

The Belle River & District Horticultural Society

Newsletter

April 2010



Together We Grow...

Last year we ate our whole vegetable garden in one meal.



The Belle River & District Horticultural Society is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Society
Keeping Ontario Beautiful™

Belle River & District Horticultural Society

c/o 322 Evelyn Street
Belle River, ON NOR 1A0

Executive:

Paul Schneider, President
pres-br@gardenontario.org
Linda Lloyd-Dupuis, Vice President
Marg. Quick, Secretary
sec-br@gardenontario.org
Suzette Cecile, Treasurer
treas-br@gardenontario.org
Bill Schmidt, Past President

General Board

Betty Ann Ellwood
Sharon Johnson
Sandy Johnson
Linda Langlois
Jeanne Lauzon
Jack Quick
Buzz Rowen
Philomene Rowen
Gisele Seguin
Michele vandenBerg
Janet Veres

Pat Bastien
Webmaster,
Newsletter Editor & Publisher
webmas-br@gardenontario.org

Meetings are held at the
Knights of Columbus Hall
1303 County Road 22
Emeryville, ON

7:30 - 3rd Wednesday of the month
No Meetings December, July and August

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Looking out the window it sure looks like spring has sprung. Even though the nights are still cool and in the morning frost is still on roofs and grass the spring flowers are pushing their heads upward. The wait is over! I hope that all of us who stayed here had a good winter and the members who traveled south had a safe journey. Our program is again inviting everyone to come out every third Wednesday and enjoy the company of gardeners and maybe learn a thing or two about our hobby. Now is also a good time to renew your membership since now is most likely the time when you make the most of all the discounts offered by the suppliers around the county of Essex.

One of our upcoming events is our annual Plant Market on May 8, the Saturday before Mother's Day. It will feature our own plants and include many donated varieties by our members. We will again welcome some vendors that will broaden the appeal to the public. We hope many of you will participate as volunteers and maybe ask a friend, family or neighbours to see if the plants offered would liven up their landscape. We are sure to offer good bargains in plants.

In May we will do our planting at the town sign by the optimist park and the gazebo garden in Lakeview Park. This is always a fun event and for the rest of the year you can look at the gardens and see the grandiose results. Please consider helping out with the weekly maintenance of the town sign garden. As usual more hands lighten the load for all. And continuing in May we will hold our annual Children's Plant Workshop for the third graders. The children will have the opportunity to make up a present for their mothers in time for Mother's Day.

June marks the end of the spring season and we celebrate the occasion with a barbeque for members. This is also the time for our flower show. We invite as many as possible to measure your flowers against the other members in friendly competition. There won't be any losers! Another annual event of June is our bus trip to different nurseries and included is a lunch and all the company of friends. At this time the plans are just in the making so keep listening. A good way to get timely information on the program of our society is to go to our website at www.gardenontario.org/site.php/beller

I would like to take this time to thank all the volunteers that make our horticultural society a success. Many hours of work go into planning and the outcome depends on your good work. It is simple: No volunteers, no organization!

Thank you!
Paul Schneider

BROCHURES AND CATALOGUES: FORMS OF ENTERTAINING FICTION
PUBLISHED BY NURSERIES, SEED MEN AND TOOL MANUFACTURERS.

ALERT!!! ENDANGERED SPECIES!!!

Be aware that there are endangered species of articles on our Website that are facing extinction unless members take a more active part in the nourishment and growth of these sections.

GARDENING TIPS: This area is reserved for YOUR gardening tips - tips that you would want to share with other members of the Society. Don't keep them to yourself - share them and help others enjoy their hobby just a little bit more!

GARDEN'S FOR ALL SEASONS: An area where you can show off your house and garden plants, yard and gardens - snap some pictures and get them to me (Pat Bastien) - I'll take care of the PhotoShop, sizing and everything else, then post them in our own personal "Brag Book". Check here: <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/beller/news/online/1384> for the details.

These articles will be eliminated from the Website in September if there is no interest shown warranting their existence.



