



Garden Club News

April 2013

PO Box 3253 Teaneck, NJ 07666

www.gardenclubofteaneck.org

Calendar: April 2013

The next meeting of the Garden Club of Teaneck will be Thursday, April 11th, 7:30 – 9:00PM, at the Teaneck Rodda Center. Our guest speaker that night will be Dr. Peter Wohl. Dr Wohl is a Chiropractor, and he will speak to the club about how to avoid saying “Oh My Aching Back” after gardening.

The next meeting of the Greenhouse Committee will be at 10AM on Saturday, April 6th. This meeting will be very important because we will concentrate on topics concerning the upcoming Plant Sale

THE ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE WILL START ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27th, AND RUN THROUGH THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, MAY 5th.

Member News

Message from Debbie Morgan, President

At the April 11th meeting the nominations for Garden Club of Teaneck Officers will be presented to the membership. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of our June “Spring Affair” and the installation of new officers. I will see you all on April 11th. Yours in gardening, Debbie

Message from Len Schwartz, Greenhouse Director

Saturday April 27th, is the start of our annual plant sale. We have about four weeks to get our plants into the best condition possible. We will follow the same procedures that were successful in past plant sales. Sale times are:

Saturday, April 27th 9 AM to 3 PM
 Sunday, April 28th 9 AM until 3 PM
 Monday, April 29th 9 AM to 12 noon

Tuesday, April 30th 5 PM to 8 PM
 Wednesday, May 1st 9 AM to 12 noon
 Thursday, May 2nd 5 PM to 8 PM
 Friday, May 3rd 5 PM to 8 PM
 Saturday May 4th 9 AM until 3 PM
 Sunday May 5th 9 AM until 3 PM

We all must participate in a minimum of three selling sessions. Starting April 6th you may sign up for the weekend selling times. You must select a total of two sessions: morning, afternoon, Saturday or Sunday in any combination. The third selling session will be related to your Work Groups’ midweek meeting time (see times above). If you cannot make a session you are expected to do a makeup. In contrast to last year there will be more sign up slots on the first weekend than on the second. Please select only empty slots. Please select your preference for up front checkout or for greenhouse floor work. These job types will be discussed at the April 6 meeting. You are expected to learn your job

before the sale starts. By April 6th the publicity flyers will be ready so we can start distributing them. We will again propose a pre-sale session for members only to buy anything at the normal price. The date, time and rules will be determined at the April 6th meeting. There is no pre-sale for non-members. We have all been putting in a lot of time and effort and we expect this year's sale to be very successful. Right now everything is growing fast, perhaps too much so. Stay tuned to Joe Papa's directions and be responsible for our plants as if they were your own. They are!

Out in the outside gardens, we are in the process of breaking up some of the unused large gardens into various smaller plots. These are available for present members, first come first served. Happy start of the season to us all. I will see you April 6th. Len

Message from Joe Papa – Horticulture Director

The propagation of plants is in full swing. I would like to thank all the members who are participating for a job well done. The pinching of plants will be our next challenge as we force plants into a more full form and limit height. I would encourage our groups to continue to meet at their weekly times and help in this process.

As most of you know, we have introduced biological insect controls targeting whiteflies and aphids, which appears to be a successful approach. You may notice that we have yellow sticky traps placed in various parts of the Greenhouse; they are there to monitor pest populations.

Edibles- At this date all of your tomatoes should be germinated. My cold frame has germinated seven varieties of lettuce as well as arugula and kohlrabi. In preparation of spring plantings, the gardens should be cleaned of debris, weeded and lightly tilled with an introduction of compost and or composted cow

manure. I will be transplanting my lettuce and early crops in late April. This year I will be mulching my beds with straw (less expensive than salt hay) as well as straw bale growing some tomatoes and my favorite Korean squash. Joe

Message from Susan McGibney, VP of Membership

New members joining the Teaneck Garden Club for the month of March include: Michael and Mary Goins, Debby D'Amico, and Donna Snyder. We appreciate their support and interest in helping us keep Teaneck green. A hearty welcome to you all. Sue

Message from Pat Taaffe, VP of Programs

The Flower Arrangement Workshop was a great success. This month's guest speaker is going to talk to us about good back health while we are gardening.

