



Durham Master Gardeners

Presentation Library – 2017

All presentations include a summary and Q & A period. In the interests of staying 'green', audience handouts are provided on the Durham Master Gardeners website. www.durhammastergardeners.ca
Those presentations marked with an asterisk (*) are new.

- 1) Master Gardeners of Ontario
This presentation provides an overview of the organization, its history and current membership. We also discuss the volunteer commitments and educational requirements of Master Gardeners.
- 1) Alliums
A presentation all about ornamental and edible members of the onion family, we discuss the benefits of growing alliums, and how to grow them successfully. It also covers topics such as companion planting, pests and diseases and recommended varieties for Durham region.
- 2) Bulbs
This presentation covers the history and descriptions of bulbs, how you can use them in your garden, buying, planting and care tips, some favourites and their blooming periods.
- 3) Creating Naturalized Gardens
This presentation focuses on creating naturalized gardens, what they are, how to plan a garden and evaluate your site. Then we discuss the 4 types of natural gardens, and review a list of native plants for each of the garden types.
- 4) Culinary Herbs
This presentation covers the history of culinary herbs from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, the difference between herbs and spices and then covers a selection of commonly used herbs in more detail and how to use them in your garden.
- 5) Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter
A presentation about getting your garden ready for winter, what to clean up, what to leave, how to deal with annuals, perennials, bulbs, evergreens, ornamental grasses, roses, shrubs, trees and lawns.
- 6) Herbs: Growing, Harvesting, and Preserving
A different herb presentation focusing on the history and growing of herbs as well as harvesting, preserving and other home uses of herbs.
- 7) How to Plan a Successful Garden
This presentation on planning a successful garden covers evaluating site conditions, other factors such as maintenance, function and style and finally planning your garden space and selecting plants.
- 8) Iris
This presentation covers the history and parts of the Iris as well as the various Iris classifications: bearded Iris, Beardless Iris, Bulbous Iris, Aril Iris and Arilbred Iris with lots of photos of each category of iris.
- 9) Ontario Pesticide Ban
It is important for everyone to understand the Ontario Cosmetic Pesticides Ban, which came into effect on April 22, 2009. In this presentation we review the background and a summary of the legislation and what individuals can do to control pests and diseases in their own gardens through Integrated Pest Management practices.

- 10) Potscaping
This presentation covers all of the key ingredients for successfully gardening in containers. The topics covered include containers, the right soil, and how to select the right plants based on colour, texture, scale and shape.
- 11) Roses for Today's World
Roses are still one of the most popular garden plants. In this presentation we talk about why people want to plant roses, the major rose categories and how you can use roses in your garden, as well as the reality of dealing with Rose pests and the best new varieties.
- 12) Shrubs for All Seasons
The focus of this talk is using shrubs in your landscape for colour and seasonal interest, including a brief overview of design. A selection of flowering shrubs and shrubs with colourful foliage or woody stems will be discussed, along with the newest offerings available for planting in this area.
- 13) Trees for Small Spaces
In this presentation we discuss the smaller urban spaces of most homeowners today, the things to consider when choosing a tree and the different types of trees and examples of each.
- 14) Preparing Your Garden for Spring
Spring is a time of renewal in the garden and this talk provides information on getting your garden ready for the new growing season. Topics covered include spring clean up, lawn care, creating healthy soil, insect and weed control, planting and mulches.
- 15) Gardens and Spirituality
Gardens can be places of serenity and peace. In this presentation we will cover connection, reflection, sowing, nurturing, mindfulness, peace and ideas for making your own serenity garden.
- 16) Introduction to Soil
Soil is one of our most important resources and yet many of us know very little about it. This presentation will provide an introduction to soil, what it is, the different soil textures, the soil food web and how to create healthy soil.
- 17) Starting Plants from Seed
In this presentation we will provide the home gardener with the right knowledge and skills to make them successful at starting seeds at home for planting in the spring. Topics covered include proper storage of seeds, when to start seeds, germination requirements, lighting, thinning and transplanting, fertilizing and hardening off.
- 18) Square Foot Gardening*
This is the practice of dividing the growing area into small square sections to intensively plant a vegetable garden. There is more interest than ever in creating small vegetable gardens on residential plots and this presentation covers how to get started even if you have no more than a 4' x 4' space.
- 19) Introduction to Vegetable Gardening
This workshop will start with an introduction to soil, what it is, how to test it and how to amend it. Then we will cover the vegetable garden design and layout, siting and exposure, starting vegetables from seed, selecting what vegetables to grow and companion planting. The hands-on activities include soil texture tests, planting seeds in peat pots or germinating in plastic bags, as well as a square foot gardening demonstration.
- 20) Balcony Workshop
This workshop will provide participants with the necessary knowledge to successfully grow flowers and vegetables in containers. Topics covered include starting plants from seed, selecting containers, soils and potting mixes, what to grow, design and site considerations, and companion planting.

