



Join Us For Our GHS Virtual Holiday Get Together!

Mon Dec 28, 2020 @ 7 pm



Celebrate the spirit of the holidays by wearing a festive sweater, festive COVID mask (you can decorate your own mask...LOL) and sip your favourite holiday beverage.

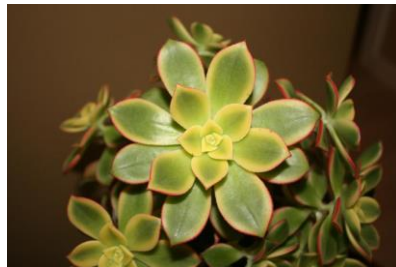


We will be playing bingo games with prizes awarded to the winners!

We hope to see many of our members join in!

And The Winner Is...GHS November Photo Contest

Congratulations to PJ Gagne as the winner of our Nov Photo Contest!



Thank you to all of our members who participated in our October contest.
Attached is the list of members and the wonderful photos they submitted.

GHS December Photo Contest

The winner will be announced at our **GHS Monthly Meeting on Mon Dec28th @ 7 pm**. Don't forget to cast your vote. Join us to hear who has won this month!
Thank you to all of our participants.

Save The Date!!!

Join us on Jan 24, 2021 to hear Paul Zammit speak
at our Virtual GHS Dream Garden Conference!



More details to follow in the new year.

The 'Pick A Tree For Ferguson Cottage' Contest

The winners of our contest were notified and wished to remain anonymous.
Thank you to everyone who submitted their great suggestions for the gardens at
Ferguson Cottage.

GHS January Photo Contest



Please send in a photo of your favourite “**Outdoor Winter Scenery & Wildlife**”.

Please send your pictures with the subject line ‘**Jan Photo Contest**’ to lynne@galthort.com by Jan 10th @ 6pm.

We will then send out the pictures to our members on Jan 11th and members can vote for their favourite photo.

Voting will take place between Jan 11th – 21st. Please send in your vote to lynne@galthort.com.

The winner will be announced at our Jan 25th monthly meeting via Zoom.

The prize will be delivered by porch drop off or by mail.

Please note any photo submitted may be posted on our Facebook page, GHS website and shared with membership in our monthly newsletter. Please indicate in your email if you do not wish to have your photos posted.

GHS December Online Auction

Congratulations to Andrea Lauren as the winner of our 1st online auction!

The opening bid for this Christmas wreath was \$20.00. Andrea won with her bid of \$25.00.



Stay tuned for more information about our next auctions to be held in January. We have lots of wonderful items coming up for bidding. **Join our Facebook group to view the items and place your bids!**

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

For Your Interest...

Here are some links to interesting articles, webinars and activities...

BIRDS IN FOCUS: Black-capped Chickadee By: Jody Allair

The cheery, familiar Black-capped Chickadee is well known by birders and non-birders throughout its range. The most common and widespread of Canada's chickadees, the Black-capped can be found in or near forested areas right across the country, with the exception of Nunavut. But let's be clear about something: there is nothing common or ordinary about these wonderful denizens of our backyards and local parks.



Black-capped Chickadee
Photo credit: Jody Allair

Black-capped Chickadees brazenly co-exist with humans and human-altered landscapes in a way that most other native songbirds cannot. They visit our feeders year-round, nest in our tree cavities and nest boxes and will routinely scorn you if you leave the feeder empty for too long. And to clarify something I get asked quite often – the answer is no, birds do not become dependent on the seed we put out for them. They're just smart and take full advantage of an easy meal. In fact, Black-capped Chickadees will take food from the feeder and stash it in crevices in tree bark (or the window siding of our house!) so that they have a steady supply of food for the winter months.

One of my favourite facts about Black-capped Chickadees is that they are one of the few birds in the world whose call (chick-a-dee-dee) is longer and more complex than their song (feeeebeeee)! Typically a bird's call is a short contact note, whereas a song is a more elaborate pattern of sounds.

The quintessential aspect of Black-capped Chickadee behavior that I think is most remarkable is how engaging they are with people. It doesn't matter who you are, chickadees will always come in for an inspection. These close encounters are so vital for building connections to nature. I've spoken to countless people over the years who have told me stories about how these types of experiences with Black-capped Chickadees have helped shape their appreciation for birds and nature. And frankly, that is something we all need a lot more of these days.

Good Birding!

Jody Allair
Director, Citizen Science and Community Engagement
[Birds Canada](#)

How Do I Care For My Amaryllis?

Claudette Sims Halton Master Gardener

“I got a beautiful amaryllis for Christmas. How do I care for it and get it to bloom next year?”



Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) come in a range of colours and sizes and are usually available in stores beginning in the fall. The larger more expensive bulbs are more likely to produce multiple stalks & more flowers. With good care, you can keep them growing & blooming for years to come!

