

The East York Garden

Issue Date: 2021
September October

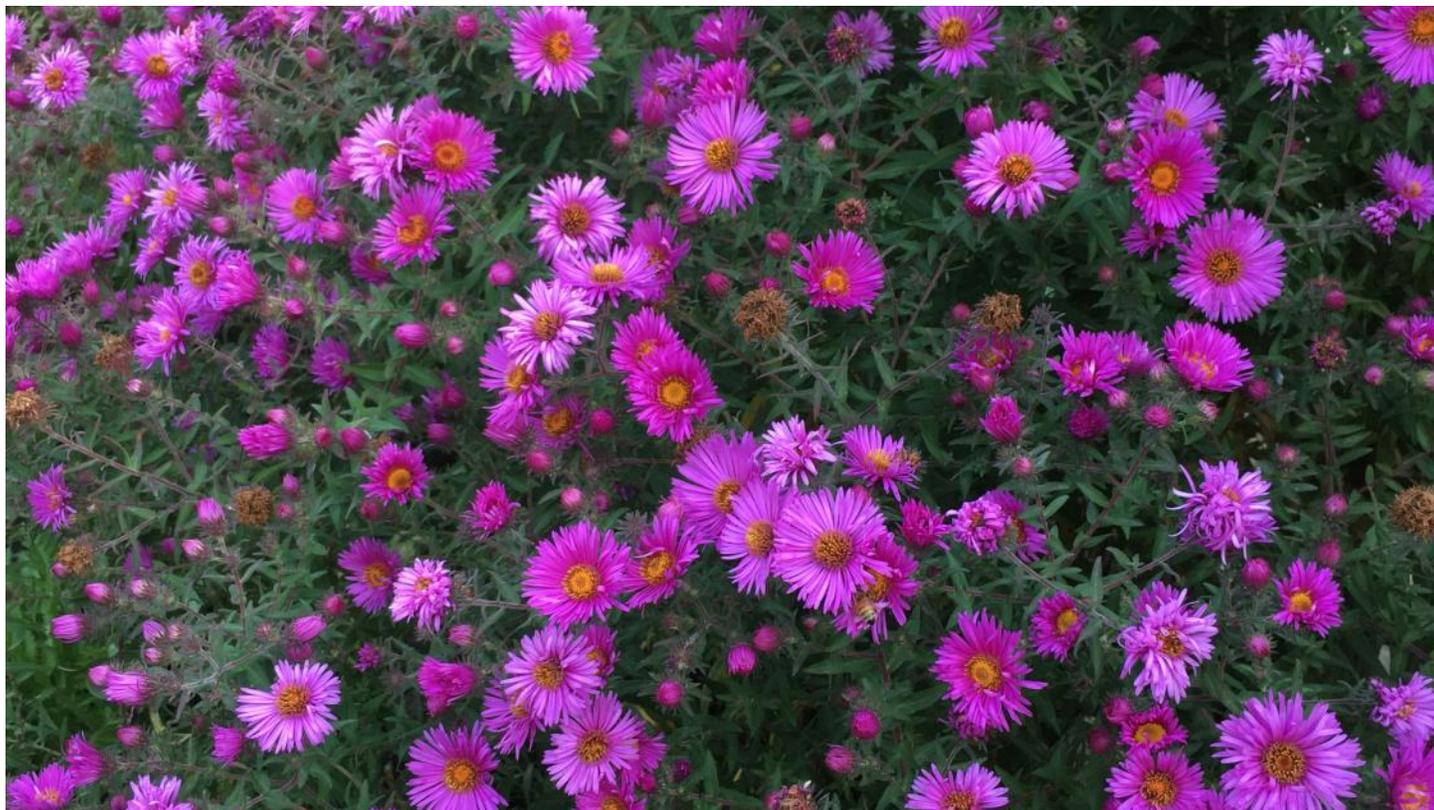


Photo Credit: Native Aster by Jennifer Smith

Please Note: All of our Garden Club meetings will continue to be held online through Zoom until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.

We hope you've been enjoying our Facebook page. Thank you so much to all those individuals who are contributing items for us all to enjoy.

We will continue to publish the EYGC newsletter. It's 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. Are you harvesting, canning, perserving? /end your stories and photos to the newsletter team for our next issue. Please rename your photo files with the plant name if relevant. What are you r winter garden plans?

newsletter@eygc.ca



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.

