



The Sunflower

The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!

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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.

Terrific Tulips

Tulips are one of the foundations of the spring garden, and if you plan properly, you can have them blooming for up to two months – not the same ones, but with succession planting.

Tulip bulbs need a cold period before they will bloom and planting them in the fall is the only easy way to accomplish this. The soil has to have started to cool down so that the bulbs won't start to grow. They will put out roots as soon as they feel the moisture but we don't want green shoots appearing or they can get frozen off.

There are several different kinds of tulips, but what you really want to know in order to plan a succession of Tulips in your garden are blooming times and size.

The earliest are the actual species such as Gregii, often with red variegated foliage) and Kaufmanniana types and there are several colours to choose from within these varieties. The added advantage of these varieties is their tendency to naturalize and become long lived perennials.



These are followed by the aptly named, Single Early and Double Early types. Generally the later in the season that a tulip blooms, the taller they are.



A Little Later, the Triumph Tulips are the large mid-spring group that has a wide range of colourful varieties and grows up to 60cm (24") tall. The Darwin Hybrids are the giants of the Tulip world. They have large flowers on tall strong stems.

There are also a few other categories that are based on the flower form. Most of them are quite late flowering. They include the Parrots, the Lily flowered which have pointed petals, the Fringed varieties, and the Bouquet flowered group. These have branching bloom stalks so that there are multiple blooms on a stem.



Pay attention to the height and blooming times, indicated on the package when choosing your bulbs. Pay particular attention if you are planning interesting colour combinations. Make sure that the varieties that you are choosing to complement each other actually bloom at the same time.

Does Size Matter? In Tulips, Yes! Tulip bulbs are graded by size at the nursery where they are grown and the size of the bulb should be mentioned on the package. 12+ is the largest size and refers to the diameter of the bulb in cm. The larger the bulb the bigger the flowers. When you find packages of inexpensive bulbs check the size to see what you are getting.

What about the squirrels? Yes, they love tulip bulbs and if they can smell/find them, they will dig them up and eat them, but there are ways to minimize their

damage. Recommended cures are to plant the tulip bulbs quite deep, 15 -20 cm, (6-8 in) - squirrels tend to be lazy and usually won't dig very deep. The bulbs will actually perform better from that depth.

Always remove all evidence of bulb planting, including any dried bulb casings, from the area so the scent doesn't attract predators. Inter-planting tulip bulbs with daffodil, narcissus or allium bulbs will hide the tulip scent. According to TulipWorld, an online bulb company, a favorite Dutch remedy to foil predators is to interplant tulips with crown imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*). This tall, dramatic plant emits an odor that repels critters

Wide wire mesh, such as chicken wire, is an effective deterrent. Lay it directly on top of the bed, extending the surface about 3 feet from the plantings, then stake it down.

You can also plant bulbs in wire cages. Place the bulbs in the center of the cage and fill the edges with dirt so critters can't gnaw around the edges.

Some gardeners place an old window screen on top of the ground to deter squirrels. Remove it once the ground freezes because tulip plants can't grow through the screening material as they can with chicken wire.

Folk remedies include hanging Irish Spring soap from mesh bags, scattering human hair clippings, sprinkling predator urine, dusting with cayenne or crushed red pepper, and spraying rotten egg mixtures around the garden perimeter. Again, the success of these remedies might vary.

You could try using the animal deterrents like Critter Ridder, which contains three kinds of pepper and is apparently also effective against skunks, raccoons, dogs, and cats.

Remember that we want to deter the squirrels and rodents, not hurt them. Don't sprinkle pepper over planting sites. I know some gardeners suggest this, but squirrels can rub it in their eyes and do themselves serious injury trying to wipe it out.

Fall is the second busiest gardening season

- Plant container-grown and "balled and burlap" trees and shrubs.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs so they have time to develop strong roots.
- Divide and transplant spring- and summer-flowering perennials.
- Sow perennial seeds that need a period of cold to sprout (e.g., columbines, primroses, shasta daisies).
- Fall is the best time to plant peonies. There's time for feeder roots to grow strong before going dormant in winter. A winter mulch is helpful to prevent frost heaving.
- Plant garlic to harvest next year.

