



CARLETON PLACE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

November 2022

Amaryllis Bulbs



Once again, each year, these bulbs are sold. And for some unknown reason, they are sold only in the fall before Christmas. The bulbs in the photo are nice and plump. I like the colours of these varieties. Amaryllis is one of the easiest plants to flower. Nothing has to be done to them to get them to produce their blooms. They don't even have to be potted up in soil. Everything these bulbs need has already been done for them. Now a good challenge, once it has flowered, is to get it to reflower. Do not throw it out. The bulb has spent much of its stored energy to produce these flowers, so the thing to do now is to replenish that energy. It is the leaves and the chlorophyll in the leaves that reenergize the bulb. So, keep the leaves green for six weeks, watering and fertilizing them as needed. If you want, you can keep the leaves green for a more extended period, giving you a chance to make the bulb flower on your mother's birthday! Or whenever you want. The next step, which is very important, is to stop watering again for a minimum of six weeks. Longer if you wish. With these two procedures you can determine the next flowering date. Once you take the bulb out of dormancy, it will take the bulb six to eight weeks to flower, depending on temperature. Interestingly the leaves this time grow before the flowers. So do the math. When do you want your amaryllis to flower? Christmas?

Article by Paul Pietsch

CPDHS December Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM. We will conduct the business part of the meeting first - review of the financials, election of Board members and greetings from the District Director and OHA. We will then have a no foam Christmas Floral Arrangement demonstration by Cindy Zorgel. After the demonstration, we will have the Annual Society Awards and door prizes.

We will be doing a collection for the Build a Mountain for the Hunger Stop. Please see inside for more information on the items that are most needed.

Photo Competition 2022

Theme: 2022 Year of the Garden – The colour is Red

We had a fair amount of entries for the Photo Competition. Please take a few minutes to take in the show display. Thank you to everyone who participated. Congratulations to the winners!

FALL FLOWER SHOW

The Fall Flower Show was a big success!

There were several tables of exhibits on display covering a wide range of categories from general horticulture to edibles to floral design. Something for everyone. We had 14 exhibitors, and five of them were novice exhibitors. Even with the hard early frost we had earlier in the week, members



came through with high quality exhibits. The judging was done during the guest speaker's presentation so that attendees and exhibitors could see the results during the browsing period after the main talk.

This event was made possible through the considerable efforts of our Flower Show Coordinators: Doreen Harris, Heather Lebeau and Pat Morgan, and those who grew, created and displayed their exhibits.



The committee would like to express their appreciation to all members who entered.

We will have two or three flower shows next year and the schedules will be published early in the year so members can show what they grow.

How about those Garden Tools? Tasks for an inclement day...

Now that our flower and vegetable beds are tucked in for winter it's time to clean, sharpen, oil and store our garden tools. Oftentimes this important task is overlooked. However it is important to make the time to do it. These simple tasks will extend the life of your tools, eliminate transmissible disease, and make garden work so much easier next Spring.



- Clean – Remove the heaviest bits of dirt from your garden tools with a wire brush and then give them a good wash using a pail of soapy water and a sponge. Steel wool will remove the stubborn bits. Rubbing alcohol is effective for removing sticky residue from pruners that soap and water miss.



- Sharpen – Sharpened cutting edges on shovels, spades, hoes, pruners, lawn mower blades, etc make for lighter work. An appropriate metal file does a good job on most tools. I use a sharpening stone on my various pruners. Our shovels get a good sharpening on the business end but I also like to sharpen up the sides of the blades making it so much easier to dig. A quick touch up through the summer keeps them in top shape.

- Lubricate & protect – Metal surfaces can be protected by using a rag dampened with oil to wipe down the metal parts (penetrating, machine or motor oil). By the way, a tip for



keeping spades and shovels clean and protected during the growing season is to fill a 5 gallon pail (about 3/4 full) with sharp sand that has been lightly wetted with motor oil. Each time you finish using a shovel, insert and remove the blade from the sand a few times. It will be both clean and protected when you hang it back up in the shed. Keep the pail of sand in the shed or somewhere dry so you can reuse it all season. Pruners and loppers benefit from lubricating oil on the pivot points. Don't forget the wooden handles of your tools. Inspect them for splinters. Use sand paper or a wood file to smooth rough spots. Then wipe the wooden handles down with a rag dampened with boiled linseed oil. Allow to absorb and repeat. Lay the linseed soaked rag flat in the open air to dry thoroughly before putting it away or disposing of it. Wet oily rags are a fire hazard.



- Store – Garden tools should be stored over winter in a dry place with no contact to ground or concrete. It's a good time to check to see if you have any liquids stored in your shed or areas that will freeze. Move them to a heated space. Don't forget to drain and put away garden hoses and ensure that your exterior water taps are shut off and prepared for winter.

These few simple tasks will be appreciated next Spring when your garden starts to awaken from its long winter slumber and you begin to focus on the joy of new gardening season.

FOOD BANK DONATION

The Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society will be doing a Food Drive at our December 7th Meeting. Please consider bringing in an item or two to help support those in need during the holiday season.

Here is a list of the items most needed:

- ▶ cereal (cheerios, corn flakes, granola, rice crispies, fruit loops, shredded wheat, raisin bran, etc.)
- ▶ Sidekicks
- ▶ Hamburger/Tuna Helper
- ▶ 4T/5T pullups
- ▶ Baby food
- ▶ Baked beans
- ▶ Tomato soup
- ▶ Canned stew
- ▶ Canned salmon
- ▶ Gluten-free pasta and cereal

Cash donations are always appreciated (larger cash donations of \$20 or more will receive a charitable receipt). Our society will be making our annual cash donation as well.

Thank you for your generosity in advance!



Membership 2023

We will be working on the 2023 Membership Renewals and New Memberships at our December meeting. The price for Annual membership is \$15.00 per person. Beat the spring rush and renew early!

This newsletter is published by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and is distributed to its members free of charge.

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

Editor, Design and Layout: Linda Bartlett

Contributors: Paul Pietsch, Doreen Harris, Flower Show Committee, Rick Roberts, Laura Cupper

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/carletonplaceanddistricthorticulturalsociety>

Visit our website: www.cphorticulture.ca