To inquire about membership, please contact:

Cristina Brown at:
416-755-9077

Visit us on the web:
www.eygc.ca

President:
Diane Dyson

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

Newsletter Editor/Art Director:
Jennifer Smith
and Maureen Ballentine



Speaker Schedule for 2021

Date	Speaker	Subject
September 16	Aileen Barklay	Oak Ridges Moraine
October 21	Emma Biggs	Fun and Unusual Crops
Nov TBA		AGM

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:
"This is November December in
East York"?

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the cover of the next Newsletter!
(Landscape format is best)
newsletter@eygc.ca

September October 2021 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

Maureen Ballentine, Beth Binnington, Mary Lou Burt, Diane Dyson, Anna Leggatt, Nola Mconnan, Wendy Plume, Jennifer Smith, Caroline Moyer, Vera Stoyanoff

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch by Diane Dyson

During this long confinement imposed on us by the pandemic, I am grateful for the gardens of my friends and neighbours. In addition to our local parks, these are the places we meet now. I have watched the gardens change through the seasons and finally found a favourite bench where I can perch for a long(er) visit and where life feels a little more normal.

Many of us have found the same magic, reminded of why gardens are a beautiful escape. Coreopsis and sunflowers have nodded over our heads from the front yards on my street. I've planted raspberries and blueberries there for passing children. (The vegetables are all in the backyard, yielding beets, beans, bolted lettuce and cabbages this year.)

As we head towards cooler seasons once again, these outdoor spaces will, despite our vaccination status, remain important. For most of us, caution continues to be part of our lives by choice and by decree.

As a Club, we haven't had an in-person meeting in over a year. Zoom meetings, Facebook posts, emailed photo contests (and newsletters!) remain our standard operating procedure.

Lynda Tanner is confirming speakers (2022 is in the hopper!) with the caveat that the format of the meetings is still undetermined.

We had hoped for some sort of return to more in-person events this fall. For now, this consists of our Pop-Up garden Tours – and at the end of September, a Plant Sale!

While this all continues to unfold, you can find me outside, likely pulling out some weeds.

Keep well all, and let's take care of each other.

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca

416 786-6765



Member Photos

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: newsletter@eygc.ca

Flower Wall by Mary Lou Burt



Arthur Meighan Garden at the Stratford Festival Theatre—by Diane Dyson



Morning Glory by Maureen Ballentine



Arthur Meighan Garden
by Diane Dyson



July Photo Contest Winners "My Canada"



Vera Stoyanoff —1st place



Nola Mconnan—2nd place



Wendy Plume —3rd place

August Photo Contest Winners

“Summer Garden”



Beth Binnington—1st place



Caroline Smoyer—2nd place



Wendy Plume —3rd place

Facebook News!

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **101** members. If you haven't had a chance yet, come and check us out. We are a private group open to anyone who wants to join, EYGC member or non-member. Everyone must answer the three questions and agree to our rules before joining. Invite your fellow gardener friends to join. We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

Cheers, Kim
Kim Hewitt



Mary Lou Burt
August 22 at 10:13 AM · 🌐

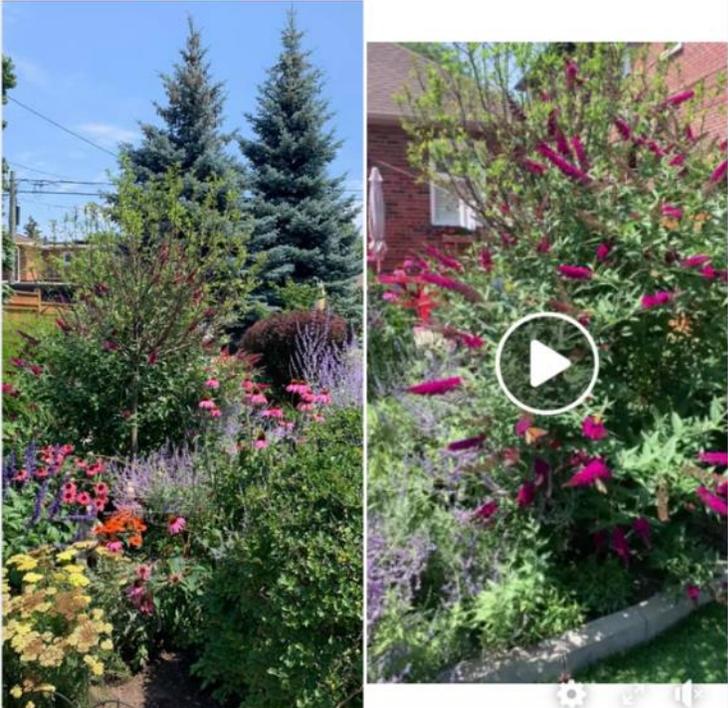
Stir fry tonight, still have to pick kale and bok choy. Garden is really producing this year.



