

The **GREENHOUSE** Beet

April brings warmer weather and the blooming of flowers, marking the arrival of spring. To celebrate, our newsletter is getting a fresh look to match the season. Enjoy new gardening tips and insights in our updated format!



Through the Grapevine..

GCT News and Updates

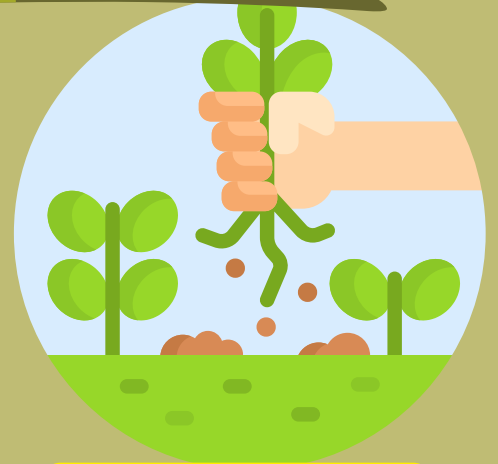
- We've got eyes in the greenhouse now—cameras are rolling!
 - The team is knee-deep in repotting plugs, so get ready for a plant explosion in the next few weeks. Christina will update when a helping hand is needed!
 - The 2025 Price List is hot off the press, and guess what? All prices are sticking to nice, round dollars for your math-loving hearts.
 - Heads up! This year, there will be no peonies and just a few jades available at the Plant Sale as we allow our mother plants to grow and rest.
 - Membership fees are staying put, but when adding extra folks to your crew, it'll be an extra \$15 per additional member
 - Friendly nudge to all bench holders to keep spraying those bench plants—let's keep those pesky pests at bay, folks!
-
- On the 501c3 front, Roslyn shared some news: the GCT application hit a snag because they were missing a proper EIN (Employer Identification Number). But fear not! She's resubmitted it with the fresh EIN in hand. Fingers crossed we hear back soon!
 - Anna's on the way to the DPW to drop off snazzy Plant Sale banner to be displayed across Cedar Lane. She is also working on getting ads out in local papers! Let's get the word out!
 - Fingers crossed and send positive energy because the Town says they're looking into the possibility of a prefab greenhouse that could work for us! Stay tuned!



WorkGroup Happenings:

- Friday: Planting and repotting green plugs for the sale.
- Saturday: Caring for Hawthorne plants, Preparing succulent arrangements, making plans for 2025 outdoor GCT Gardens
- Sunday: Maintaining a variety of perennials and dahlias
- Jr garden club: snow peas started and kids are excited to harvest! Mother's day project is in the works..
- Monday: Caring for vinca plugs, tomatoes, and hypoestes.
- Tuesday: TLC for licorice plants, begonias, and geraniums
- Wednesday: Fixed a floor crack and preparing for painting; enjoy the upcoming two-week work break!
- Thursday: Final planting of coleus and addressing pest issues with mother plants.
- Hawthorne group: Children's program started March 24, with the kids loving all the plants that were grown for them!

Reminder



Weed under your bench!!



Jr GC gets new shed!

Ta-da! The Junior Garden Club now has a shiny new garden shed, the perfect hideaway for all those tools and green-thumb gadgets!

Meet the Greenhouse Vent Team

GCT volunteers formed a ventilation team to manage airflow in the greenhouse, ensuring stable temperatures and humidity while promoting fresh air circulation.

Their efforts reduce plant stress, prevent pests, and enhance photosynthesis. For temperature concerns, contact team members:

Anne, Christina, Anna, AnneMarie, Natasha, Myriam, Judith, or Peter.



Spray your bench plants weekly! Don't wait for bugs, check your plants and spray frequently to avoid infestations! Team leaders have spray bottles for ease of use.



Feb: Vegetable Gardening 101

Presented by Robyn Lowenthal

In February, despite a snowstorm, the community attended a Vegetable Growing 101 session led by Master Gardener Robyn Lowenthal. She discussed soil preparation, planting, pest control, and companion planting, which intrigued participants. The cozy session inspired everyone to start their own vegetable gardens in spring.



March: Growing Botanicals for Personal Care

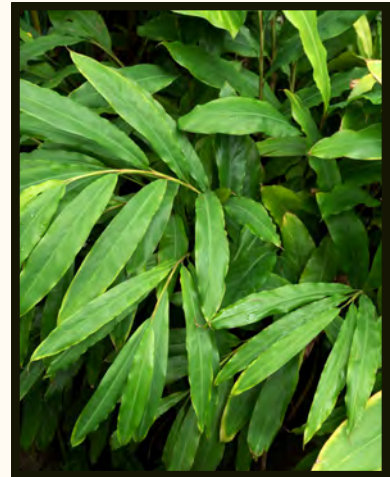
Presented by Dr. Marilyn Figueroa

In March, Dr. Marilyn Figueroa shared insights on cultivating botanicals for personal care, including soaps, lotions, and sprays. She highlighted the importance of understanding each plant's properties and encouraged experimentation to meet individual skin needs. Practical demonstrations on extracting essential oils and creating infusions made the process engaging. Attendees left inspired and confident to begin their own botanical projects at home.