Pasta Dinner & Chinese Auction

Wednesday, April 21, 2010
at the
Knights of Columbus Hall - Emeryville, Ontario

Invite your friends to come out with you!
Update your current membership for \$10
New members always welcome

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. / ends at 7:00 p.m.
Dinner Cost: only \$10 per person

To reserve your tickets, obtain general information including
how you can donate items for our auction
Call Gisèle 519-727-6087 / Linda 519-817-3937 / Paul 519-728-3735



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - BENEFITS ETC...

Several of our former members have yet to renew their 2010 membership. Now is the perfect time to do so... just when gardens are being prepared for rejuvenation, pots are being groomed and set out to receive their new flora, and minds are eagerly conniving the ideal plans for this year's gardens!!!

Your membership would give you a really good start! Ten percent (10%) or more at dozens and dozens of nurseries and garden centers and florists throughout, not only your Lakeshore area, but throughout the entire D11 area - that's from Sarnia to Amherstburg, Windsor to Ridgeway and everything in between. In one stop, you could easily save more than the cost of the membership.

Then in June, we will be having a membership barbecue - open only to members as a 'thank you' for their support. That's another savings over and above the discounts you will have already taken advantage of during your earlier shopping escapades.

You can't afford not to renew your membership - also talk to your friends and family and get them interested in joining our great society.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The 2010 Open Gardens Tour has been postponed until next year. It is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 26, 2011. Anyone wishing to have their garden included in the tour please contact Marg. Quick.



NURSERY: THE ONLY KNOWN PLACE WHERE MONEY GROWS ON TREES.

To access the OHA Newsletter, the **TRILLIUM** - Spring Edition - go to: <http://www.gardenontario.org/index.php>. The Trillium and the OHA Website are two great places to get information regarding your horticultural uncertainties, just to get plain 'information' or read news about what others are up to in their Societies.

PLANT MARKET - MAY 8, 2010

Worth repeating... Please re-read this part of Paul Schneider's article regarding the Plant Market, May 8, 2010!!! Mark your calendar and be sure to attend...

"One of our upcoming events is our annual Plant Market on May 8, the Saturday before Mother's Day. It will feature our own plants and include many donated varieties by our members. We will again welcome some vendors that will broaden the appeal to the public. We hope many of you will participate as volunteers and maybe ask a friend, family or neighbours to see if the plants offered would liven up their landscape. We are sure to offer good bargains in plants."

X

Botanical symbol for a hybrid or cross between two existing varieties. Nurseries often cross plants to produce a new one with desirable characteristics from each of the progenitors. Thus, for example, a small, rare, ugly, slow-selling shrub with a \$29.95 price tag might be crossed with a large, showy, common flower with a \$4.95 price tag to produce a large, showy, common shrub with a \$39.95 price tag.

PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY

We all see and 'hear' the grass and the buds growing. You can see the excitement in people anticipating the warmer climes. Soon (not yet though) we will start to plant the seeds for flowers and vegetables in our gardens. This year again the Belle River and District Horticultural Society supports the effort of Mrs. Ginny Thomas of Windsor to "Plant a Row for the Hungry" in our area. This program was initiated by the late Neil Thomas who was an extraordinary newsman but also a dedicated master gardener. Neil saw the need and created this cause and saw to it that it would continue on after. After Neil passed away his wife Ginny took up the reigns and we want to help in this worthy program. To help this cause Ginny will offer through us free of charge seeds to grow some food to be donated to the Belle River or other area food bank. We will have a table at our Plant Market on May 8th to explain the program and supply the seed. I am sure that many of you will help in this worthy cause.

Thank you,
Paul Schneider

HOLLYHOCK

Tall flowering plant that has been nicknamed "the gardener's barometer" since it records high winds by falling over and breaking off near the ground, very heavy rain by losing its blossoms and the presence of Japanese beetles and the caterpillar stage of the rare painted-lady butterfly by disappearing entirely.

