



# NIGHT BEACON NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

“Grow with Tay”

February 2016

## Tay Township Horticulture Committee

To foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community education and participation in horticulture.

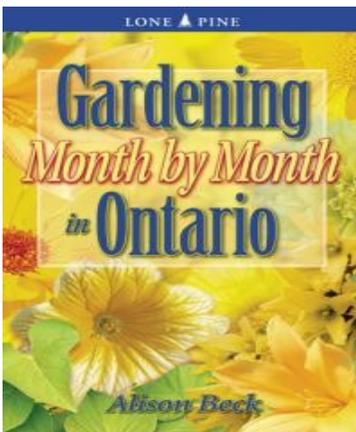
### Favorite Winter Garden Plant



#### Red Osier Dogwood *Cornus sericea*

Native shrub hardy to Zone 2. Excellent for mass planting. Red coloured branches add colour and interest to the winter garden.

### Favorite Garden Book



### Adopt - A - Garden

The adopt-a-garden program is a cooperative venture between the Township of Tay and its citizens. This initiative is one way residents can enhance and preserve the gardens throughout the municipality. For more information or to volunteer to assist in the care of a Tay Township garden please contact Alison Thomas

## Guide to Spring Seed Sowing Dates



Starting plants from seed can be very rewarding, not only a great way to save money, but also gives you the opportunity to add new and exciting plants to your garden.

Annual plants and vegetables are the easiest plants to grow from seed. Some perennials grow easily from seed, while others require special treatment or a couple of years to reach mature size.

When buying seeds read the package, which usually gives you the growing instructions such as when to sow seeds and planting depth. Some plants need to be started early indoors, while others are best sown outdoors later in the spring. The sowing date for seeds relates to the last frost date for your area. Below is a guide for when to sow seeds if you live in Zone 5 with an average last frost date near the end of May.

**Indoors early February:** Begonia, Broccoli, Browallia, Dusty Miller, Geranium

**Indoors early March:** Dianthus, Impatiens, Petunia, Portulaca, Snapdragon

**Indoors mid March:** Alyssum, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Coleus, Peppers, Phlox

**Indoors late March:** Aster, Balsam, Centurea

**Indoors early April:** Eggplant, Lettuce, Marigold, Tomato, Zinnia

**Indoors mid April:** Basil, Cleome, Cosmos, Cucumber, Swiss Chard, Watermelon

**Indoors early May:** Pumpkin, Squash, Sunflower

**Outdoors early May:** Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Celery, Lettuce, Onion, Peas, Potatoes, Radish, Spinach, Turnip

**Outdoors late May:** Basil, Beans, Corn, Cucumber, Sweet Potato, Pepper, Tomato

## Invasive Plant Management Workshop Presented By



A very informative workshop on the identification and management of invasive species in our area was held on December 10, 2015. This workshop was well attended by Council and staff members of Tay Township, Tay Township Horticulture Committee and residence of Tay Township and surrounding area.



A great site for reporting sightings of invasive species in Ontario. Mapping system lets you see where invasive species have been reported and verified. Includes descriptive details and photos of invasive species. [www.eddmaps.org/ontario](http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario)

*“The longer days and occasional warm spells turn our thoughts to the upcoming gardening season”*

## Tips & Tricks for the Garden



Test viability of older seeds you may have left over from previous years. Place 10 seeds between a couple pieces of moist paper towel on a small plate and cover with plastic wrap to maintain moisture. Check daily for sprouted seeds. Some varieties may take up to 10 days to sprout. Keep paper towel moist, do not allow to dry out. If less than a half of the seeds sprout you are best to buy new seeds.



Snow is the gardens best friend. Gently pile clean snow on snowless garden beds and around exposed smaller shrubs and evergreens. The snow acts as an insulator to protect against wind and cold.



Clean the foliage of houseplants with a damp cloth to remove dust when the light levels are low. It is important for plants to be able to use whatever light is available for healthy growth.



As warmer temperatures arrive in early spring cut a few branches of flowering shrubs to bring indoors. Place in a bright location in a vase of water. They will begin to bloom. Forsythia, Crabapple and Cherry work well for early forcing.



Feed birds in the winter to encourage them to remain in your garden for the summer to help keep pests under control.



Save your coffee grinds for the garden. Dry the used grinds in the oven and store in a container until spring. Sprinkle around the garden. A good source of nitrogen.

## Niagara Bus Tour Thursday June 23, 2016

Tay Horticulture Committee presents a coach bus trip to tour Niagara Parks.  
Departing from Oakwood Community Centre, Victoria Harbour at 7:30am

### Explore Niagara Parks Floral Showcase

Enjoy a full 3 course lunch at Edgewater Tap and Grill overlooking Niagara Falls

Enjoy a walk at the Falls and along the River Edge following lunch

### Explore Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservancy

### Explore Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens

Return arrival at Oakwood Community Centre approximately 7:00 - 7:30 pm

**\$ 100.00 per person Includes lunch, all admission fees and taxes**

Pre-registration with payment required at Tay Township Office



Park Street, Victoria Harbour, Ont

Cash/ Debit/ Cheque

Limited Seating

Pre-register before June 10, 2016

For further information contact Alison Thomas



## What's Happening In Tay

### Community Input Session Wednesday February 3, 2016

Tay Township is developing the conceptual design for the proposed park located at First Ave. and Talbot St. in Port McNicoll and we want your input on the design.

Residents are invited to a drop-in format community input session that will have a brief presentation at 7:30pm to share ideas and assist in developing a vision for the new park.

Port McNicoll Community Centre  
560 Seventh Ave. Port McNicoll  
7:00pm - 8:30pm

Further information please call  
705-534-7248 ext 235

### Invasive Phragmites Management Workshop Saturday May 14, 2016

Oakwood Community Centre

Victoria Harbour, ON  
All Welcome to Attend

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Free

No Preregistration



### Annual Plant Exchange May 21, 2016

The Tay Township Horticulture Committee holds their annual Plant Exchange at Port McNicoll Library (front lawn) on Saturday morning of Portarama Weekend.

**Bring a Plant, Get A Plant**

### 2016 "Lily Award"

Submit your nomination before July 31, 2016. Judging will take place the week following the August long weekend. For more information visit [www.tay.ca](http://www.tay.ca).

### Tay Horticulture Committee

*Marina Josey, Glenda Bosley, Betty Wakish, Cate Root (Council Representative)*

*For any questions or to share your gardening tips or photos.*

*Contact Alison Thomas, Clerk, Township of Tay 705-534-7248 ext. 240 or  
athomas@tay.ca*