



# Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

October 2025

## President's Message



As golden hues of October take hold and final harvests roll in, it's the perfect time to prepare for what lies ahead. While many think of fall as the end of the garden cycle, seasoned gardeners know it's actually the beginning of next year's successes. Here are a few tips on how to make the most of this month.

### Final Vegetable Harvest & Cleanup

As our first frost date quickly approaches, it's time to collect the last of your tomatoes, squash, carrots, and other late-season crops. Root vegetables can sometimes benefit from staying in the ground until the first light frost, but be sure to pull them before the soil freezes. After harvesting, remove spent plants from your vegetable beds to reduce overwintering pests and diseases. Compost healthy plant matter, but dispose of anything showing signs of disease. This clean slate will make spring planting a breeze.

### Planting Spring Bulbs

Now's the time to plant spring-flowering bulbs like tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and hyacinths. These bulbs need the winter cold to bloom successfully.

Tips for success:

- ▶ Plant bulbs 2–3 times deeper than their height, pointy end up.
- ▶ Choose well-drained soil to prevent rot.
- ▶ Add bone meal or bulb fertilizer at planting time for stronger blooms.
- ▶ Protect newly planted bulbs from squirrels with chicken wire.

### Winterizing Your Garden

Winter in Zone 5 can be harsh, so give your garden a little protection

- ▶ **Mulch:** Add a thick layer of mulch, such as shredded leaves or straw, around perennials, young trees, and shrubs to insulate roots against freeze-thaw cycles.
- ▶ **Water:** Water everything deeply before the ground freezes. Plants will enter dormancy hydrated and healthier.
- ▶ **Wrap delicate shrubs:** Use burlap to protect evergreens and sensitive shrubs like boxwoods from drying winter winds and heavy snow.
- ▶ **Clean tools and containers:** Wash and store tools, pots, and hoses before frost hits. Sharpen and oil digging and cutting tools.



## Attracting Birds in Fall & Winter

Your garden doesn't have to go silent in winter. Many birds stick around — and they will be hungry. Birds visit more often if you give them a reason.

- ▶ **Feeders:** Set up feeders stocked with black oil sunflower seeds, suet, and nyjer for finches. Keep feeders clean. Place them near shrubs or trees for cover from predators.
- ▶ **Native Plants:** Leave seed heads on coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and ornamental grasses... birds love the seeds. Consider planting dogwood, viburnum, and serviceberry, which offer natural berries through the colder months.
- ▶ **Water:** Birds need fresh water year-round. Think about a heated birdbath or adding a simple livestock water heater to an existing bath.

October might feel like the end. But in the garden, it's really just the beginning of next year's story. With a little care now, you'll set the stage for a vibrant, bird-filled, and bountiful garden come spring.

Happy gardening,

Rick Roberts, President

## FIELD TRIP: Seed Packing and Garden Walk hosted by The Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library

Irene Tobis, Vice-President, Board of Directors

**When:** Sunday, October 26, 2025 from 1:00-3:00pm EST

**Where:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden, near 865 Prince of Wales Dr., Ottawa, ON, K2C 3K1

**About:** At this event you can help OWSL volunteers pack seeds or join them for a walk through the garden to learn more about seed harvesting.

If you are interested, please contact Irene Tobis at [irenetobis@gmail.com](mailto:irenetobis@gmail.com) for more information.

## NOVEMBER 5TH CPDHS GENERAL MEETING

The Benefits of Medicinal plants. Our Speaker, Marcin Padlewski N. D. is a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine. Marcin follows a holistic approach toward wellbeing. He will talk about the benefits of medicinal herbs and plants.

The Climate change and Biodiversity Committee with the Hospitality Committee will host a Jam, Jelly and Preserves competition. Members of the Horticultural Society can bring in their entries to be judged on taste, appearance and recipe creativity. The main judge will be Helen Halpenny who is a Master Gardener as well as a judge of jams, preserves and pickles at fairs in the area.

The Hospitality Committee will provide tea biscuits for the entries to be tasted by all members after the judging. Creating jams is environmentally helpful by reducing food waste. It enables year round enjoyment of seasonal produce. It also helps to support local farms and local economies.

We will be able to taste what's in local gardens and our own gardens. So please keep a jar of your homemade jam or preserves. Don't despair if you haven't made any -- it's apple season, and be creative making a pepper jelly if you do not have berries.



# What Pruning Tools Should I Have?

Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners



There are many tools for pruning available on the market. Hand pruners can range in price from \$60+, down to \$10. The most important thing to look for is how do these tools feel in my hand. If you have a lot of pruning to do, you may want to buy the heavy-duty tools that professionals use. Cheap tools are really no bargain as you will end up replacing them after little use. Power tools are making many improvements and now, many are powered by a rechargeable battery, so you don't have to worry about a long extension cord or having sufficient gasoline to power them.

There is also good news for left-handed folks. Increasingly, tools are being built for them. You may have to look but they are available.

You do not need to have a tool shed full of pruning equipment to handle your pruning needs. A few basic tools should do the job.

## Clippers and Loppers

Hand Clippers are the main tool for home gardeners. I never went into my yard without my hand clippers in my pocket. Clippers come in 2 styles:

- ▶ Scissor type where the two blades cross.
- ▶ Anvil type where the two blades meet.

The choice is yours. It is a matter of personal preference.

Loppers are like clippers but with long handles so you can reach farther up into your tree or shrub without needing to get out the ladder.

## Saws

For heavier work, you will need a pruning saw. Look for a saw with fine teeth for smooth work and coarser teeth for large limbs. You will likely need one of each to get the job done. There are:

- ▶ Pole saws that give you extra reach while standing securely on the ground.
- ▶ Curved blade saw which is ideal for gardeners with light to average amounts of pruning. I like to look for one that has replacement blades as sharpening the teeth is time consuming. The narrow blade makes it easy to get into the plant if necessary.
- ▶ Chain saws are useful for removing trees or large branches. They make a rough cut and are difficult to control. Safety equipment is essential when using these beasts. I leave that to the pros. Smaller battery operated saws are a great choice for homeowners.





## Shearing Equipment

Shearing is a form of pruning that involves removing soft new growth. It is done primarily to dwarf trees, shape hedges or to develop formal topiary. When shearing, you are not cutting any heavy wood so you will need different equipment.

- ▶ Machetes and knives are light weight and fast and easy to use. They are inexpensive and easy to use but they are dangerous so choose and use wisely.
- ▶ Electric saw, if you have a large hedge to care for, electric shears are worth the investment. They now come in battery powered forms and can be small and lightweight.
- ▶ Hedge Shears are safe, durable, easy to control and inexpensive. They are adequate for most shearing jobs, are easily sharpened and require little muscle power.

I reached out to my brother, Kim Allen for his input as he has a house on a large, treed lot and a cottage surrounded by many trees. He does have a traditional chainsaw but also a battery-operated pruner that easily cuts larger branches. He also uses a saw that attaches to the end of his string trimmer giving him about an 11 foot reach.

Keep your pruning tools well-oiled and rust free. As you can see from these tools, I do not always practice what I preach.



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We depend on our members for its content. If you would like to contribute, please send your submissions to:

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