ADULT FLOWER SHOW & JUNIOR FLOWER SHOW

June 16, 2010 - PLEASE HAVE ENTRIES AT THE HALL BY 7 PM

Adult Flower Show

Plants

Flower Specification (using your own containers)

Class

- 1 One Hybrid Tea Rose
- 2 Floribunda Rose, one spray
- 3 One Miniature Rose
- 4 Peonies, single bloom, any colour
- 5 Peonies, double bloom, any colour
- 6 Iris, one stalk, any colour
- 7 Lilies, hybrid, one stalk
- 8 Daylilies, one stalk, any colour
- 9 Perennial, one single stem or spray, any flower not listed above.
- 10 Flowering shrub, one stem
- 11 One flower, floating in water
- 12 Blooming House Plant, judged for flowers
- 13 Foliage House Plant, judged for foliage
- 14 African Violet in Bloom, can be multi-crown
- 15 African Violet, miniature in bloom

Arrangements: Specification

Class

- 16 "June Bride" - white flowers only. white vase, with green foliage
- 17 "Father's Day" - Green Envy, all shades of green, can have white
- 18 "Garden Bouquet" - using any variety of flowers or leaves or grasses

Junior Flower Show

PLEASE HAVE ENTRIES AT THE HALL BY 7 PM

Plants; Flower Specification

Class

- A One Rose, hybrid tea, or floribunda, any colour
- B Miniature Rose, one stem or spray
- C Annual, one bloom or stem
- D Perennial, one single stem or spray

Arrangements; Specification

Class

- E "Mug for Dad," any colour or variety any foliage
- F "Vase for Mom," any variety or colour, any foliage
- G "Teacher's Gift," a variety of leaves in a vase
- H Any Flower, floating in water

Flower Show Regulations

- 1 - Participants must include their name on each entry
- 2 - Participants must provide their own containers
- 3 - Flowers must be grown by participants
- 4 - Foliage must be fresh
- 5 - Only one entry per person in each class
- 6 - Society is not responsible for damages or entries

NOTE

WE WILL HAVE A SUNFLOWER CONTEST AGAIN THIS YEAR WITH THE SEPTEMBER FLOWER FOR ADULTS AND JUNIORS

- 1 - Tallest Sunflower with Head attached
- 2 - Largest Sunflower Head

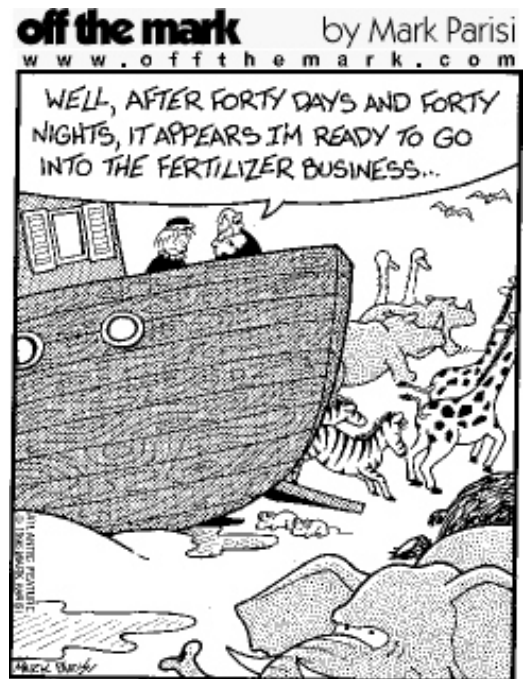
Plant your sunflowers now in order to be a part of the September Flower Show!

GARDEN HOE

Garden hoes are essentially poles to which a blade has been appended, at a 90-degree angle. The poles (handles) are about 4.5 feet long. Garden hoes are an old-time favorite in the war against weeds.

A garden hoe is wielded with a swinging motion. Grip the handle at the end furthest from the blade with one hand. With the other hand, grip the handle somewhere around the middle.

Use the garden hoe to slice into the soil around weeds. Raise the garden hoe up, so that the blade is out away from your body (either to your left or right side) and approximately at shoulder-height. Then swing the blade down towards the ground and slightly back towards your body, striking the ground at approximately a 45-degree angle. Ideally, you'll penetrate the soil deeply enough to get under the roots and lift out the whole weed, roots and all.



