AS, BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO, OUR REFRESHMENTS, FLOWER SHOWS, PLANT SALES, SEED EXCHANGE."

## DISTRICT 5 AWARDS

EYGC submitted a number of our publications (Yearbook, Newsletter, Bookmark, and Special Event Poster) for consideration at the District 5 AGM. While the meeting had to be cancelled, the judging on submissions went ahead.

EYGC did beautifully:

- ***1st Prize for Newsletter*** (of 9 entries)
- ***1st Prize for Society/Club bookmark*** (of 8 entries)
- ***1st Prize for Special Event poster*** (of 2 entries)
- ***2nd Prize for 2020 Yearbook***, without advertising (of 6 entries)



# Puzzle Page

We are all spending a lot more time at home - and discovering some of the simpler pleasures.

Enjoy!

## Gardening

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining 27 letters spell a Lady Bird Johnson quote.

F S W H E E L B A R R O W W H G E G R  
U P E G S P E T U N I A S S N F N R T  
C A G O R T L S O I L O C I N O W A U  
H D H R R E L R O W S A T O M A E K L  
S E R O O A E S S E B N I E M A E E I  
I S W C U W F N S D A T R N E P L B P  
A E C N U O E O H L L U O G N O O S S  
L L N A I L R G P O T O N M V E U S F  
P A B R L N T M N L U A G E A N I L T  
I I E E O I I I U I R S G I S T O B S  
N N E T C A L C V D G E E H R W O S E  
W N T A C R I I Y A T G I E E A E E I  
H E S W O T Z H E A T N I R D O M V S  
E R G A R D E N B S E E S D H S S O I  
E E O O B D R L O E C I N A G R O L A  
L P H S S D E E W G N I X A L E R G D  
L E V O H S A E P S M U I N A R E G H  
O P P I T C H F O R K E C A R R O T S

ANNUALS  
BEANS  
BEETS  
BIENNIAL  
BROCCOLI  
CARROTS  
COMPOST  
CULTIVATE  
DAISIES  
DIGGING  
FERTILIZER  
FLOWERS  
FUCHSIA

GARDEN  
GERANIUMS  
GLOVES  
GNOME  
GREENHOUSE  
GROW  
HOES  
HORTICULTURE  
HOSE  
HYDRANGEA  
LILACS  
LILIES  
MARIGOLDS

ORGANIC  
PEAS  
PERENNIAL  
PETUNIAS  
PINWHEEL  
PITCH FORK  
PLANTING  
RAIN  
RAKE  
RELAXING  
ROSES  
ROWS

SEEDS  
SHOVEL  
SOIL  
SPADE  
SUNSHINE  
TOMATOES  
TROWEL  
TULIPS  
VEGETABLES  
WATER  
WEEDS  
WHEELBARROW

# The Back Page Garden...

Show us your backyard! (or front yard, or balcony...)

Send a photo of your garden at its best, or at your favourite time of year. Show your whole yard, a cozy corner, or any "vignette" that you love & want to share with EYGC members.

Be selective and send only one or two photos, preferably in jpeg format - fairly high resolution is best for clarity. Send to the newsletter at:

[gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

*Shown to the right is Spring arriving at **Dianne Cavanaugh's** back garden.*



## *Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members*

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Leely Chong, Ann Da Mota, Karen Worrall, Michelle Barraclough, Joan Weed



If you would like to make a submission to be included in the next issue of "The East York Garden" newsletter, the next deadline is:

**August 22nd, 2020**

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to

[gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

We're on the Web! Find out more information and get back issues of this newsletter at our website:

[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)



"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club