



"The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

The Uxbridge Horticultural Society

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

November 2008 - Series 5, Volume 8

Support the Businesses who support us:

A special "Thank You" to the following
who donated September's
door prizes:

Canadian Tire, Mason Hogue Gardens,
Zehr's and many
Horticultural Society Members.

Quote of the Month

from Pam

*Plants are like people: they're all
different and a little bit strange.*

John Kehoe

Member's Notice board

Please give your Zehr's (Uxbridge) tapes
to Marg Saban or drop them in the Zehr's
box at the reception desk.

If you would like to advertise your
business by leaving flyers or business
cards at the info desk, please feel free to
do so; simply clear it first with Rick or
Pam.

Dear Fellow 'Gardening-in-the-Snow' Friends,

Can you believe that we had snow that stayed on the ground all
day! Well we really can't complain after the beautiful Thanksgiving
weekend that we had, it was just gorgeous.

Wow! Paul Zammit was great last month and I for one am glad
that he is returning next year; maybe I will get another hug.

Last year I told myself that I would plant my bulbs early this year,
well it didn't happen I still haven't planted them so I will be out
there with a snowmobile suit on.

I can't believe that it is time to talk about our December meeting,
where has the year gone? Our Christmas potluck is the best in the
whole world. Remember to bring your plates and cutlery and one
of your favorite foods. Wear your Christmas hats and what evers
and we will have a festive time.

The prize presentations also take place in December. And it is
great to see the people who have worked so hard all year receive
their beautiful trophies. I wonder who won the tomato trophy, ha
ha.

See you with bells on.

Pam Kuiper

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Important Notice

To all people who put entries in our shows in 2008:

I'd like to say thanks to all for the full tables at our horticultural shows. Without you, our meetings would be a little less exciting,
and a lot less colourful! You prove that no matter what weather we get – stuff still grows. Also I want to thank all people who
helped me with the judges and setting up tables.

Next year our theme is "Home and Abroad". If people want a workshop, I'll get one organized on design.

Sharon Bognar

October's Show Winners

1st Place: Sharon Bognar - 2nd Place: Robert Clarridge - 3rd Place: Joyce Brown

Best Chrysanthemum: Angie Andruss

You've
gotta read this...



From the desk of Gini Sage

Durham Master Gardener

Herb of the Month

Horseradish – *Cochlearia amoracia*

Horseradish has been cultivated since the earliest of times, and according to Greek mythology, the Oracle of Delphi told Apollo that it was worth its weight in gold. It has been traditionally used throughout Europe and the Middle East, and is thought to be native to the southern areas of this region. Horseradish was brought to North America during colonial times, and now grows freely in the wild, as well as being a cultivated crop.

Horseradish is a perennial, growing up to three feet in height. It grows in almost any soil type, but requires full sun. Water the plants during periods of draught conditions. Beware, however, as the roots may become invasive in the garden, sending out off shoots. Always dig the oldest roots out in the fall, leaving the lesser side roots to mature the next season. The portion of the plant that is used for culinary purposes is the root. The horseradish root itself has hardly any aroma. When cut or grated, however, enzymes from the damaged plant cells break down to produce mustard oil, which irritates the sinuses and eyes. Once grated, if not used immediately or mixed in vinegar, the root darkens and loses its pungency and becomes unpleasantly bitter when exposed to air and heat. Because of these properties, it is wise to wear rubber gloves and glasses when peeling and grating the roots. Enjoy it with a variety of meats, in cocktail sauces or with your Bloody Caesars.

Recipe of the Month

Carrot, Apple and Horseradish Salad

2 ½ cups coarsely grated carrot
2 large Granny Smith apples
½ cup sour cream
2 to 3 tablespoons finely grated peeled
fresh horseradish (wear gloves to peel
and grate) *or* drained bottled
horseradish
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh
parsley leaves
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon sugar

In a bowl stir together the carrots, the apples, peeled and grated coarse, the sour cream, the horseradish to taste, the parsley, the lemon juice, the sugar, and salt and pepper to taste and chill the salad, covered, for 1 hour, or until it is cold.

Serves 4 to 6.

Flower of the Month

Autumn Crocus – *Colchicum spp.*

Autumn Crocus grows from corms, producing flowers that bloom in the fall on bare stems without leaves, adding a bright splash of colour to the fall garden. Both single and double types are available with bloom colours ranging from light pink to magenta. There are also some white cultivars. Although they look very much like the crocus we associate with spring, they are not related to the crocus family at all, but are members of the lily family (*Liliaceae*). Another common name for colchicum is meadow saffron, but beware, as they are in fact poisonous, and are not edible like the crocus that produces saffron, which is used for cooking. One advantage to this characteristic is that the deer and rodent population will not eat the plants or corms in your garden.

Plant Autumn Crocus corms as soon as possible after you purchase them. If they are left in a warm location for any length of time, they will bloom without being planted. Set the corms 10 to 15 cm (4 to 6 inches) deep and about 15 cm (6 inches) apart in a sunny, but sheltered location in average to rich, well-drained soil. They will tolerate some shade, but due to the delicate nature of the blooms, they need to be protected from wind. Add a handful of bulb fertilizer to the soil when planting; afterwards they do not require fertilization. In the spring their 15 to 20 cm long strap-like leaves emerge. By early summer the leaves turn yellow and die back. In September or October the plant starts to bloom. Once established, they multiply annually. The clumps may be divided after flowering, by lifting the entire clump and separating and replanting the individual corms.