CRAB GRASS

Extraordinarily tenacious garden weed. The only method of controlling it currently on the market is the lawn howitzer, a small turf mortar that fires a tapered projectile with a 10-ounce shaped thermite charge. If the root piercing shell strikes the plant directly at its centre, it will kill the weed about half the time. The resulting crater can be turned into an attractive fishpond.

CRAB GRASS - THE TRUE STORY!!!

Digitaria - Crab Grass

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Digitaria is a genus of about 300 species of grass (family Poaceae) native to tropical and warm temperate regions. Common names include crabgrass, finger-grass, and fonio. They are slender monocotyledonous annual and perennial lawn, pasture, and forage plants; some are often considered lawn pests. Digitus is the Latin word for "finger", and they are distinguished by the long, finger-like inflorescences they produce.

All crabgrasses have similar growth habits and flowering structures, but species are separated by minor differences in the flower structures and leaf pubescence. They typically have spreading stems with wide flat leaf blades that lie on the ground with the tips ascending. The inflorescence is a panicle in which the spike-like branches are arranged in digitate fashion. The spikelets are arranged in two rows on an angled or winged rachis. Each spikelet has two florets, only one of which is fertile. The first bracts at the base of the spikelets are either very minute or absent.

Crabgrass seed has a long germination period; if conditions are right, it can germinate throughout the growing season. Crabgrasses occur in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions of both hemispheres.

Crabgrasses have uses despite being classified by many as weeds. The seeds, most notably those of fonio, can be toasted and ground into a flour, which can be used to make porridge or fermented to make beer. Fonio has been widely used as a staple crop in parts of Africa. It also has decent nutrient qualities as a forage for cattle.

The most prevalent species of Digitaria in North America are Large Crabgrass (*D. sanguinalis*), sometimes known as Hairy Crabgrass; and Smooth Crabgrass (*D. ischaemum*). These species often become problem weeds in lawns and gardens, growing especially well in lawns that are watered lightly, under fertilized, poorly drained, and growing thinly. They are annual plants, and one plant is capable of producing 150,000 seeds per season. The seeds germinate in the

late spring and early summer and out-compete the domesticated lawn grasses and expand outward in a circle up to 12 inches in diameter. In the fall when the plants die they leave large voids in the lawn. The voids then become prime areas for the crabgrass seeds to germinate the following season. Crabgrasses also have a different texture and color that often interrupts the uniformity of a lawn. In vegetable gardens, crabgrass can quickly out-compete desirable plants, causing yield reductions. Crabgrasses can be controlled with pre-emergent herbicides that interfere with a key enzyme when a seed germinates. These herbicides must be applied at a critical time. If they are applied to the soil too early, they get washed too deep into the soil by rainwater. If they are applied too late the key enzyme inhibited is no longer active. The rule of thumb is to apply when the local forsythia blooms are wilting.

DANDELION

The dandelion is often unfairly dismissed as nothing but a pesky weed by those who do not recognize its many uses. The leaves can be boiled to produce a green sludge that may be puréed and used to patch gutters; the flowers can be fermented into a potent, wine like beverage (or, if somewhat less sugar is added, into a homemade paint remover); the roots, cut up and roasted, can be force-fed to poultry and cats; and the fluffy seed hairs of 5000 or so of the plants will provide a serviceable stuffing for a small pillow.

DANDELION - SOME TRUTH

The species of *Taraxacum* are tap-rooted biennial or perennial herbaceous plants, native to temperate areas of the Old World.

The leaves are 5–25 cm long or longer, simple and basal, entire or lobed, forming a rosette above the central taproot. The flower heads are yellow to orange colored, and are open in the daytime but closed at night. The heads are borne singly on a hollow stem (scape) which rises 4–75 cm above the leaves and exudes a milky sap (latex) when broken. A rosette may produce several flowering stems at a time. The flower heads are 2–5 cm in diameter and consists entirely of ray florets. The flower heads mature into a spherical "clocks" containing many single-

seeded fruits called achenes. Each achene is attached to a pappus of fine hairs, which enable wind-aided dispersal over long distances.

