



Lilac Photo by Angie Andruss

Uxbridge Horticultural Society



"We Bring Gardening Down to Earth"
www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com



"Your Local Garden Club News"

May 2024 – Series 21, Volume 2

In this Newsletter

- 2024 District 17 AGM
- Plant and Bake Sale – May 26th
- Spring Bulbs
- May Gardening Tips
- Box Tree Moths
- Jumping Worms
- District 17 AGM Attendees

2024 District 17 AGM

The District 17 AGM was held on Saturday, April 27th, and attended by a number of our members (see photo page 4).

They reported back that both speakers were excellent, as was the day overall.

Please consider attending next year's meeting. It is a great day – a chance to meet and mingle with members from other District 17 Clubs and to hear some awesome and inspiring speakers.

Dear Fellow Gardeners

What a great turnout we have had! And thank you everyone for participating in the "Dotmocracy" at the April meeting. This gives the Executive good insight into what our members are interested in. We are currently planning a few workshops and events for this year and will be advising you of the dates and times shortly.

Thank you to all that came out to clean up the gardens that our Club looks after. You did an amazing job. If you are willing and able to help with the spring planting and upkeep of these gardens, please see Agnes Croxford.

Our Plant and Bake Sale is quickly approaching and on page 2, you will find a reminder of the details. Any donations that you or a neighbour/friend may have, will be gladly welcomed.

As our climate changes, so do environmental issues like garden pests. If you find it frustrating, you are not alone. I'm sure the birds and animals are confused as well. See pages 3 and 4 regarding the Box Tree Moth and Jumping Worms.

Happy Spring!

Sandee

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 26th:
Wednesday, June 12th:
Wednesday, July 10th:

Plant and Bake Sale, held at Sharpe's at 125 Brock Street West
Transitioning Container Plants to Summer with *Victoria Whitney*;
Flower Show
Growing Vegetables with Jillian Bishop; Flower Show

Plant and Bake Sale

We will be holding our annual **Plant Sale** again this year on Sunday, May 26th in the Sharpe Farm Supplies' parking lot, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

As you or your friends/neighbours clean up your gardens, please put aside whatever plants you are getting rid of, splitting, thinning out and/or any extra seedlings you have grown for donation to our Sale. Please water the plants a few days prior to the sale with diluted fertilizer.

Please bring your donations to the Sharpe parking lot around 8:00 a.m. on the 26th so that we can get them set up in time for the Sale. Please label the plants by common name and variety (if possible).

For those who cannot bring the plants to Sharpe's the morning of the Sale, you can drop them off at Sarah Farndon-Choi's residence ahead of time but please call or e-mail her first. The address is 45 Brock Street East – the yellow house.

We are holding a **Bake Sale** at the same time/same place. All donations welcome! Favourites that sell very quickly are cookies, tarts, squares, pies (large and small) and loaves such as Banana Bread. Cookies are best packaged in groups of 6 or 12, tarts in groups of 4, squares in groups of 6, etc. But you are welcome to package and wrap them as you see best for your particular items.

All proceeds from the Sale come directly to our Club and are used for events directly benefiting our members and Club events.

Spring Bulbs

Many early- and mid-spring blooming bulbs are now beautifully gracing our gardens. Some, like late season blooming tulips, are getting ready to show off. Below are two tips with respect to bulbs. The first one is easy and fast. The second, especially if you are a neat garden freak like me, can be a bit difficult to stomach.

1. With your bulbs in full bloom, take photos of your garden so that you know where there are gaps when you go to plant more bulbs in the fall (or replace bulbs past their best-before date).
2. Once your flowers have stopped blooming and the petals are falling off, snap or clip off the heads of the flowers and leave the leaves until they go yellow. Horrors – yes I know. A messy looking garden. But leaving the leaves to yellow feeds the bulbs for next year, ensuring longer and healthier blooming flowers. I find I can live with this for a while if I plant my annuals in between the fading leaves.

May Gardening Tips

- If you have not yet had a chance to get out and clean up your gardens, now is definitely the time to do so. See the April newsletter for suggestions.
- If your lawn is dotted with pretty little yellow flowers (dandelions), and if you don't have the chance to dig them out before they go to seed, snap off the flowers to avoid further spreading.
- It is a good time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials before the weather gets warmer.
- Select and buy your annuals. However, it is wise to keep them in a sheltered spot and not plant them until you are sure the chance of frost has passed. Once you plant them, keep some sheets or other materials handy, in case you have to cover them.
- If you have started seedlings in the house or a greenhouse, start hardening them off by placing them outside gradually in a sheltered location.
- Direct seed cooler weather vegetables like lettuce, spinach and peas; bulbs like onion and shallots; and root vegetables like carrots and beets.
- After you mow your lawn for the first time, give it a good raking to remove dead grass and loosen the soil. Choose a grass seed suitable to the location where you will be spreading it (sun, shade, part shade) and spread the seed over the lawn. Keep the soil moist by lightly watering once or twice a day, not letting it dry out.

Box Tree Moths

"An invasive moth species is on the rise in Canada. The Box Tree Moth, native to Asia and designated an invasive species here in Canada, was first reported in the Greater Toronto Area in 2018. If left untreated, the moth's larvae destroy the only plant it is found on in Canada – the boxwood shrub. Basically, they eat all the green material of the leaf and the tree starts to turn brown." ... CTV News

Boxwoods continue to be very popular ornamental shrubs in our gardens here in Ontario. And since they are the only host for these moths, should you notice them on your boxwoods, you need to address it right away. Landscape Ontario recommends a "biological pesticide containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *Kurstaki*, commonly known as BTK Spray." It is available in our local Canadian Tire and perhaps other local garden centres. Landscape Ontario indicates that regularly inspecting your boxwood and spraying as required should keep any infestations to a minimum.

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." — Margaret Atwood

Jumping Worms

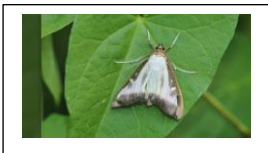
Jumping Worms are an invasive species of earthworm that are growing in numbers across the province and Canada. They are a threat to native species as they compete for nutrients in the soil with trees, shrubs and other plants, as well as habitat for other creatures. These worms eat through the layers of soil, and if the environment is conducive, they will multiply at quite a rapid, large scale, resulting in damaged gardens and forests.

These worms leave behind their waste in the garden, changing the texture of your soil to a coffee-ground texture. This is the main thing you should look for when trying to see if they are present in your garden.

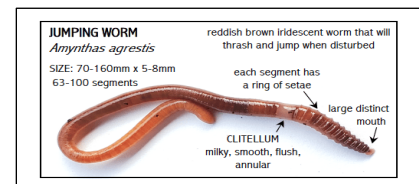
Should you find them in your garden, you should kill them by either placing them in Isopropyl Alcohol or putting them in a plastic bag and leaving them out in the sun. DO NOT dispose of these worms in compost, as they have the ability to spread very rapidly.

An excellent in-depth article regarding Jumping Worms by Master Gardeners of Ontario, can be found on-line at:

<https://gardenontario.org/jumping-worms/>



Box Tree Moth



Jumping Worm

District 17 AGM Attendees April 2024

