



"The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

The Uxbridge Horticultural Society

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

September 2007

Series 4, Volume 6

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A Special Thank You

For July's door prizes to:
Marg Myers, Joyce Brown,
Claire Travisee,
Canadian Tire, John's Garden,
Goodwood Gardens, Zehr's and
Marjorie Mason-Hogue Gardens.

In the garden, Autumn is indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of the months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November.
Rose G. Kingsley, The Autumn Garden, 1905

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Ok, I have figured out why the weather has been so crazy. The Philadelphia Cream Cheese Angel has run out of cream cheese and she is suffering from withdrawal, she has somehow gotten her hands on the weather gauge and she is taking her frustrations out on us. Hey does anyone have a better explanation?

Our plant sale and tea was a huge success. Joyce and Angie did a great job with the plant sale, which is amazing considering the weather we have had. The lunchroom was full of people who were enjoying Sharon Lathum and her team's delicious treats and other donated baked goods.

The basket raffle was fantastic, man they were beautiful and hard to resist. We sold tons of tickets. Most important was our flower show. The entries were gorgeous and there were lots of them. Some people won some first place ribbons in some areas, hint hint. Many thanks to all the volunteers and members who donated plants, baked goods and baskets items.

This will shock everyone but here are some gardening tips for September, this sort of makes me feel like Mark Cullen. This is a good time of year to feed the shrubs and hardy perennials. If you grow tomatoes, make sure to strip off the leaves that create shade so that the fruit can ripen.

Feed peonies with wood ash and water well, as the eyes for next year are now forming. Spray roses against black spot and mildew control. Watering is just as important in September as it is in the spring.

Well ladies and gentlemen looks like we are going to have a busy fall getting our gardens ready for winter.

See you at the meeting

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Please Note

October's meeting is on the 17th and not the 10th, due to the Provincial Election.

The Society's Website

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

Please check out our website if you'd like to have a colour copy of our newsletter, pictures of the Garden Tour and the 11th of August event.

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.

Herb of the Month

Cilantro – *Coriandrum sativum*

The word coriander is derived from the Greek *koris*, meaning bug, since the plant was supposed to possess an odour similar to bed bugs. Coriander is the common name for the seeds of the plant, used to flavour breads, cakes and liqueurs. Cilantro is the common name for the fresh leaves of coriander. It has been used as flavouring for over 3000 years, in ancient Chinese, and Southeast Asian cooking, and was introduced to Europe by the Romans. The green, parsley-like leaves have a fragrant, strongly aromatic taste that lends a characteristic flavour to curries, chutneys and a wide variety of Mexican and South American dishes.

Cilantro is a hardy annual, whose seeds should be sown in the late spring or autumn in shallow rows. The seeds may be slow to germinate. It requires a dry, light soil and a sunny sheltered location. You can also grow it in large pots or tubs in similar locations. Keep the seeds of the mature plant from self-sowing, as it will continue to grow year-to-year throughout your garden.

Recipe of the Month

Classic Mexican Salsa

12 ounces (4 or 5 plum or 2 medium) ripe tomatoes
Fresh Serrano chiles to taste (3-5), stemmed
12 large sprigs of cilantro
1 large clove of garlic peeled and finely chopped
1 small (4 ounce) white onion diced
1½ teaspoons fresh lime juice
Salt to taste, about ¾ teaspoon

Seed and dice the tomatoes into ¼ inch cubes. Cut the chiles lengthwise and remove seeds (wear rubber gloves), chop very fine and add to the tomatoes. Bunch the cilantro sprigs, and slice with a sharp knife into 1/16-inch strips, discarding stems. Finely dice the onion, rinse under cold water in a strainer, drain. Combine ingredients, stir gently, and add the lime juice and salt. Let stand to allow flavours to combine, serve with tortilla chips

Flower of the Month: Yarrow – *Achillea*

Yarrow is one of the perennials that can survive, and even thrive in the droughts of summer, and rescue a barren, dry area and cover it with colour. Originally native to Europe and Asia, the seeds were brought to North America by the colonists, and over 200 species grow in the wild. Over a thousand years ago, Yarrow growing in England was called '*gaerwe*' by the Anglo-Saxons, which meant "healer". Legend says that Achilles, the Greek hero of the Trojan War, used its crushed leaves to stanch the bleeding of his troops' wounds. It still is used as an astringent, but be cautious, as some people are allergic to the sap in the plant. Historically, Yarrow was woven into bridal wreaths, and young girls would place a sprig under their pillows at night to dream of their future mates. The ancient Chinese book '*I Ching*' describes how to use Yarrow stalks when consulting the oracle.

Yarrow is available in a variety of heights, from low-growing, rock garden species, to species that grow up to a metre tall. Colour variation ranges from white, light pink to dark rose, red, pale yellow to rich gold, and tones of bluish-lavender.

Yarrow should be divided similarly to any perennial, or pieces of the plants rhizomes may be transplanted in the spring. Plant 1 to 1½" pieces 1 to 1½" deep, and keep the soil moist until roots form. Afterwards, do not over-water as it is a plant that prefers poor, dry soil. Cut back the blooms when they are done, and often, it will continue to produce occasional flower heads until frost. The only caution with Yarrow in your garden is that it will spread rapidly in a location that it likes, and may reseed itself if allowed. But plant it in those difficult spots, and enjoy the texture of the foliage, and the soft colours of the blooms.

Tips for the Show in October

Ornamental Grasses

† Judged for their distinctive leaf structure and colour

† if show schedule calls for a "Display" of grasses, they may be judged for artistic effect as well as cultural perfection

Pumpkin

† Should be heavy in proportion to size with a short stem intact

† Rind and stem should be hard

† Specimens wiped clean

Highlights of July's Meeting



In Rick's absence, Pam Kuiper presided over the meeting. With her delightful sense of humour, Pam brought fun and colour to our meeting. Thanks Pam.

Marg Bishop was the convenor for the evening, and introduced our speaker Frank Kershaw. Frank presented a slide show about how we can accessorize and personalize our gardens with a variety of items and artefacts. He also donated two plants for our door prize raffle. Thanks Frank, door prizes are always appreciated.

We again had many entries for our monthly show with a very difficult judging job associated with it. Thanks to all the participants who brightened up the hall. Just look at the pictures, and you'll see what a difficult job it is being a judge.

Our thanks also go out to our volunteers who were on kitchen duty and who provided delicious snacks.

Don't be shy to boast about our wonderful Society and bring a friend. New members or just friends are always welcomed.

Don't forget October's meeting is on the 17th instead of the 10th.