The flower head is surrounded by bracts (sometimes mistakenly called sepals) in two series. The inner bracts are erect until the seeds mature, then flex downward to allow the seeds to disperse; the outer bracts are always reflexed downward. Some species drop the "parachute" from the achenes; the hair-like parachutes are called pappus, and they are modified sepals. Between the pappus and the achene, there is a stalk called a beak, which elongates as the fruit matures. The beak breaks off from the achene quite easily, separating the seed from the parachute.

Dandelion leaves are believed to have a diuretic effect as they increase salt and water excretion from the kidneys.

DANDELIONS - A CURE!!!

If leaving dandelions in your yard is not an alternative, you can make your own dandelion and weed killer using inexpensive and safe household ingredients.

1 gallon of white vinegar
1 lb. table salt
8 drops of liquid dish soap.

Mix vinegar and salt in a pan on the stovetop.

Bring to a boil so that the salt dissolves into the vinegar. Turn off the stove. Stir in the dish soap.

Allow the mixture to cool enough so that it won't burn you or melt your spray bottle. (You can let it cool completely if you aren't in a hurry to go out and kill dandelions).

Pour the mixture into the bottle and spray on plants.

It is best to use a stream setting on your bottle and aim directly into the middle of the dandelion rosette so that you do not kill the surrounding grass.

Your dandelions will be dead in less than a day.

BE CAREFUL: This mixture will kill all vegetation - spray ONLY directly on the plant you want to kill!

BEARDED IRIS PROPOGATION

Bearded Iris are tall, elegant additions to the flower border, but they are also relatively high maintenance. You can help cut down on the incidence of soft rot and borer damage through regular division of the iris rhizomes every 2-3 years. This will also keep bearded iris performing and blooming at its best. If left undivided, the flowering will decrease and the rhizome will be subject to more pests and damage.

You can divide bearded iris anytime after flowering through August. Using a pitch fork, carefully dig around the bearded iris plant, starting about a foot away from the outer most edge. Try not to pierce the rhizome with the fork. Work the fork around the bearded iris plant and gently lift the rhizomes out of the soil. Since bearded iris are grown at soil level, this is one of the easiest plants to lift.

Once you have the bearded iris rhizomes lifted, shake off any loose soil. Rinse off any remaining soil with a garden hose. If you don't have space to do this in the garden, it is sometimes easier and neater to do it on a tarp. Rinsing off the soil will allow you to better see the rhizomes and roots, to inspect for damage.

Once the rhizomes are cleaned, you can separate the individual rhizomes from one another. Don't break them apart, just loosen the already separate sections.

Once the rhizomes are clean, cut the foliage to about 6 inches. Cutting the fan of leaves connected to a lifted iris rhizome makes the plant easier to work with when dividing and replanting and helps prevent water loss while the plant is becoming re-established. The fan does not need to be cut symmetrically. Some leaves may be damaged and will need to be cut shorter than 6 inches.

Once the bearded iris rhizomes are clean, look for small to medium holes. These are telltale signs of borer damage. If your bearded iris leaves have dark streaks in them, you probably have iris borers, so look closely.

Also look for soft spots on the rhizomes. This is another common iris problem called soft rot.

Using a sharp knife or pruners, remove any traces of either iris borer damage or soft rot and dispose of these segments of rhizome. Soft rot spreads easily, so disinfect your cutting tool with denatured alcohol between cuts, to prevent further contamination.

Now you are ready to divide the rhizomes. You will see natural places to make a split, such as where the rhizome has forked. Study the rhizome and make sure each section you have chosen will wind up being at least 3 inches long and will have healthy roots growing from it. Then go ahead and make a clean cut through the rhizome, using the same sharp, disinfected knife or pruner.

The final step is re-planting your bearded iris. Choose a full sun location and start by digging a shallow hole that will be wide enough to spread out the rhizome's roots. Make the hole about 2-3 inches deep, then create a mound in the center of the hole to just about soil level.

Soak the soil in the planting hole. Then take a rhizome division and place it in the center of the mound. Spread the roots around and down the mound. Cover the division with soil, being careful not to bury the rhizome with more than an inch or 2 of soil. Remember, it will probably settle a bit lower and bearded iris will rot and certainly won't bloom, if buried too deeply.