👍 16 1 Comment Seen by 60

Diane Dyson
Admin +1 August 11 at 4:25 PM · 🌐

A lovely peek into EYGC member Rose Fisco's garden when I dropped by to pick up a donation of books. The Monarchs were out in droves on that sunny day.



👍 16 1 Comment Seen by 60

Group Rules from the Admins

- 1 Be Kind and Courteous** ...
We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- 2 No Hate Speech or Bullying** ...
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
- 3 No Promotions or Spam** ...
Give more than you take to this group. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.
- 4 Respect Everyone's Privacy** ...
Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the group should stay in the group.

Upcoming September Talk Reminder



Oak Ridges Moraine

Presented by Aileen Barklay

Aileen has a BSc in Biology and over two decades of work in ecology and conservation. Whether she is speaking on forests, sustainable land management, birds or developing strategic programming from behind a desk, Aileen loves any opportunity to share her passion to of the outdoors with others. She has worked with many of Southern Ontario's largest municipalities on public education and outreach programming for sustainable landscaping and other conservation-based initiatives. She is an avid birder, a level II Ontario Naturalist and a self-proclaimed Nature Nerd.



Mark your calendars for Aileen's talk—September 16, 2021 @ 7:30pm

Upcoming October Talk Reminder



Fun and Unusual Crops

Presented by Emma Biggs

Emma Biggs is a 16-year-old Gen-Z gardener, author, speaker, and blogger. Her passion is growing tomatoes, trying new, unusual crops, and saving seeds. She has raised more than 150 tomato varieties in her Toronto garden. Emma gives talks at libraries, seed exchanges, garden clubs, and garden shows. She is the co-host of *The Food Garden Life Show*. Her latest book, *Gardening with Emma*, helps kids find the fun in gardening (and helps adults remember how much fun gardening is!).

Find Emma at emmabiggs.ca or on Instagram @emmabigs_grows

Mark your calendars for Emma's talk

October 21, 2021 @ 7:30pm

"I've grown a lot of plants and killed many too. To me, that's most of what gardening is—experimenting, and seeing what works. Gardening is taking what you learn when you don't succeed, and using that knowledge to help your plants grow better."

Emma Biggs

Life Member Interviews...

Life Memberships are awarded to individuals who have belonged to the club for at least 15 years and have contributed to our success in a variety of significant areas. These may include assisting with garden tours and maintenance, the plant sale, Canada Day events, the Annual Show & Tea, the AGM, and other activities. Their many volunteer hours are much appreciated as they allow our club to continue to thrive.

Anna Leggatt

By Jennifer Smith, June 18, 2021



Anna Leggatt has been a member of our club since the mid-1970s. She has an impressive CV: She earned a degree in botany from the University of London, England and taught high school botany and chemistry. She holds a diploma in Nature Interpretation from Humber College and a diploma in Horticulture from the University of Guelph. She worked part-time for thirty years at the Kortright Centre for Conservation as a Nature Interpreter. She is a past Chair of the Ontario Rock Garden Society and former editor of its journal. She is a past Director of the North American Rock Garden Society. She is a member of Garden Comm and she is trained as a Master Gardener. She belongs to a number of other horticultural and nature groups across the globe. She receives many horticultural periodicals and finds *The Plant Review* the most important. She has written many articles for gardening magazines and, so far this year, has given over 30 Zoom presentations on horticulture and nature. Anna is very generous with her gardening knowledge and kindly answers our many questions.

