

Growing Together



Spring

2023 Colour of the Year

Communities in Bloom.

This year's colour is PURPLE. Purple has a variety of effects on the mind and body, including uplifting spirits, calming the mind, enhanced feelings of spirituality and encouraging imagination and creativity. From lilacs to coneflowers, from coast to coast, let's paint the country purple!



Editorial

By Tonya Davis

Spring is right upon us. The days are longer, the sun is a tad bit warmer. The animals are moving about and plant life is peeking out to see the sun.

It is time to start designing your garden transformations for 2023. March is filled with events local and afar online. Start your seeding and enjoy an active gardening community of kin.

I am looking forward to our upcoming Native Plant Sale and time outside with nature.

Growing Together



PLANT Sale

Annual Plant Sale

May 20 @ 9:00 am -
12:00 pm

Our largest fundraising
event of the year!

Come support your
Garden Club—and get
some incredible garden
jewels for bargain prices!

If you have plants to
divide and share with the
community—get in touch
and one of the super
hard-working Plant Sale
Committee members will
get back to you.

Please contact Marlene
Davison at

marlene.davison@gmail.com

Native Plant Sale including
trees and shrubs that will
improve biodiversity in

Cobourg. To participate in our
sale print the order form, fill it
in and return it with your
cheque. We must receive all
orders by **March 31, 2023**. Be
certain that your contact
information is correct since we
will be contacting you to
confirm your order and to
provide updates. Your orders
are expected to be available
for driveway pickup on
Saturday, May 27.

You can also download the
form -

<https://cobourggardenclub.ca/native-plant-sale/>

Growing Together

JUNE 25TH GARDEN TOUR

Proceeds to support Cornerstone

Lakeside Gardens of Cobourg Garden Tour

Sunday June 25, 2023 10am-3pm

Explore nine breathtaking gardens on Cobourg's lakefront (one hour east of Toronto)

Our **Garden Gallery** showcases garden-themed works donated by local artists and artisans: small paintings, metal sculptures, stained glass, birdhouses, etc. that are available for purchase

Proceeds go to support
Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre
Tickets \$30 (available by May 1)

Ticket agents:

Cobourg: Quinn's Blooms and Greenery

Port Hope: Holton Flowers

online: cornerstonenorthumberland.ca/gardentour



CORNERSTONE
Family Violence Prevention Centre

Contributed by: Jenny Cheng-Burke
Cornerstone Garden Tour Committee

Growing Together



A SEEDY JOB

The Practice
of seed
starting.

By Bonnie Young

While we are still in the grips of winter here in Cobourg, with a little effort, we can channel our love of gardening to the wonderful practice of seed starting. There is so much satisfaction to be gained from watching a tiny seed sprout and grow into what will eventually become something we can eat or something that can fill our gardens with beauty.

WHERE TO GET SEEDS

There are so many options—from local retailers, to Canadian seed suppliers, to organic and heirloom seeds...here are just a few options for you to explore:

CANADIAN SEED COMPANIES

URBAN HARVEST: 100% certified organic seeds, seedlings and garden supplies that promote ecological diversity and preserve the health of our planet. Their organic and heirloom varieties are specially chosen for their unique qualities for both urban gardens and market gardeners.

All of their seedlings are grown in or near the Greater Toronto Area to support the economies of Toronto, Ontario and Canada. <https://uharvest.ca/shop/>

VESSEY'S—This PEI seed company is over 80 years old and offers cross-country shipping. Their selection includes vegetables, flowers, fruit, herbs and more, plus you can add an assortment of gardening tools you may need to your order.

STEMS FLOWER FARM—This husband and wife Ontario seed supplier duo offer up lots of options for growing flowers and vegetables. Their flower farm supplies local florists and we can get in on the online seed orders too.

THE SEED COMPANY BY E.W. GAZE—A go-to for gardeners and farmers alike, this Newfoundland seed supplier has been around since 1925.

Growing Together

Lights, Mats, and more

WHEN, HOW, WHERE TO PLANT SEEDS by Bonnie Young

WHEN TO PLANT SEEDS

This helpful chart is from the Farmer's Almanac and is calibrated for Cobourg:

<https://www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-calendar/ON/Cobourg>

HOW TO PLANT SEEDS

The best success with seed starting does require some equipment. A sunny windowsill can work, but I've had best success with seed mats and grow lights. Seed mats:

<https://www.amazon.ca/Heating-Mat/s?k=Heating+Mat>

And grow lights-these are the ones I have:

<https://www.amazon.ca/Jiffy-140298-Hydro-Grow-Light/dp/B078H8S6B4/>

But there are so many to choose from-have fun exploring the options either online or at Canadian Tire who also had a good selection of mats and grow lights last year.

Good luck with your seeds-and make sure to take lots of photos-we'd love to include them on our new website.