- 21) Xeriscaping or Water-Wise Gardening
It is becoming increasingly more important to learn how to conserve water. The goal of Xeriscaping is to design and create gardens that can survive dry periods on their own without a lot of supplemental watering or fertilizing. This presentation will help you understand how to conserve water in the garden, select the right plants and how to maintain them.
- 22) Pollinators
This 2-hour workshop focuses on pollinators, why they are important, what they are and the threats to them. We cover good gardening practices for pollinators and the use of native plants to create pollinator and bird friendly habitats in our gardens. Hands on activities include building a mason bee house and planting native seeds in peat pots. This can alternatively be given as a 1-hour presentation.
- 23) Native Plants
In this presentation we cover 4 types of native gardens and some of the typical plants found in each one, choosing native plants for your garden, buying plants or growing from seed.
- 24) Invasive Species – We will introduce you to invasive plant species in Ontario and a guide to identifying and controlling invasive species in your garden or community. Hands on activities include identifying invasive species using plant samples.
- 25) Composting*
Discover how easy it is to turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich, dark compost in your own backyard. Learn the benefits of backyard composting; how to get started, and the ingredients you need to make it work.
- 26) Seed Saving Workshop*
This workshop will give participants the skills and confidence to start saving their own seeds. Topics covered include what are seeds, selecting seeds to save, how to store seeds and how to check for viability. The activities include identifying and gathering seeds from a nearby park or garden, sorting and preparing seeds for storage.
- 27) Perennials
In this presentation we focus on perennial plants used in a permanent garden. Topics covered include the ideal conditions for various plants, the many colours and sizes available in both flowers and foliage. We also cover the where and when of planting, pruning, adding or removing to make your perennial garden beds a thing of wonder.
- 28) Companion Planting
This presentation covers how plants can benefit each other by being planted in proximity to each other. This helps in pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial creatures and maximizing the use of your space.
- 29) Planting Trees and Shrubs*
What do you do after you bring that tree home from the nursery? We cover planting basics and how to ensure that plant remains healthy from the start.
- 30) Creating Winter Interest in Your Garden*
This presentation is a design primer on making your garden look great in all seasons. It provides basic landscape design themes with examples of how you can apply them to your garden. The latter part of the presentation highlights specific plants and trees to use for winter interest.
- 31) Care and Maintenance of the Indoor Plant*
Many houseplants are easy to grow, but they must be given appropriate care in order to thrive. In this presentation we provide numerous plant care tips and best practices to ensure your plants' survival.

32) Rain Gardens*

Learn how and why water runoff has become a serious threat to our environment and what you can do to help offset the problem on your own property. Learn the basic principles of creating a rain garden and how to measure your property's water runoff. There will be a demonstration of how a rain garden works, and which plants to choose to make your rain garden successful.

33) Fruit Trees for the Home Gardener*

This presentation provides an overview of selecting, pruning and cultivation of fruit trees for the home garden. It includes information on potential pests and diseases, as well as the different varieties of apples, pears, cherries and plums that are hardy for our region.

34) Hydrangeas*

This presentation provides an understanding of the different types of hydrangeas, their care and pruning requirements. It covers how to create pink or blue flowers for hydrangea macrophylla, as well as, information on potential pests, how to dry blooms for indoor use and information on new varieties on the market.

Horticulture Activities:

This is a series of activities that can be done in an hour and are ideal for children or seniors. They were developed as part of a horticulture therapy program but can be adapted to most groups. With each activity a handout is provided for each participant. The costs of any materials required for each activity are extra.

1. **Growing Plants from Seed:** In this activity, participants will learn how to germinate and grow plants from seeds. This can be focused on herbs, vegetables or even flowers. The participants are given a short tutorial on how to grow plants from seeds, covering the selection of containers, planting medium, water, heat and light. Then each participant is given a pot, planting soil and selection of seeds to start growing.
2. **Ivy Topiary:** The presentation that accompanies this workshop activity tells the history of topiary and provides some background on the art of creating living garden sculptures. The participants will receive a pot, fill it with soil, plant the ivy and train it on a topiary frame. This activity can be done as a Valentine's activity, using a heart-shape wire, or as a Christmas Wreath.
3. **Planting a Basket:** The presentation for this activity focuses on the plants that will be planted in the baskets. We have done this as an Easter activity with Bulbs, or Pansies or a Christmas basket with Poinsettias. The participants are given a small basket that can be planted with flowers or bulbs.
4. **Paperwhite in a Teacup:** This is a fairly simple and short activity. A presentation on forcing bulbs accompanies this activity. The participants are given teacups or coffee mugs that they partially fill with stones. Then a paperwhite bulb is placed on the stones and extra stones added to hold the bulb in place. Coloured stones can also be added to provide extra pizzazz. Paperwhites are usually available in the fall so this is an ideal Christmas or early winter activity.
5. **Twigs and Sticks:** This is ideal for early spring as the pussy willows start to emerge. The legend of How the Pussy Willow got its Kittens accompanies this activity. The participants will arrange pussy willow and other branches in decorated jars. Another variation of this activity is a Dried Fall flower arrangement that uses fall flowers and grasses that can be dried.
6. **Hens and Chicks Garden:** The presentation covers the various common names of Hens 'n Chicks, as well as the growing conditions required by this interesting succulent. Each participant will plant a small container with hens and chicks.
7. **Thanksgiving Centrepiece:** The participants will create lovely Thanksgiving centerpieces from pumpkins and seasonal flowers and greenery. The accompanying talk is the history of pumpkins. T
8. **Christmas Centrepiece or Tree Arrangement:** The participants will create a table centerpiece with Christmas greenery and red and white flowers with added ribbons and Christmas themed decorations to take home.