Anna served as the garden club's treasurer for about five years. At one point she edited our yearbook and/or the newsletter. She held the position of Program Director for about 30 years. (Currently Lynda Tanner holds this position and ably engages interesting speakers for our talks.) Anna was our vice-president for two years. She has received two volunteer awards from the province with two volunteer pins, one for service to our club and one as a Master gardener. In 1977 she received the greatest number of points at the Annual Flower show. At this time it was a mere 84 points! (Nowadays the winner might accrue over 300 points.) She received the Royal Bank Trophy, which was a large silver tray. She won a second tray a few years later. In 2016 she won a Silver Award from GardenComm and in 2017 she won the NARGS Marvin

Cornus kousa 'Wolf Eyes'



Weigela florida 'Variegata' - circa 1950



Life Member Interviews...

Anna Leggatt

Photo's by Anna Leggatt

Black Award. She has won many awards for her excellent photography.

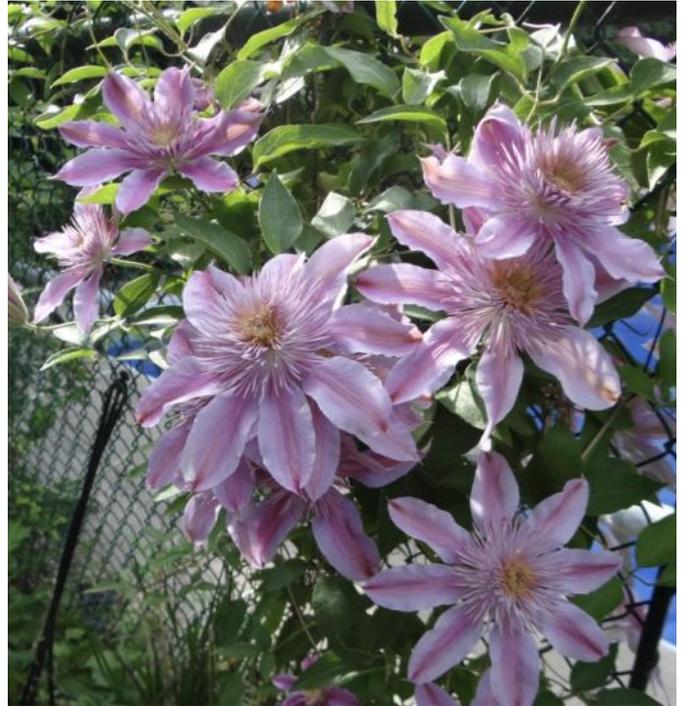
In the mid' 80s, Anna joined the Ontario Rock Garden Society. She began to travel to meetings in the USA, Britain and Holland. Since then she has made trips to many places all over the world to study the native flora. (See the March/April 2021 issue to read about Anna's visit to Namibia.)

Anna has a large garden with a wide variety of plants, including many shrubs. I was amazed to learn that she has about 50 species of clematis cultivars. She notes that because she and her husband Sandy feed the birds all year long, they have fewer annoying insects in their garden. They are frustrated by the mink that predate on the goldfish. The poor fish are traumatized and keep to the bottom of the pond instead of coming up to visit and feed.

Anna encourages novice gardeners to attend horticultural meetings; visit gardens; ask questions. Before buying a new plant, think about where it will go in the garden. (I think we all know that this is what we SHOULD do, but: It followed me home! Now I need to find a spot!) When planting, fill the hole with water, let the water drain out, then plant the new plant to the depth it was in its original pot.

Anna's sense of humour shows through with this comment: "I love shrubs, bulbs, rock gardening, wildflowers, Japanese effects, working with stone and changing my garden design. I want to grow vegetables. However, deer and groundhogs would like me to as well."

Clematis 'Empress'



Cypripedium, Aquilegia, Daphne



Life Member Interviews

Joyce Crook

By Jennifer Smith, June 23, 2021



This morning I had a very pleasant time chatting with Joyce Crook, one of our Life Members who was honoured for years of service to the club. She was previously interviewed by Barb Fairbanks; see the March-April 2014 issue for all the details about Joyce as a gardener and busy member of our club. Our chat today took us down Memory Lane.