Crop	* Based on Frost Dates ☾ Based on Moon Dates	
	Start Seeds Indoors	Plant Seedlings or Transplants
<u>Basil</u>	* Feb 17-Mar 3 ☾ Feb 17-27	* Apr 15-May 6 ☾ Apr 15-26
<u>Bell Peppers</u>	* Feb 3-17 ☾ Feb 11-17	* Apr 22-May 6 ☾ Apr 22-26
<u>Broccoli</u>	* Feb 17-Mar 3 ☾ Feb 17-27	* Mar 18-Apr 8 ☾ Mar 18-28
<u>Cabbage</u>	* Feb 17-Mar 3 ☾ Feb 17-27	* Mar 18-Apr 1 ☾ Mar 18-28



**Native Plant Nursery
Opens May 20th**

greenup.on.ca/ecology-park

1899 Ashburnham Drive

**GreenUP
STORE**
378 Aylmer Street North

**UPDATED
HOURS**
shop.greenup.on.ca

- 10am-5pm
Tuesdays - Fridays
- 10am-4pm
Saturdays
- Closed
Sundays & Mondays

Growing Together



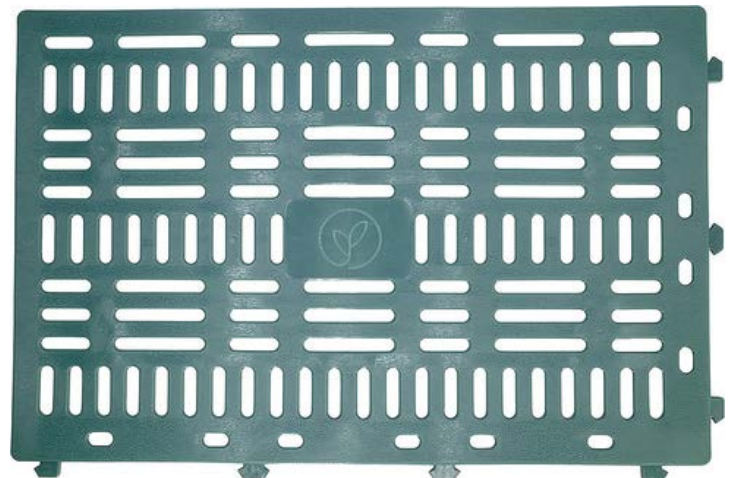
TIRED OF FEEDING RABBITS FOR HASENPFEFFER?

By Ken Strauss

All animals must eat and braised rabbit with prunes is delicious. However we have tired of having rabbits dine on our young trees. The usual cure is to wrap the trunks with a white plastic tape. The tape is fine in the winter but ugly the rest of the year. Plus there are frequently unprotected gaps between wraps of the tape. To solve the rabbit problem we have protected our trees with green plastic tubes that blend nicely with the plants.

Our chosen protectors are pricey but versatile – you can join two horizontally to accommodate larger trunks and you can stack several vertically to make it even harder for the rabbits to nibble tender shoots. The individual protectors are about 13½ by 9 inches so one will protect a tree up to about 3 inches in diameter.

I'm certain that there are other suppliers but ours arrived with next day delivery from Amazon. Visit <https://www.amazon.ca/gp/product/B08WZ2S3HH/> for more information. A somewhat similar protector is available from Lee Valley Tools (<https://www.leevalley.com/en-ca/shop/garden/garden-care/plant-protection/51622-trunk-guard?item=SC125>) but they do not allow vertical stacking and they are also more expensive.



Growing Together



Port Hope Garden Club June 21st, 2023, Bus Trip

Destinations: Whistling Gardens and Northland Nursery (towards Hamilton)

Whistling Gardens: <https://whistlinggardens.ca>

- Whistling Gardens is home to North America's largest Public Peony and Conifer Collection
- Stroll the 20 acres of gardens & view the large computer-run fountain show.
- Our visit will start with a guided tour.
- You'll have time on your own to explore.
- A catered lunch is included. Any dietary needs will be provided for.

Northland Nursery: <https://www.northlandnursery.com>

- All plants in 1-gallon pots – price \$ 8.99

Tour Provider: Lakeshore Tours

Timing: Pickup in Port Hope at the Commuter Parking Lot on Toronto Road, south of 401.

- Load bus: 8:00 – travel time approximately 2 ½ hours – brief stop along the way
- Whistling Gardens 10:30 – guided tour, lunch, explore, leave 1:30 pm
- Travel to Northland Nursery – about 50 minutes – 1 ½ hours to explore & make purchases (Bring baskets or boxes to hold plants in the storage under the bus.)
- Head for Home: 4:00 pm – arrive about 6:30 pm

Before April 26th, 2023, Reserve Your Place on the Bus Trip by:

- Emailing Bonnie Tuttle with your name, phone number & Email. bonnie@aprod.com
- Also, do this for any friends that you have invited.
- Pay the \$50.00 deposit by E-transfer to: adam@lakeshoretours.ca
 - Password : gardening
- Or mail a cheque to:
Lakeshore Tours
17 King ST. E
Bowmanville, ON, L1C 1N2

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter articles/photos submissions
due 15th of the month BEFORE the
newsletter is published. Publication dates:
1 June 2023 & 1 September & 1 December
Note: submissions may be held for
following editions.