Regeneration period - about 6 months

- January to June – Clip old flowers as they die. When all flowers have died, cut old, dried flower stems about 2-3 inches above the bulb and place the plants in a sunny window, allowing the leaves to grow and make new energy for the bulb. Water when the soil is dry. Fertilize with a dilute organic fertilizer about once a month. Bigger bulbs = more flowers

Question of the Month How do I care for my amaryllis? Claudette Sims Halton Master Gardener

- Late May to early June – Move pots outdoors once all chance of frost is past. Start in the shade and gradually move to full sun. Grow in pots or sink pots into

the soil rather than direct planting (roots are brittle and easily damaged). Make sure you mark the location of your plant if sinking into soil once the leaves dry out, it's easy to lose your bulbs.

Drying period –about 3 weeks

- Late July to late August –Transition to a drier area of the garden (e.g. under an overhang) and gradually stop watering to encourage the leaves to dry out and the bulb to go dormant.

Resting period- about 2 months

- Mid-August/September – Remove dead, dying foliage and do a general clean-up of pot &/or bulb if leaving bare. Transition bulbs/pots to a cool dark place, ideally, 10-13°C (50-60°F) for about 8 weeks. Allow the pots/bulbs to dry out but do not allow to freeze.

Start growing again –flowering in 4-8 weeks

- Mid October/November – Move the pot back into a warmer sunny area. Repot if needed, about every 3 -4 years. Roots are sensitive & should not be disturbed more frequently.
- Repotting: Choose a pot 1-2 inches larger in diameter than the bulb and at least 5 inches deep with good drainage holes. Add a light potting mix & then place the bulb (roots down & pointy side up ☺) in the pot. Add soil to within an inch of the top so that about ½ to 2/3 of the bulb is showing. Water well. Avoid watering on the neck of the bulb.
- Keep bulb on the dry side until it starts to grow. Increase watering as plant grows, but don't overwater as the bulb can rot. Stake the flower stem if needed and secure with twine or plant clips.

Caring For Poinsettias

By Judith Adam – GardenMaking-December in the garden



Poinsettia (Photo by [Brendan Adam-Zwelling](#))

There was a time when holiday poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) were always red. But now the beautiful pink, white, plum, cranberry and variegated versions make them all the more irresistible. And what's more, they're so much bigger. With care, poinsettias can stay in good condition indoors over the winter months. Poinsettias like consistent moisture, and quickly wilt when their soil becomes dry. The time to water is when the soil surface feels dry, and the weight of the container is lighter. A large pot with three plants clumped together will be filled with roots and constantly thirsty; it may need a drink every day.

Dropping flowers and foliage is a sign a poinsettia is in distress. The actual flowers are the small yellow berries surrounded with the colourful bracts (petal-like structures). Poinsettias like everything in moderation — flowers and bracts will begin to drop if the plant is in a cold draft or the room lacks humidity or the soil in the pot becomes dry or the light is too low. The best location is near a window with bright indirect light. Turn the plant each day to prevent the foliage from straining for light. Night temperature in the room should be no lower than 15°C.

When light, temperature and soil moisture needs are adequate, poinsettias will keep their colourful display until mid-spring. Colour will begin fading from the bracts in April and May, and some foliage may fall. If you want to keep the plant going through the summer, cut the stems back to four inches (10 cm), and repot the plant, removing some of the old compost and replacing it with fresh soilless mix. (The cuttings can be rooted to make additional plants, using powdered rooting hormone, clean pots and soilless mix.) Feed with a balanced fertilizer

(such as 10-10-10) every four weeks. The poinsettia can summer outdoors in indirect light, but avoid direct sun on the foliage.

By late summer the poinsettia will be quite full, and probably taller than it was when first purchased. (Plants grown in greenhouses are given solutions to keep them bushy and short.) In September, bring the poinsettia indoors to a suitable location. To induce the colourful bracts, the plant must be kept in total darkness for 14 hours every night. Cover it with a black plastic bag in early evening, removing the bag in the morning. Do this for eight weeks, and the plant will once again provide a dazzling colourful display.

Winter Wonders at the RBG

- Wednesdays to Sundays
- Nov 18 to Dec 23
- Additional Dates: Dec 27-30, Jan 2, 3
- Free with your RBG admission



https://www.rbg.ca/things-to-do/by-season/winter-wonders/?gclid=Cj0KCQIAwf39BRCCARIsALXWETx2pkCu8UbU_C3slybQbjT-fkMGxMyEsuU1SPLXVJbVS-cdkXcfRDUaAojLEALw_wcB

Brantford Master Gardeners **Tips From The Watering Can**



Join our Brantford Master Gardeners. We are experienced gardeners who started out as Master Gardeners in Training and had the opportunity to study horticulture through Guelph University courses and once we received our MG status continued to upgrade our skills through technical training. Our ongoing mandate is to provide horticultural advice to the general public through garden tours, community events, on-line and talks. We would love to have you join our group. Contact Nancy Lee - nleecolibaba@gmail.com.

Forcing Spring Bulbs by Anne Saunders, Brantford Master Gardener

Like many of us, I am always impatient to see beautiful blooms in my garden in early spring. The grocery stores are selling mini daffodils and primulas but often the bulbs in the garden are not poking through. I try to correct that situation, as well as satisfying my inability to pass up a good deal, by purchasing spring bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, when they are on sale in November or December.