Cooking with Cardamom

UNCOVERING THE BEAUTY AND CULINARY POTENTIAL OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY SHRUB.

Cardamom plants (*Elettaria cardamomum*) are valued for their aromatic seed pods and are ideal for garden clubs seeking beauty and utility. Thriving in warm, humid climates, these tropical plants provide exotic spices, and their edible leaves can enhance dishes with a subtle aroma, making them a versatile kitchen asset.



look for
cardamom
at the
plant sale!

When growing cardamom, provide partial shade and well-drained, organic-rich soil. Regular watering and wind protection promote healthy growth. Besides culinary uses, cardamom plants enhance garden aesthetics with their lush foliage, creating a vibrant and fragrant atmosphere.

Recipe: Cardamom Rice



Cardamom leaves enhance the flavor of dishes. Here's a simple recipe for Cardamom Leaf Steamed Rice:

Ingredients:

- 1 cup basmati rice
- 2 cups water
- 2-3 fresh cardamom leaves
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Optional: saffron strands

Instructions:

1. Rinse rice until water runs clear.
2. Rinse and tear cardamom leaves.
3. Heat ghee/oil in a saucepan, sauté rice until translucent.
4. Add water and salt; place cardamom leaves on top.
5. Boil, then simmer for 15-20 minutes until water is absorbed.
6. Let sit covered for 5 minutes, then fluff with a fork.
7. Remove leaves and serve, optionally garnishing with saffron.



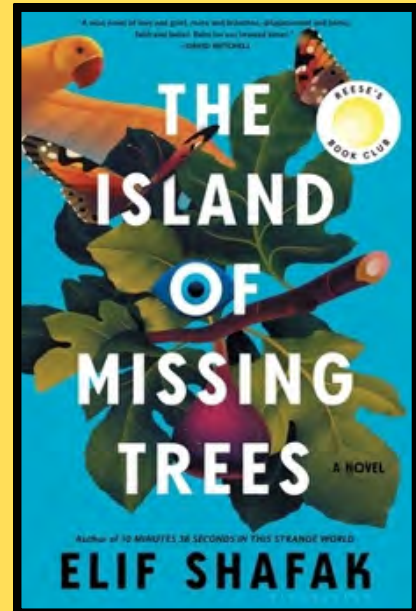
This dish pairs well with curries or grilled foods, offering a fragrant flavor. Enjoy!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT GROWING CARDAMON](#)

The Island of Missing Trees

BY ELIF SHAFAK

"The Island of Missing Trees" by Elif Shafak is a moving novel that weaves together themes of love, loss, and identity within Cyprus's complex history. Through engaging characters, including a fig tree, the story highlights how the past influences the present and the quest for belonging in a divided land. It emphasizes nature and memory's role in healing, making it a compelling read for those wanting to explore the human experience and our shared connections.



What are we reading for next month?

"The Orchid Thief" by Susan Orlean!

It's a fascinating book that delves into the world of orchid poaching in Florida, exploring the obsession and passion surrounding these exquisite flowers.

Want to Read more?



[5 Eco-Friendly Gardening trends seen at the 2025 Philly Garden Show](#)

[How To Keep Squirrels Out Of Your Potted Plants, According To Experts](#)

[NASA tracks changes in seasonal flower cycles and migration patterns](#)

[Gardeners urged to put bread and pies in their garden this spring.](#)

Can you
imagine?!

What's in a name?

EXPLORING THE NOMENCLATURE OF COLEUS

Whether you're a gardening guru or a sprouting newbie, coleus plant names beckon you to dive into their vibrant and madcap world. Each name spins a tale, inviting you to uncover the funky beauty and personality of every leaf and stem.



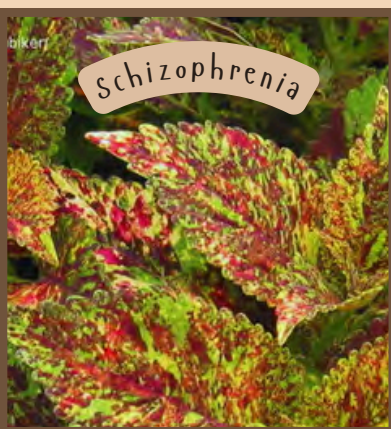
The 2024 GCT plant sale featured over 100 varieties of Coleus... The least popular seller? The Beautiful SATANIC EMBERS!



The names of coleus varieties are cooked up by the breeders or nurseries that whip them into existence. These names are like a kaleidoscope of silliness, reflecting the plant's style, such as its jazzy color, funky shape, or groovy pattern, and may even include zany elements to grab attention and make them unforgettable.