Joyce refers to herself as a collector. She still has her transfer from her first ride on the brand new subway on March 30, 1954. She has a T. Eaton Beauty Doll which she received as a 3 year old; she has kept it in mint condition. She is a passionate East Yorker and even had a vanity plate when she still drove her Chevy Cavalier. She continues to send condolence, birthday and congratulations cards to garden club members, as she likes to keep busy and connected. For many years she enjoyed serving tea at the Annual Flower Show in August and relished this time to re-connect with members past and present. Her garden is lush with many double poppies which are enjoying a wonderful season. Her blaze rose is happily climbing the back fence and a gorgeous apricot-coloured rose, created to honour the 100th anniversary of the VON, is blooming amongst the poppies. About 15 years ago Anna Leggatt asked to see Joyce's beautiful 8' high cedar hedge. It was impressive back then and remains impressive today! Like many of us, Joyce is thoroughly annoyed when she discovers that something has been digging in her pots. "I'm a little old lady and all I want is peace and quiet in my garden," she says.

The photos show Joyce's roses in full bloom, as well as Joyce wearing an apron she created to demonstrate her love of gardening and of East York.



How To and Who Knew

How to Prune Lavender—The Secret To Beautiful Blooms Every Year

by Elizabeth Waddington—Rural Sprout

Why Prune Lavender

Pruning lavender is important because a lavender shrub that is left unpruned will become more woody more quickly. It can lose vigour and the woody stems can look straggly and unappealing.

What is more, the woody stems will be more prone to frost or water rot damage and disease, and can crack or break more easily.

Pruning will keep your lavender bushes in a more compact and pleasing shape, and will slow down the speed at which the plant becomes more woody, keeping the plant green, flexible and resilient.

When To Prune Lavender

Lavender is a shrub that will do best if pruned every year.

If you want to prune lavender, this is a job to get on with in August, or early September, once the flowers are finished for the season.

How Much Should You Take Off Your Plants?

Pruners should be used to remove the flower heads and cut back this years growth, making sure that some new green growth remains. Do not be too frightened to cut back your lavender, especially if it is the English variety.

Give it a good haircut each year and your plants will look good and remain healthy for much longer than if you are too tentative.

You can remove most of the new, green growth, so long as you cut above the small buds and green shoots that are forming on the lower woody material. However, generally speaking, people will remove the flowering stems and around 2.5cm of the length of the leafy growth, which will encourage it to grow back bushy and full.

The important thing is simply to make sure that you do not cut right down to old wood, as if you do, the lavender may not readily re-grow.



Invasive Species in Ontario

by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council

While the Black Locust tree smells amazing in July with its plume of white flowers, it is listed as invasive.

Scots pine (Scotch pine) was one of the first European trees introduced to North America. Yes it makes the list.

White Mulberry (Chinese Mulberry). Used in China to feed silkworms. Yes this makes the list.

Periwinkle, Goutweed, and English Ivy are frequently found at garden centres and sold as ornamental ground covers, but are actually native to Europe and Asia and are extremely invasive here in Ontario.

Read more here:

<https://phys.org/news/2021-08-invasive-sale-garden-ornamentals.html>—thank you Paul Overy for this link

Grow me instead:

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/>

*"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 (2011)*

Made from my backyard harvest

Send us your recipes that include seasonal ingredients, ideally from your own garden but not required. Include a photo if you have one. Pictures get the tastebuds going!

Grandma's Canned Tomatoes

By Kelsey Banfield

Submitted by Maureen Ballentine



- 12 pounds of ripe tomatoes
- 4 tsp Kosher salt
- 4 tbsp lemon juice
- 4 sterilized quart jars with lids and rims

Cut an X into the bottom of each tomato, which will make peeling easier. Boil a large stockpot or lobster pot of water and add all tomatoes, working in batches if necessary. When their skins begin to retract after a minute or so, remove the tomatoes from the water and plunge into cold water to stop the cooking and loosen the skins.

Peel the tomato skins off, and cut out the stems. Press the peeled and cored tomatoes firmly into the sterilized jars until there is only 1/2-inch remaining at the top.

Once the jars are filled, add a teaspoon of Kosher salt and a tablespoon of bottled lemon juice to each quart. Place the lids and rims on the jars, and tighten.

Prepare a large boiling water bath in a stockpot or lobster pot, making sure the water is deep enough to completely cover the jars. Once the water has come to a boil, arrange the jars on a wire jar rack, and lower into water. Allow the jars to process in the water bath for 45 minutes.