Water well and do so weekly until you start to notice new growth. Then enjoy for another couple of years.

There's only one thing that'll make your lawn look as nice as your neighbour's lawn - snow!

GOD & (ST.) FRANCIS

GOD: You know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really, really super fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in

continued on page 7

FERTILIZER - THE WHOLE STINKIN' SCOOP

All plants need certain nutrients. There are 16 essential elements for plant growth. The primary elements are nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. When you look at a fertilizer bag and see three numbers, those three numbers relate to those three macronutrients, in that order. All of the other 13 elements are called micronutrients. These 13 are very important also, just needed in smaller amounts.

The three macronutrients, which I will refer to as N-P-K, are placed on a fertilizer bag by percentage of weight. For instance, if a bag said 10-10-10 and the bag weighed 100 pounds, there would be 10 pounds of N, 10 pounds of P and 10 pounds of K in that bag. Are you wondering what the other 70 pounds consist of? The other 70 pounds consist of needed fillers and carriers. These make the fertilizer easier to spread and prevent the plants from getting burned from the fertilizer.

There are many different types of fertilizers on the market. Sometimes you will find some that are packaged for certain uses or types of plants. You can find fertilizer specifically for roses, or just for azaleas etc. You will also find that different brands have different nutrient ratios for the same type of plant such as the rose. Other fertilizers say they will increase blooms. There is no guarantee to this. There are lots of factors involved including the type of soil you have.

To find out what type of soil you have, whether it is more acid or more alkaline or neutral, you have to perform a soil test. There are soil test kits you can buy to do this. Fertilizer is not cheap, so doing a soil test will help you get a better start. Every location in an area can be different. Follow the directions for the soil test exactly to get an accurate reading.

Slow release fertilizers give plants an ongoing application of food. This is good for the plant. These slow release fertilizers are released at different lengths of time depending on what type you get. Release rates depend on the fertilizer having a coating and how thick the coating is. Slow release fertilizers are good for house plants. Care needs to be taken for certain plants such as trees, because the slow release fertilizer will keep them growing too long out of season. One advantage to slow release fertilizers is that they don't have to be applied very often, but a disadvantage is they are fairly expensive.

Organic fertilizers condition the soil and is relatively a slow release fertilizer. You can buy manure or sewer sludge that has been composted. Depending on the type of manure will determine the amount of nutrients you get. Certain manures burn plants easier also, so be sure they are composted first. Rabbit manure and chicken manure are good fertilizers as well as others. Sewer sludge is usually 1-2-0 and is mainly a soil amendment. Chicken manure is on the average of 3-5-2. Dairy manure is 2-1-3. So you can see that manures are relatively low in nutrients. Salt may be a problem with manures. Also weed seeds can be a problem. A good thing to do with manures is to compost at a high heat before use.

When buying fertilizer follow the directions on the bag. If you use what you have available be sure you know if it is acid or alkaline. For instance, many people use wood ashes on their gardens. Wood ashes are very alkaline, so if you have alkaline soil already, you don't want to add wood ashes. If your soil is more acid then you can add them to more neutralize your soil.

Bat guano is used from caves. It's nutrients are about 6-9-3 and is already partially decomposed. Raw bone meal is 4-22-0 but most of the phosphorous is not soluble. This makes the nitrogen the main value to bone meal. There are many other types of fertilizers, so choose what is best for your soil.

When the weather is hot and dry do not use high nitrogen fertilizers. After applying any fertilizer you should water. Otherwise they will have a tendency to burn. Salts will build up, especially in container plants. Be sure and leach the container plants about every 4 months or so. You can see the salt buildup on the outside of clay pots. Sometimes when you buy a plant from a nursery the salts are at a higher concentration, but the lighting and drainage is good there and they get constant attention. At home the plant will not be able to tolerate that much salt. Fertilizer is a salt. Greenhouses feed their plants daily with a diluted fertilizer. At home you won't be doing this. When you buy a plant from a greenhouse nursery, be sure and leach it out the first time you water it.