Contact: Tonya Davis
bunnytdavis@sympatico.ca



2023
Program

Cobourg Garden Club

UPCOMING EVENTS

COBOURG April GARDEN CLUB	5 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Succulents & Drought Tolerant Plants with Ann Mizyn
COBOURG May GARDEN CLUB	3 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Charlie Dobbin Container/Vertical Gardening Spring Mini Flower & Photography
COBOURG June GARDEN CLUB	7 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Gini Sage, Durham Master Gardener on Square Ft. Gardening



Growing Together



Houseplant Swap

Saturday, March 25th

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rotary Room at the Cobourg Public Library

Bring your houseplants potted or clipped and swap them for other plants or clippings of the same size or rarity. All are welcome and no registration is required.



Cobourg Public Library
200 Ontario Street
Cobourg, Ontario K9A 5P4 | 905-372-9271
www.cobourg.library.on.ca

HELP!

We are always looking for Volunteer Gardeners to help us weed our "Garden of Reading" located on the South West part of the Library.

Please have anyone interested apply to be a volunteer here:

<https://www.cobourg.ca/en/my-cobourg/Volunteer.aspx>



Seed Library Launch:

Saturday, March 25th.

Take out free seeds like you would a book and return any seeds you save at the end of the season so that we can replenish our library.



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www.cobourg.library.on.ca



Friday, March 24th

Ben O'Brien the owner of

wild by design

**Presentation at 11:00 a.m. in the Rotary Room at the CPL
Learn about layered planting so that folks can aim to weed less.**

Learn about his business here:

<https://www.wildbydesign.ca/>



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Growing Together

COLCANNON

from Bonnie Young

Serves 4

Spring has got to be just around the corner...doesn't it?

I know we don't have much fresh produce in our gardens or farmer's markets just yet, but that doesn't mean we can't prepare a delicious side dish that would go well with any roast meat—perhaps even for your St. Patrick's Day dinner.

Colcannon is a traditional Irish recipe that consists of very simple ingredients: potatoes, cabbage, milk and butter. It is comforting and hearty with ingredients that most cooks have on hand.

Here's a simple version I hope you will enjoy:

5 Medium sized waxy potatoes (about 1 3/4 lbs) I use Yukon Golds, peeled
6 tablespoons unsalted butter (divided)
2 leeks pale green and white parts only, sliced in half lengthwise and thinly sliced crosswise. Use finely chopped onions if you don't have leeks
2 cups (packed) shredded savoy cabbage
1 1/4 cups milk
1/2 cup heavy cream
Salt and Pepper

Cover potatoes with water in a pot, season with salt. Bring to a boil over med-high heat, then reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are they are soft. Drain and let cool slightly.

While the potatoes are cooking, melt 4 tablespoons of butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add leeks and cook, stirring until very soft (8-10 min). Add cabbage and cook stirring until cabbage wilts down. Add milk and cream and bring to a simmer.

Add the potatoes and remaining 1 cup of cabbage, then coarsely mash with a potatoe masher. Season with Salt and pepper.

Add the remaining butter to the top just before serving.



Source Picture: <https://stripedspatula.com/creamy-leek-cabbage-colcannon/>

Growing Together



OHA 115th Convention
July 21 - 23, 2023
District 2 - Ottawa Valley



People Protecting the People's Seeds **Peterborough Seedy Sunday**

Sunday March 12, 2023 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

TBD

Peterborough, ON

15th annual Seedy Sunday (take two!)

Contact: urbantomato@gmail.com

More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/397363018229582>



**NORTH AMERICAN
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

NANPS Webinar - *Native Shrubs for your Garden* with Colleen Cirillo, March 21, 2023, 7:00 - 8:30 PM (EST)

Native plants are gaining popularity for both ecological and aesthetic reasons. As they become more available, deciding which species to add to your garden can be overwhelming. In this webinar, we will take a close look at the plants "in between." Not the giant trees, nor the small forbs, but the shrubs. Species in this group vary greatly in form, size and habitat, meaning there are options for each and every application or situation in your garden – shade or sun, wet or dry, specimen or hedge, naturalized or formal. Canada is home to hundreds of native shrub species; however this webinar will consider only a small selection of mostly wide-ranging species that work well in gardens and can be found in nurseries. Our 2023 webinars are offered in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation and with the generous support of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. [Register now](#).

E-mail: info@nanps.org