Bulbs need 12 to 14 weeks of cold darkness to initiate growth, so around Christmas, pot up your end-of-season sale treasures. I plant the bulbs tightly together in a fairly deep pot using regular soilless potting mix. If you are planting tulips, face the flat side of the bulb to the side of the pot. If you are mixing different varieties of bulbs in the same pot note the blooming time which should be printed on the package along with the mature height (shorter plants tend to stand up better). If you want them all to bloom at the same time make sure they are all labelled 'early', 'mid-season', or 'late'. If you want a succession of blooms, choose the bulbs accordingly. The bulbs don't need to be planted as deeply as it says on the box/package but make sure they are covered by at least an inch or so of planting mix. Also be sure the pot is deep enough for lots of root development. Water well, cover with a board or black plastic and place in a cold spot. It won't be a problem if the pot gets some frost but if it freezes completely, you might not get good or any growth. Mine goes into a garage that may go below freezing occasionally but not for extended periods. Check periodically to make sure the potting mix is damp, not wet. In late February or early March, put the pot in a sunny spot outdoors, but put it back in the garage if the night temperature is well below freezing. If all goes well, you will have a pot of beautiful blooms long before

the ones in the garden. If they tend to be floppy push a branched twig or two into the pot to help them stand up .

Q&A

- **Q1.** Where do you buy mistletoe?

It cannot be purchased in our area, as it is not hardy in our zone. It is a parasitic plant and is found growing up trees and can eventually kill them. It is banned in certain areas where the health of the trees is a concern. Mistletoe can be grafted into the bark of apple, hawthorn and conifer trees. Only the females bear fruit.

- **Q2.** I received a decorated live rosemary plant for Christmas. It had a nice shape. When can it be planted outside and how big will it grow?

It can be planted outside in June. It is not winter hardy in zone 5a-6. It will need to be brought in before cold temperatures set in. It can grow to 12-24" in height and can be pruned to maintain its conical shape.

Membership Has Its Benefits!!



Please note that due to COVID-19, all current 2020 memberships will be extended to 2021.

The Galt Horticultural Society's membership is continuing to grow!

Encourage fellow gardeners, family and friends to become a part of a historical society.

Membership gives everyone the opportunity to make new friends, learn about horticulture/gardening and remain engaged with other gardeners.

Once the pandemic is over, we will resume our workshops, venture off on exciting bus tours and visit open gardens in the community and so much more!

The cost is only \$15 (single) & \$25 (couple).

Please visit our website at www.galthort.com to join!

GHS Member Recipes



The holidays will soon be here and if you are looking for an easy to prepare appetizer this recipe is sure to please!

Baked Brie With Nuts and Dried Fruit

With five minutes of prep time, this incredibly easy appetizer is a favourite around the holidays. You don't even need to splurge on a fancy brie, a budget choice is just as delicious with every sweet and savoury bite. And while this holiday recipe calls for walnuts or hazelnuts, as well as cranberries or cherries, feel free to add in whatever nuts and dried fruit you prefer. Almond and pecans are always tasty, alongside apricots or figs. You can also swap out the herbs for a strip of orange or lemon zest too.



Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4 (double the recipe to serve more guests)

Ingredients:

200 g double cream brie

3 Tbsp packed brown sugar

3 Tbsp maple syrup

1 Tbsp butter

2 sprigs thyme or rosemary

½ cup toasted walnuts or hazelnuts

¼ cup dried cranberries or dried cherries

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Place the brie in a small oven-safe skillet or a parchment paper-lined baking tray. Score the top with a paring knife for the cheese to quickly warm. Bake until softened and slightly puffed all around about 15 minutes.

2. While the brie is in the oven, make the topping: combine the brown sugar, maple syrup, butter and thyme in a small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a low boil; cook, stirring until brown sugar is dissolved, about 1 minute. Stir in nuts and dried cranberries.

3. Immediately top warm brie with hot pecan cranberry mixture and serve with crackers and fresh fruit if desired.

Tip: If using a heat-safe small skillet or ceramic dish, the brie will stay warm for up to 15 minutes. It can also be reheated in the microwave until warm, about 30 seconds. If you're a fan of toasted nuts, feel free to toast them before adding to the brown sugar mixture. Do so over medium heat, stirring until lightly browned, 3-5 minutes. Enjoy!

Please share your family favourite fall recipes with our members.

Recipes can be emailed to recipes@galthort.com and will be shared on our website, FB page and monthly newsletter. This month's recipe is...

Hort Humour







Wear Your Galt Horticultural Society Logo Wear With Pride!



GHS Logo Wear

Get your own Galt Horticultural Society T-Shirt and/or Hoodie. This is a sample of the embroidered crest included on the item.

T-shirts: \$20.50 + tax.

Unisex Hoodies: \$36.00 + tax.

For more information or to place an order, follow this link:

[GHS Logo Wear](#)

To you... our membership... thank you for your continued support throughout 2020! We wish everyone a safe and merry holiday!



 Find us on
Facebook

GHS Website: <https://galthort.com/>