What type of soil do you have? This is one thing that is a factor in knowing when to fertilize and how often to fertilize. Also the types of plants being grown will be a factor. Root crops don't require as much nitrogen as leafy crops. Trees and shrubs feed light and corn is a heavy feeder of nitrogen. Turf grasses are like corn and require lots of nitrogen.

GOOD RULE OF THUMB

Leafy=nitrogen

Roots and fruit=phosphorous

General durability=potassium

Cold hardiness=potassium

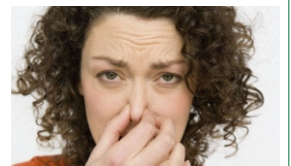
Disease resistance=potassium

There are different application methods. You can broadcast fertilizer, such as you do seed over a large area like a lawn. You can do banding which is applying a circle of fertilizer around and deeper than the seed. Banding is done when transplanting and as the roots develop. The plant has instant access to the food. Starter solutions are used for transplants also. Starter solutions come in liquid form and you should follow the directions on the container.

Side dressing is done after the seeds have come up. Place some fertilizer along side the plants (about 6-8 inches away) and mix in with the soil. Foliar feeding is a good way to get absorption within minutes of application. When the soil is still too cold for the microorganisms to convert the nutrients into available forms, use foliar feeding. It is not a substitute for other fertilizers, just a good supplement.

GARDEN FERTILIZER

The feeding of plants is a complicated and quite technical procedure, but the few essential facts about fertilizers can be quickly mastered. Just remember the numbers 3-2-5. They refer to the three basic types: messy, stinky and messy/stinky. The two sizes they are available in is tidbit (4-ounce packet) and blammo (220-pound sack). And the five methods of application: too much, too little, too early, too late and wrong kind.



<h2 style="color: green;">SPEAKERS' ROSTER 2010</h2>	<h2 style="color: green;">SHRUB? BUSH?</h2>
<p>April 21, 2010 Olga Crocker We know eating nuts keep us healthy, but have you ever wanted them right off the tree? Local Grower, Olga Crocker of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers will share her experiences of 'GROWING NUT TREES IN ESSEX COUNTY.'</p> <p>May 20th, 2009 V.E.G. Panel Come see 'TOOL TIME WITH THE MEN OF BRDHS!' The V.E.G. panel returns to show & tell about their handiest items.</p>	<p>A shrub or bush is a horticultural rather than a strict botanical category of woody plant, distinguished from a tree by its multiple stems and lower height, usually less than 5–6 m (15–20 ft) tall. A large number of plants can be either shrubs or trees, depending on the growing conditions they experience. Small, low shrubs such as lavender, periwinkle and thyme are often termed subshrubs.</p> <p>An area of cultivated shrubs in a park or garden is known as a shrubbery. When clipped as topiary, shrubs generally have dense foliage and many small leafy branches growing close together. Many shrubs respond well to renewal pruning, in which hard cutting back to a 'stool' results in long new stems known as "canes". Other shrubs respond better to selective pruning to reveal their structure and character.</p> <p>Shrubs in common garden practice are generally broad-leaved plants, though some smaller conifers such as Mountain Pine and Common Juniper are also shrubby in structure. Shrubs can be either deciduous or evergreen.</p>
<h2 style="color: green;">GOD & (ST.) FRANCIS CONT'D...</h2> <p>the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.</p> <p>FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.</p> <p>GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?</p> <p>FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.</p> <p>GOD: And where do they get this mulch?</p> <p>FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.</p> <p>GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?</p> <p>(ST.) CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about....</p> <p>GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from Francis.</p>	<h2 style="color: green;">PLANTING THAT SHRUB OR BUSH</h2> <p>Step 1 - Choose an area that is compatible with the type of bush you are planting. A plant that requires full sun won't thrive in a shady space. Check with your nursery for the best varieties for the area you are planting.</p> <p>Step 2 - Plan on the bush growing considerably and make sure it has enough room. It's much more difficult to move a full-grown bush than to give it plenty of room to begin with.</p> <p>Step 3 - Dig a hole twice as wide as the roots of the bush. Don't dig too deep; the top of the roots should be level with the ground.</p> <p>Step 4 - Test the soil for drainage by filling the hole with water before planting the bush. If the water hasn't drained within a day, the drainage isn't sufficient for the health of the plant.</p> <p>Step 5 - If the bush is potted, remove it by gently rolling the pot on its side or tapping it with a trowel. Don't remove the burlap covering if it has a root ball, but do cut away any twine. Pull the burlap away from the top of the root ball and tuck it into the sides.</p> <p>Step 6 - Gently place the bush in the hole and make any adjustments to straighten it.</p> <p>Step 7 - Fill the hole with the soil you dug out of it. In most cases, you won't need to use any other material, but if the soil is too rocky or compacted, add topsoil.</p> <p>Step 8 - Don't compact the soil with your shoe or the shovel. It could damage the roots. Just use your hands.</p> <p>Step 9 - Water well, but avoid standing water as this could damage the bush. If you have exceptionally dry weather, water when needed, especially for the first year.</p> <p>Step 10 - Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch around the bush to retain the moisture.</p>
<h2 style="color: green;">ROOT</h2> <p>1 Subsurface part of a weed that is inadvertently left in the ground when the upper portion of the plant is removed, thus resulting in the weed's speedy re-growth.</p> <p>2 Subsurface part of an ornamental or tree, a small portion of which is inadvertently left in the ground when the specimen is transplanted, thus resulting in the plant's rapid death.</p>	<h2 style="color: green;">HOE</h2> <p>Gardening tool whose name derives from the fact that when its blade is stepped on, its handle delivers a sharp rap to the gardener's brow, at which point he cries, "Ho!", or "Ho, ____!" or "Holy____!"</p>
<h2 style="color: green;">GREEN THUMB</h2> <p>Having a green thumb doesn't always mean someone is a good gardener. He could be a lousy painter!</p>	