Junior Gardeners & School Program by Olga Newey

Junior Gardeners Program

The JGCT has 12 participants. We have reviewed horticulture and gardening. We have chosen our crops, discussed the life cycle of a plant, zeroed in on seeds, started our cold crops and discussed and did different methods of propagation. We have the nicest students. There are interested, cooperative, and seem truly excited about the miracle of it all. Saturday my husband, stepson and I cleaned and leveled the garden plot and started building raised beds. On Sunday we discussed soils and compost. I am learning a lot just preparing my lesson plans. We have started planting lettuce and cabbage that the class started from seed. We are all having fun.

School Program

On March 4th we started our yearly Hawthorne School Program. We are providing second, third, and fourth graders with lessons of herbs (Olga Newey – 4th grade), garbage gardening (Helen Humphreys – 2nd grade), and propagation (Cynthia McKay – 3rd grade). There are 272 students who experience the greenhouse. This will be Helen's last year after more than 20 years of service. Pat Labutti has kindly offered to take over Helen's spot next year. I thank Helen for her many years of service, and thank Pat for volunteering. Olga

Gardening Events in Our Area By Robyn Lowenthal

From the Northeast Organic Farming Association Winter Conference *(Part 2 of 2)*

Free Soil Assessment for Farms and Community Gardens - Richard Shaw, NJ Soil Scientist

There are soil tests that the State will do, free of charge, for farms and community gardens. Portable x-ray fluorescence environmental analysis measures trace metals and provides a total elemental analysis.

Richard.shaw@nj.usda.gov,
<http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/>

The Importance of Native Bees in Crop Pollination Dr. Rachel Winfree –

www.winfreelab.rutgers.edu

There are 400 species of native bees in NJ. There are 4000 species of native bees in the U.S. Bees eat only flower products for their whole life cycle. That is why bees are the major pollinator. Honeybees are not native. They were brought from Europe in the 1600's. Only about 4% of bees live socially in hives. 70% of bees in NJ nest in the ground. If the habitat is restored, the bees will return. 75% of food crops need animal pollination. 25% are wind pollinated – corn, rice, wheat. In the wild, honeybees live in the cavities of old trees in the forest. Beekeeping has become highly

chemically dependent because of mite diseases that are attacking the hives. Bees will go to any flower and they are very transportable. In February, huge numbers of beehives are taken to California to pollinate almond trees. The 1st week in April, beehives are taken to South Jersey when the blueberry bushes flower. Honeybee hives are a monoculture that attracts pests and diseases. Native bee populations are also declining. In her study, only 25% of blueberries and cranberries were pollinated by honeybees. 100% of tomatoes were pollinated by native bees, even though there were honeybee hives in the vicinity.

For assistance in establishing hedgerows, windbreaks, and other habitat for native bees, contact NRCS at <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov>.

Controlling Diseases in Organic Gardens

Andy Wyenandt

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Agricultural Experiment Station

Plant and Pest Advisory is a weekly newsletter put out by NJ Agricultural Experiment Station that tracks what diseases/insect pests are affecting NJ vegetable crops. It will be available online this year.

Heirloom tomatoes are notorious for carrying pathogens. They have no immunities.

Sanitation starts at transplant/seeding. Clean before and after. Disinfect everything. Bleach needs to be used everywhere. Some commercial cleaning products include Oxidate 2.0 (Bio-Safe), Sanidate 12.0 (Bio-Safe), GreenClean Pro (Bio-Safe), 5% to 10% bleach solution is acceptable in organic gardening.

Hot water seed treatment. Ask the company that is supplying your seed if they have been treated already. If not, buy elsewhere or put seed in water bath at 100 degrees for 20 minutes. Tomato seeds need 120 degrees and pepper seeds need 125 degrees. Take seeds out of water bath, let dry and plant. Use the seed that season. Do not seed/transplant too deeply.

You want the seeds to emerge ASAP and get established. The longer the seed/transplant sits, the more likely it is to pick up a soil-borne disease.