When the processing is complete, carefully remove the rack and place on a heatproof surface. Cover the jars with a clean dishtowel, and allow them to cool at room temperature for a few hours.

Test the seals to ensure proper processing, label the jars with the date, and store in a cool, dark place (like a pantry) to enjoy for up to a year.

Summer Cucumber Soup

from: Crete

Submitted by Jennifer Smith



- 3 cups plain yogurt
- 1.5 cups grated cucumber (= approximately 5 mini cucumbers)
- 1 Tbsp minced dill
- 3 Tbsp. minced chives
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Peel cucumbers. Stir all ingredients together until well blended. Serve very cold in chilled bowls.

Yield: 5 - 6 servings

"In order to live off a garden, you practically have to live in it."

Kin Hubbard

6 Reasons to NOT clean up the garden this fall

By Jessica Walliser for Savvy Gardening.

Twenty-some years ago, fresh out of college with a horticulture degree in-hand, I started teaching adult education classes at a local botanic garden. For many years, I taught a class called Preparing Your Garden for the Winter. It was all about how to clean up the garden every fall. I would show slides (remember those?) of how well-kept gardens should look in January. In the images, every plant was cut to the nub, except for the ornamental grasses and butterfly bushes, and the whole garden was snug under a thick layer of mushroom soil mulch. The roses were neatly trimmed to two feet and wrapped in a blanket of burlap, folded and stapled closed to keep them protected from freezing winds. There was nary a fallen leaf in sight; everything was raked up and hauled off.

You see, that's how we gardeners used to roll in the early '90s, before we knew better. Before we knew all the reasons NOT to clean up the garden. We'd cut everything down and perform a big, end-of-the-season gardening clean up until there was no shred of nature left behind. We'd turn the place into a tidied, controlled, and only slightly dirtier version of our living room. Everything was tucked and trimmed and in its place. Most of us weren't interested in supporting wildlife much beyond hanging up a bird feeder, and the phrase "wildlife habitat" was only used in places like zoos and national parks.

Unfortunately, many gardeners still think of this kind of hack-it-all-down and rake-it-all-up gardening clean up as good gardening, but in case you haven't already noticed, I'm here to tell you times have changed. Preparing Your Garden for the Winter is a completely different class these days. We now understand how our yards can become havens for creatures, large and small, depending on what we plant in them and how we tend to our cultivated spaces. Thanks to books like Doug Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home*, we now know how important native plants are for insects, birds, amphibians, and even people. Our gardens play an important role in supporting wildlife and what we do in them every autumn can either enhance or inhibit that role.

To that end, I offer you these six important reasons NOT to clean up the garden in the fall.

1. *The Native Bees:*

Many of North America's [3500-plus species of native bees](#) need a place to spend the winter that's protected from cold and predators. They may hunker down under a piece of peeling tree bark, or they may stay tucked away in the hollow stem of a bee balm plant or an ornamental grass. Some spend the winter as an egg or larvae in a burrow in the ground.

All native bees are important pollinators, and when we remove every last overwintering site by cutting everything down and completely cleaning up the garden, we're doing ourselves no favor. We need these bees, and our gardens can provide them with much-needed winter habitat.



*I spied this native small carpenter bee (*Ceratina* species) emerging from a hollow stem in my garden one late spring morning. This is one of the many species of native bees that overwinter in hollow plant stems. They're just over a half-inch long so you may not even notice they're in your garden, but they are.*

6 Reasons to NOT clean up the garden this fall

2. The Butterflies:

While the monarch flies south to overwinter in Mexico, most other butterflies stay put and take shelter somewhere dry and safe until spring. Some butterflies, like the mourning cloak, comma, question mark, and Milbert's tortoise shell, overwinter as adults. They nestle into rock fissures, under tree bark, or in leaf litter until the days grow longer again and spring arrives. Butterflies that overwinter in a chrysalis include the swallowtail family, the cabbage whites and the sulphurs. Many of these chrysalises can be found either hanging from dead plant stems or tucked into the soil or leaf litter. You can guess what a fall gardening clean up does to them.