The naming shenanigans draw from cultural wackiness, emotions, or the breeder's imagination. Names like "Trusty Rusty," "Lime & Shine," "Chocolate Covered Cherry," or "Electric Lime" describe the plant's appearance, while others like "Wicked Witch," "Satanic Embers," "Kong Rose," or "Inferno" add playful mischief. The goal is to create a name that stands out and sticks with gardeners. Some breeders even hold friendly naming battles to invent the most dazzling name! As new varieties like "Henna" or "Wasabi" sprout, the naming antics evolve, reflecting trends and quirks in the gardening community.



GARDEN GIGGLES

Why couldn't the gardener plant any flowers?

He hadn't botany!

TWO KINDS OF PLANT PEOPLE



OMG, MY
PLANT IS
DYING



I THINK I
CAN
SAVE IT!!!

I wouldn't tell anyone I won the lottery but there will be hints.



"I just need a few things at the garden center"



**You know you're a
Serious Gardener when...**

**Your neighbors don't recognize
your face because that's
usually not the end they see.**

Venus Flytraps can live on sunlight and soil nutrients alone...



but every morning they wake up and choose violence.

How I *think* I look discussing my seed purchases and garden plans vs. how I actually look:



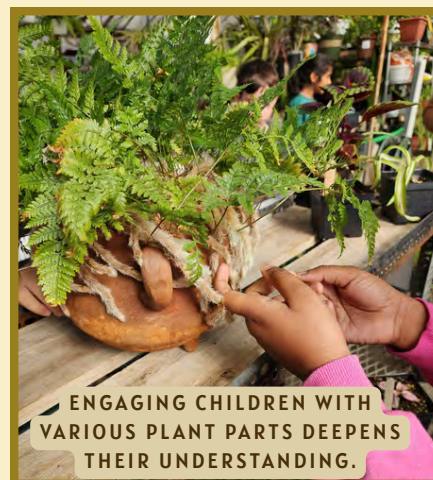
CULTIVATING CURIOSITY:

HAWTHORNE SCHOOL VISIT INSPIRES YOUNG GARDENERS



KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS
DISCOVER SOIL AND ITS
COMPONENTS

Hawthorne Elementary School students explored the greenhouse this month, engaging in plant-related activities that help create future gardeners. These age-appropriate lessons cover topics like seeds, soil, and trees, making the greenhouse an interactive classroom for direct connection with nature.



ENGAGING CHILDREN WITH
VARIOUS PLANT PARTS DEEPENS
THEIR UNDERSTANDING.



FOURTH GRADERS LEARN ABOUT TREES

Students learn about the plant life cycle during visits, starting from seeds to fully grown trees. Younger students explore basic soil and planting concepts, while older students study propagation methods and complex root systems. Planting seeds enhances their understanding and fosters responsibility and wonder.

Students leave with two small pots: one containing a seed they planted themselves and the other featuring a plant nurtured by our members. The diversity and health of the plants thrilled the children, who enjoyed selecting a new addition for their homes. Both the planting and growing experiences cultivate their interest in gardening. This initiative motivates them to utilize their knowledge at home, nurturing a lasting appreciation for nature and sustainability. By blending hands-on learning with a tangible takeaway, greenhouse visits ignite curiosity and build confidence in young learners, transforming botany into an exciting adventure.



SECOND GRADERS LEARNING
TO NURTURE BEAN PLANTS.

GARDEN POSTS



2025 Garden Club of Teaneck PLANT SALE

May 2 - 4

Friday / Saturday / Sunday

May 9 - 11

Friday / Saturday / Sunday (Mothers' Day)

10am - 6pm

Upcoming Meetings:
Sat 4/2 & 5/3
10AM
Rodda Center

Cherry Blossom Festival
Branchbrook Park
April 2025



Remember:
Garden Plot Cleanup
By April 26th
MANDATORY!!

Plantella
A Mid Hudson Expo
April 13, 2025

Reminder!!

Bring in cardboard box trays to stock for the plant sale!



Earth Day Walk
Tuesday, April 22,
4 to 5 PM
Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Tulip Picking
Holland Ridge Farm!

April 2025

Plant & Seed Swap

Saturday, April 19th

12:00pm-2:00pm

Rain or Shine

Calling all Gardeners!

Bring your extra seeds, plant starts, bulbs, divisions & any other garden plants! Mingle with other gardeners & leave with a new plant! Newbies & seasoned gardeners welcome.



Hosted at The Lillie House

59 E Main Street in Mendham, NJ

WEBSITE: THEGARDENCLUBOFTEANECK.COM

FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/GARDENCLUBOFTEANECK](https://www.facebook.com/gardenclubofteaneck)

EMAIL: GARDENCLUBOFTEANECK@GMAIL.COM

LOCATION: [DIRECTIONS AND MAP](#)