Provide ventilation, especially at night. In a greenhouse with high humidity, there is a high probability of disease. Do all watering in the morning or early afternoon. Remove any infected material from greenhouse or field ASAP.

Damping off Some products that suppress it include Actinovate, Plant Shield, Root Shield, Soil Guard, Mycostop, Sonata, and Serenade.

Mechanical controls Screens or row covers to keep out insects and collars, fencing or stakes to keep plants off the ground. Use mulches (leaves, straw) to reduce soil splashing and keep fruit off the ground.

Host resistance Choose resistant plants whenever possible.

Late Blight – caused by prolonged wet weather olive green, perfect circles on leaves. Fruit that has brown lesions (Tomatoes). Pull out and discard plant when you first see it. Monitor plants regularly. Be sure to plant tomatoes in full sun with good air circulation. Plant in wider rows and avoid overhead irrigation. Some late blight resistant tomato varieties have been developed – Plum Regal, Mountain Magic, Mountain Merit, and Defiant. They also have resistance to other tomato diseases. Matt’s Wild Cherry, SunGold, Big Rainbow, Mr. Stripey and Red Pearl also have some resistance. Copper fungicide can be used for disease suppression. You need to spray every 4-5 days and get under the leaves. www.USAblight.org tracks late blight progress in the US. It starts in the South and works its way up North.

Cucurbit Downy Mildew

Try to find resistant varieties, but many are no longer available. Cucumber resistance has broken down. Each year it is showing up earlier. Pathogens will be seen first on cucumbers as brownish/purple spots only on the bottoms of leaves. It is airborne. If you see

yellow lesions on the leaves, the pathogen is still alive. When the lesions turn white, the pathogen is dead. Preventatives include Copper, Neem Oil, Serenade, Sonata, Microthoil, and peroxide.

<http://www.cdm.ipmpipe.org> to track the progression of the disease.

Phytophthora blight Affects tomatoes, cucurbits, snap beans, lima beans, peppers, eggplant. Loves watery, low-lying areas, heavy rain when water pools on the soil surface. Preventative measures include raised beds, proper crop rotation and avoiding overhead irrigation. It can overwinter in the soil. The entire plant starts to wilt. If there is a black lesion at the base of the stem, you have a problem. Resistant peppers include Paladin and Aristotle.

Cucurbit Powdery Mildew Attacks foliage vines and stems. It appears first as white patches on the underside of leaves. Start looking for it in June Fungicides that are somewhat effective are Sulfur products Microthiol, Disperss, Yellow Jacket, Serenade, M-Pede 3%. Some summer squash have good resistance – look for PMR or PMT in catalog listing.

Basil Downy Mildew First showed up in the US in 2008. When leaves become discolored, the plant is affected. Sweet basil and basil with large, crinkled leaves are most susceptible. Blue, lemon, lime, Thai and spice basil are more resistant. It is seed-borne, comes in your seed packet and wind borne. Robyn

The Garden Club of Teaneck Roots Recipes Project – An Update

By Pat Libutti

All members are reminded to please contribute their own family recipes and cherished cooking how-to’s to the Garden Club of Teaneck Root Recipes blog in care of Pat Libutti at libutti@gmail.com. Thank you. Pat

Philadelphia Flower Show Bus Trip

By Anna Kurz

On the blustery drizzly morning of March 6, 39 people clambered into the bus at the Southern Little League parking lot. There had been more but some people were ill and others forgot (we phoned them before leaving). Our driver David left punctually and got us to the show at opening time. This year's theme was Britain, Scotland and Wales: the smell of hyacinths at first, then daffodil greeted us as we walked into the hall. Thousands of bulbs and flowering spring bushes had been forced to bloom on schedule (no mean feat) for the show. The floral arrangements with flowers we are accustomed to seeing were large, elegant and tasteful. A portion of the show exhibited artwork using flowers as the medium. Though they did not win a blue ribbon, my favorites were a sort of top hat made from pale violet flowers and a mask of Puck with horns made of pumpkin stems, eyes made of carrots and a tongue of sweet potato. This crew was so prompt that everyone, along with their purchased plants, was back in their seats well before 4 pm; we left early and got home early and left no one behind.