And still other butterfly species, such as the red-spotted purple, the viceroy, and the meadow fritillary, spend the winter as a caterpillar rolled into a fallen leaf or inside the seed pod of a host plant. If we cut down and clean up the garden, we are quite possibly eliminating overwintering sites for many of these beautiful pollinators (and perhaps even eliminating the insects themselves!). Another excellent way you can help butterflies is to build a caterpillar garden for them; [here's how](#). Declining butterfly populations are one of the best reasons not to clean up the garden.



Yes, that's snow you see in the background of this photo. But do you also see the fritillary butterfly chrysalis tucked beneath the metal fence rail? I spied this little beauty at a friend's house. Most fritillaries overwinter as caterpillars, so I think this one may have been more mature than usual going into winter, thanks to our long, warm autumn that year. I often wonder if it made it through the winter

3. The Ladybugs:

North America is home to over 400 different ladybug species, many of which are not red with black polka-dots. While the introduced Asian multicolored ladybug comes into our homes for the winter and becomes quite a nuisance, none of our native ladybug species have any interest in spending the winter inside of your house. Most of them enter the insect world's version of hibernation soon after the temperatures drop and spend the colder months tucked under a pile of leaves, nestled at the base of a plant, or hidden under a rock. Most overwinter in groups of anywhere from a few individuals to thousands of adults. Ladybugs are notorious pest eaters, each one consuming dozens of soft-bodied pest insects and insect eggs every day. Leaving the garden intact for the winter means you'll get a jump start on controlling pests in the spring. Skipping a fall gardening clean up is one important way to help these beneficial insects..



Ladybug larvae, such as this one, are voracious predators of many garden pests, including the aphids in this photo. Skipping the fall garden clean up encourages them.

6 Reasons to NOT clean up the garden this fall

4. The Birds:

Insect-eating birds, like chickadees, wrens, titmice, nuthatches, phoebes, and bluebirds, are very welcome in the garden because they consume thousands of caterpillars and other pest insects as they raise their young every gardening season. Not cleaning up the garden means there will be more protein-rich insects available to them during the coldest part of the year. These birds are quite good at gleaning “hibernating” insects off of dead plant stems and branches, and out of leaf litter. The more insect-nurturing habitat you have, the greater the bird population will be. Your feathered friends will also appreciate feasting on the seeds and berries they can collect from intact perennial, annual, and shrub stems. Song birds are one of the best reasons to skip the garden clean up!



5. The Predatory Insects:

Ladybugs aren't the only predatory insects who spend the winter in an intact garden. Assassin bugs, [lacewings](#), big-eyed bugs, minute pirate bugs, damsel bugs, ground beetles, and scores of other pest-munching predatory insects spend the winter “sleeping” in your garden as either adults, eggs, or pupae. They're one of the best reasons not to clean up the garden in the fall because they help you control pests. To have a balanced population of these predatory insects, you have to have winter habitat; when spring arrives, they'll be better able to keep early-emerging pests in check if they've spent the winter on-site, instead of over in the neighbor's yard.



Green lacewings are one of many beneficial insects that need winter habitat.

6. The People:

If the previous five reasons aren't enough to inspire you to hold off on cleaning up the garden, I'll add one final reason to the list: You. There is so much beauty to be found in a winter garden. Snow resting on dried seed pods, berries clinging to bare branches, goldfinches flitting around spent sunflowers, juncos hopping beneath old goldenrod fronds, frost kissing the autumn leaves collected at the base of a plant, and ice collected on blades of ornamental grasses. At first, you might not consider yourself to be one of the reasons not to clean up the garden, but winter is a lovely time out there, if you let it be so.



Delaying your garden's clean up until the spring is a boon for all the creatures living there. Instead of heading out to the garden with a pair of pruning shears and a rake this fall, wait until the spring temperatures are in the 50s for at least 7 consecutive days. By then, all the critters living there will be emerging from their long winter nap. And even if they haven't managed to get out of bed by the time you head out to the garden, most of them will still manage to find their way out of a loosely layered compost pile before it begins to decompose. Do Mother Nature a big favor and save your garden clean up until the spring.



CLUB NEWS

Save your Pots, Save your Plants, Save the Date for our EYGC Plant Sale

DATES: Sat Sept 25th 10am-3pm and Sun Sept 26th, 10:30am-12:30pm

Drop off Friday Sept 24th (evening) or until noon Saturday Sept 25th

72 Binswood Ave.—Thank you Alan for hosting

Tell us what you'd like to see in upcoming newsletters

Aside from the beautiful photos our members take and share, what other content would you like to see and read about. More about pest control, how to forage safely, plant identification?