Master Gardeners

While the snow is on the ground, it's a perfect time to stay inside and investigate horticultural educational opportunities. Many of you have heard references to being a "Master Gardener". You can find out more about the Ontario Master Gardener program at <http://www.mgoi.ca/>

All Master Gardeners in Ontario must belong to a local MG group. There are about 30 Master Gardener groups across the province and many groups have information about joining directly on their website. Some groups accept members year round, while other groups have a specified time of year when members can join.

You will be asked to write a short eligibility test. The test consists of 50 true or false questions. Once the test is marked, and you've passed, you may be asked to answer questions about your gardening experiences. You will be asked to complete a Master Gardener Agreement to ensure that you are aware of MG expectations. You will then be known as a Master Gardener in Training. (MGiT) MGiT's are often paired with one or two MG's to get "on the job training". Your expertise in gardening will increase dramatically as you listen to questions from the public and try to answer them. All Master Gardeners and MGiT's are expected to complete 30 hours of volunteer work a year. (20 hours with the public and 10 hours administrative, i.e. attending meetings, conferences etc.) MGiT's must also successfully complete an education component to become certified as Master Gardeners. You can take up to 3 years to complete it.

After completing the educational component, fulfilling your yearly volunteer hours and working 2 years as a MGiT, you can apply to become a Master Gardener (MG). After you receive your certification as a Master Gardener you will be expected

to keep up to date about gardening issues on a yearly basis, and will also be required to complete 30 hours of volunteer work each year and submit your hours to the coordinator of the group. Each member in the group contributes in their own way. Some things groups do:

- Advice clinics to the gardening public at garden tours, festivals, farmer's markets and horticultural societies
- Answer gardening questions via email or Facebook
- Make garden presentations (talks and workshops)

Write gardening articles or blogs

Should you have any questions about the process or certification, SFHS has its own Master Gardener, Kathleen Lang.

Garden of the Month Competition

September – Sterling Bennett

Botanical Nerd Words

Orbicular - of circular outline

Pedicel - the stalk of an individual flower

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

2018 Holiday Centrepiece Challenge

We are challenging our members to create and donate some unique centerpieces for our AGM dinner again.

- The challenge is limited to the first 7 people who sign up at the October meeting.
- All arrangements are donated and will be used as door prizes
- The centre piece should be no more than 16" high and 12" in diameter
- Any type of container can be used.
- Centre pieces must contain some real or artificial plant materials – cedar, pine branches, live or silk flowers, etc. and can also include any type of other decorative materials.

Use your imagination, have some fun, and create a unique centrepiece ☺

Photo Contests



The following are winners for September:

1st - Gail Brennan

2nd - Anneke Phillips Wilson

3rd - Carol Stanley

FUN FLOWER SHOW – October 16, 2018

This show is going to be a fun show – winners will be determined by all of your votes!

NOTE: All entries must be labelled and placed on tables by 7:00 p.m.

Class 1 “Your Garden’s last Hurrah” - your favourite kind of design using the best of your last

2019 Executives / Directors – Nominations

We are starting the membership renewal process. Renewals for 2018 will be accepted at the October and November meetings. Membership fees will remain the same - \$10 per person, \$15 per family.

Following Ontario Horticultural Association procedure, we must hold annual elections. Directors attend monthly Executive meetings and make decisions on behalf of the SFHS members. There are approx. 9, one hour executive meetings each year and executives do not have to attend them all. It is not a major time commitment.

We desperately need a Vice President and a Treasurer. The Society is always looking for new, fresh ideas! And new members of the executive is a great way to introduce them.

A Nomination Committee has been formed. **If you are interested in participating as an Executive / Director, or know someone that you think would be good in these roles, please submit their name** to Hope Bell or Debra Bellevue prior to November 1. Nominations can also be submitted via the SFHS email box smithsfalls@gardenontario.org. Members who are nominated will be contacted by the Nominating Committee. You can nominate yourself!

Upcoming Events

November 17, 2018 – 6 p.m. SFHS Annual General Meeting & dinner

Location: Smiths Falls Legion

Time: Meal at 6 p.m., Elections, regular meeting & speaker starts at 7:15 p.m.

Roast Turkey with all the trimmings, Dessert, Coffee/Tea

Cost: \$15 Tickets will be available at the October meeting.

2018 Program

Month	Topic
October 16	Creating an Edible Landscape (Telsing Andrews)
November 20	Annual General Meeting
December	NO MEETING
January 2019	NO MEETING

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