



The Sunflower

The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!

VOLUME 13

EDITION 7

NOVEMBER 2018

In this Month's Edition:

Amaryllis

Marimo Balls

Botanical Nerd Words

Director Nominations

Photo Contest

Flower Show

2018 Executive

The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society meets every third Tuesday of the month through the months of February to June and From September to November. The meetings are held at the Smiths Falls Legion located on 7th Main Street East, Smiths Falls at 7:00pm.



Amaryllis

Every fall, Canadians buy more than half a million amaryllis bulbs. They are easy to grow plants that deliver spectacular blooms, with little effort, in the middle of our far-too-long winters.



Hybridizers as far afield as Australia, Israel and India keep developing new varieties in many sizes, styles and shapes, boasting colours that range from tangerine to pale green.

The amaryllis originated in South America's tropical regions and has the botanical name Hippeastrum. The large flowers and ease with which they can be brought to bloom make amaryllis popular and in demand worldwide. The amaryllis comes in many beautiful



varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange. There are also many striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white. The color range has increased to bring in more yellows, salmons, and deep burgundy. Fragrance is a new perk — "Rebecca" produces a perfume that tantalizes

noses from across the room. Modern amaryllis throw out more blossoms per stem and send up more stems per bulb over an extended period of time. Some of the newer introductions have exotic looking spidery blooms.

Gift someone with a bulb to chase away the post holiday blahs. These bulbs are magic. Before they are even buried in soil, they sometimes sprout plump buds full of promise. Tuck them in a pot, put them in a window, and you will enjoy the performance of a lifetime without fuss.

Preparation for Planting

The base and roots of the bulb should be placed in lukewarm water for a few hours. Remember, if you cannot plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them, store them at a cool temperature between 40-50 degrees F.

Planting

Plant the bulb up to its neck in the potting compost, being careful not to damage the roots. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting.

Placement and Watering

Place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 68 to 70 degrees F. Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will

Amaryllis Quick Tips:

- Planting Period: October until the end of April.
- Flowering Period: Late December until the end of June.
- Flowering time is 7-10 weeks.
- Larger bulbs produce more flowers.
- Always store un-planted bulbs in a cool place between 40-50 deg. F.
- Heavier clay pots are preferable to plastic ones, which tend to topple over when the large stalks develop.



develop after it has reached full growth. Amaryllis will tolerate low light, but brighter beams encourage more compact stems.

Flowering Period

Bulbs will flower in 7-10 weeks as a general rule. In winter the flowering time will be longer than in spring. Set up your planting schedule between October and April with this in mind. To achieve continuous bloom, plant at intervals of 2 weeks for stunning color in your home. And don't give up when the spike is spent: Another performance might be waiting in the wings! Bulbs will often send up a second or third flower spike.

After-Bloom Care

After the amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

Marimo Moss Ball Pets



What are they, you ask?

'Mari' means ball and 'mo' means algae in Japanese. Due to the negative implications of the term 'algae', these balls are usually referred to as moss even though they are formed by strings of algae rolled together to form a ball. Considered a national treasure in Japan, they are often called a "love plant." When given as a gift, they are purported to help accomplish the heart's desires. Marimo can be raised as "pets" by themselves, or can be put into aquariums to help ward off unwanted algae blooms.



Legend has it that long ago the daughter of a chief from a tribe living near Lake Akan in Japan fell in love with a commoner. When her parents opposed the union, the couple ran away but tragically fell into the lake and sunk to the bottom. According to the myth, it was here that they turned into Marimo moss balls and why this plant is now known as a token of love, affection and good luck.

Although a ball of algae may not seem like an exciting pet, there are actually several reasons why the Marimo is so popular. They require almost no care or attention to grow, and they can exist without sunlight in any type of aquarium. The Marimo is also very interesting to watch, as it floats up and down depending on changes in the environment and the amount of light it receives. This movement actually causes many people to mistake the Marimo for a type of aquatic animal.

Marimo moss balls originate in cold, freshwater lakes such as Lake Akan, Japan and Lake Myvatn in Iceland. The balls are formed by strings of algae rolling around in the shallow edges of lakes rounding out into spheres.

The balls are green all the way around ensuring that they can photosynthesize no matter which way they roll. In their natural habitat they rise and fall when the algae photosynthesizes rapidly causing oxygen carry them to the surface. When the light lessens, the balls sink back to the bottom.

Marimo moss balls can grow in a wide range of temperatures but seem to do best in colder water environments and exposed to light. Though the moss balls grow very gradually, typically at a rate of about 5 millimeters a year in their natural habitat, in an aquarium with added fertilizer they can grow much faster. Your Marimo friends will grow in tap water at room temperature as long as the water is changed every one or two weeks. They can grow large (8-12 inches).

Marimo balls thrive when they're clean. To clean the moss balls you simply remove them from the tank and gently squeeze, as you would a sponge, then gently roll them in your hands to re-shape.

Marimo Moss Balls grow by absorbing nitrates, phosphates, and other organic waste from the water. As they grow, they purify the water they live in and provide oxygen for animals that live with them.

Since Marimo require almost no care in an aquarium, they are the easiest aquarium plant in the world. But be prepared to hang onto your colony for a while as the oldest recorded Marimo Moss ball is over 200 years old.

Botanical Nerd Words

Deflexed - bent downwards

Divaricate - widely spreading

Source: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/help/glossary>

2019 Executives / Directors – Nominations

A Nomination Committee has been formed. If you are interested in participating as a Director, or know of someone that you think would make a good Director, please submit their name to Hope Bell.

New Executive/Directors will be announced at the November 2018 general meeting.



Photo Contests

Winners for the October photo contest were:

- 1st: Carol Stanley
- 2nd: Anneke Wilson
- 3rd: Steve Svarckopf

2019 Topics:

- February A snowy day.
- March A winter scene - your interpretation.
- April Water droplets on foliage or a flower.
- May Spring is in the air - fruit blossoms
- June A detailed close up of your favorite flower.
- September Picture of a Sunflower
- October Maples - can include a tree, branch or a leaf.

Reminder

All photos must include a horticultural element - flower, tree, garden, etc.

FUN FLOWER SHOW – October 16, 2018

Winners were:

- 1st: Laura Hunter
- 2nd: Aline Hicks
- 3rd: Sandra Cumpson



NO December or January Meetings

First SFHS Meeting in 2019 is February 19, 2019

SFHS 2018 Executive

Name	Position
Debra Bellevue	President
Hope Bell	Past President
Brian Bellevue	Vice President
Anita Frigan	Treasurer
Susan Newport	Secretary
Steve Svarckopf	Director
Lorna Stewart	Director
Charles McLenaghan	Director
Anneke Phillips	Director
Laura Hunter	Director
Sandra Cumpson	Director