Send the newsletter team your ideas. Email us at newsletter@eygc.ca

EYGC Memberships 2021

Memberships: Individual—\$20/year, Family - \$30/year.

Send cheques payable to “East York Garden Club” to:

**East York Garden Club,
c/o Cristina Brown,
7 Knightsbridge Rd,
Scarborough, M1L 2A8**

Our membership form can be found online at <http://www.eygc.ca/ClubInfo/HowToJoin.html>

NOTE: If paying by e-transfer NO PASSWORD is required. Please add your full name and address in Notes section of the e-transfer .

*“I like gardening —
It's a place where I find myself
when I need to lose myself.”*

Alice Sebold

Jennifer's Summer Pop-Up

In early July, Jennifer Smith hosted a pop-up of her garden.

Raspberry Cream hollyhock



Delphinium + Johnny jump-ups



lacecap hydrangea



Annabelle hydrangea + butterfly weed + gaillardia



Roz's Summer Pop-Up

In early August, Rosalind Regnier hosted a pop-up of her garden.



Seed bank curated for extreme conditions of Fraser Canyon destroyed in Lytton wildfire

The 30-year-old collection consisted of plants that could withstand extreme heat, mountainous conditions

*By Andrew Kurjata—CBC Prince George –July 13, 2021
With thanks to Karen Bell for this article*

A Lytton, B.C., farmer has lost her 30-year-old collection of heirloom and heritage seeds—curated for the unique growing conditions of the Fraser Canyon—in the wildfire that swept through the community at the end of June.

And now growers from around the world are donating to help her rebuild it.

Mojave Kaplan, 66, is the founder of the Planting Seeds Project, a collection of plants and vegetables curated to grow in the extreme weather conditions of Lytton and the surrounding area which have recorded the hottest temperatures in Canada peaking at 49.6C on June 29.

Founded in 1991, it is both a “business and a passion”, according to Kaplan’s daughter, Atira Jukes.

“This is like her baby after her babies”, she said.

In addition to curating and selling the seeds that can withstand extreme heat and drought, Kaplan is the community garden leader for the nearby T’eqt’aqtn’mux (Kanaka Bar) Indian Band. In that role, she’s been using her collection to help expand mountainside gardens in an effort to increase food sovereignty in the region

She was at her job, roughly 20 km south of Lytton, on June 30 when an evacuation order for the community was issued. Soon after, flames destroyed most of the village, including Kaplan’s home and her seed collection.

“She literally didn’t even have her wallet”, Jukes said.

Jukes, who lives in Birch Bay, Wash., said she’s only been able to speak to her mother a handful of times since the fire because Kaplan is staying with friends who have limited phone coverage. But, she said, Kaplan is refusing to see herself as a victim, even turning down the initial request to start a fundraising campaign to help her re-start her seed collection.

“She said, ‘No, it’s OK. I still have my job. I’ll regrow everything on my own,’” Jukes said. “I was like, ‘No’...I kind of did it behind her back.”

On July 4, she set up a GoFundMe campaign for her mother, writing that she has “dedicated her life to collecting and reserving seeds.”

In less than two weeks, the project has attracted more than 100 donors from around the world, many of whom say they have been beneficiaries of Kaplan’s work. Some have also reached out directly to Jukes asking if they can donate seeds from their collection—including some they originally received from her mother.

“It’s so, so sweet... So much of it is an affirmation of her life’s work,” Jukes said.

To donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-my-mom-recover-from-lytton-fire>

Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2021

September	<i>September Skies</i>
October	<i>Harvest</i>
November	<i>Yearbook Cover for 2022</i>

*Please note, if we are able to resume regular in-person club activities, we will return to our regular format for photo contests including a judged show in November 2021.

photocontest@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 garden suggests there might be a place where we can meet nature halfway."

Michael Pollan (2007)

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."

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:

newsletter@eygc.ca

Shown—Butterfly in the Garden—by Jennifer Smith



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:

October 22, 2021

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

newsletter@eygc.ca

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

www.eygc.ca



“The East York Garden” is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club