CANUCKS - JEFF FOXWORTHY

Forget Rednecks; here is what Jeff Foxworthy has to say about Canucks.

If your local Dairy Queen is closed from September through May, you may live in Canada.

If someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and they don't work there, you may live in Canada.

If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you may live in Canada.

If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you may live in Canada.

If 'vacation' means going anywhere south of Detroit for the weekend, you may live in Canada.

If you measure distance in hours, you may live in Canada.

If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you may live in Canada.

If you have switched from 'heat' to 'A/C' in the same day and back again, you may live in Canada.

If you can drive 90 km/hr through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you may live in Canada.

If you install security lights on your house and garage, but leave both unlocked, you may live in Canada.

If you carry jumpers in your car and your wife knows how to use them, you may live in Canada.

If you design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit, you may live in Canada.

If driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow, you may live in Canada.

If the speed limit on the highway is 80 km and you're going 90 and everybody is passing you, you may live in Canada.

If you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction, you may live in Canada.

If you have more miles on your snow blower than your car, you may live in Canada.

If you find 2 degrees 'a little chilly', you may live in Canada.

If you actually understand these jokes and share them with all your Canadian friends & others, you definitely live in Canada.

BUS TRIP - JUNE...

The plans for the annual June bus trip have yet to be finalized. But there will be one!!! For more details on this trip, Margaret Dudley will have handouts at the April 21st meeting. More information will be made available as details are finalized. Visit our Website at: <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/beller>



Seed: Costly but highly nutritious form of bird food sold in handsome packets printed with colourful pictures of flowers and vegetables.



Another problem caused by deforestation

AND... SPEAKING OF SPRINKLERS...

Sprinkler: Adjustable rotary irrigation device, typically with two settings: "Drool", which creates a puddle of water 6 inches deep in a circle about a yard in diameter, and "monsoon", which propels a high-velocity water jet into the woods, the garage, your automobile and the street.



June 16, 2010 - Keep this date open for our Annual Barbeque and Flower Show which will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Emeryville. More information will be available at the May General Meeting.



An interesting concept by Joel Karsten - visit his site at strawbalegardens.com.

There you will read about and see photos of the straw bale gardening construction.