

Think
Spring!

The Garden Master News

ISSUE # 7

VOLUME # 2

SPRING 2015



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SPRING



My Spring Garden



Here is my little garden,
Some seeds I'm going to sow.
Here is my rake to rake the ground,
Here is my handy hoe.
Here is the big, round yellow sun;
The sun warms everything.
Here are the rain clouds in the sky
The birds will start to sing.
Little plants will wake up soon,
And lift their sleepy heads;
Little plants will grow and grow
In their little, warm earth beds.





AMGA Notes



Let's Talk About Volunteering

The title could have been "Let's talk about being a Certified Master Gardener."

Currently the volunteer requirement for a Certified Atlantic Master Gardener is provide 25 volunteer hours per year of which 8 of those hours are dedicated to educating others.

There has been much discussion over the years about this requirement. Some of our members struggle to offer hands on gardening in their communities and would much rather teach gardening techniques at a garden center or school and others have the complete opposite preference.

At the February Executive meeting the idea was raised to drop the breakdown of type of volunteer work required and to simply have one category coded as V for volunteer. The motion to make this change was voted on and approved by the Executive. This change will result in a change to the bylaws and cannot be implemented until it is voted on by our membership at the AMGA meeting in July.

With that aside I want to say it has been wonderful to read about the work our members have been doing over this past year. We cover a large and diverse geographic area and come with a wide range of talents. The association seeks to promote volunteer and education opportunities for Master Gardeners and to further the mission of educating the community with research-based gardening.

– *Anita Sulley, AMGA Volunteer Coordinator*

Other Notes

Thanks to all members who have contributed articles to our quarterly Newsletter! We love to get your input!

This is **your** Newsletter - a spot for you to make a comment, a statement, report on a Project, an idea or just tell us about your successes and failures in your garden, tell us the story of your garden, or a special garden in your community, a Gardening book or video you found. Let us know about Gardening events in your Community. Send your info to:

suestuart@bellaliant.net

The Executive of AMGA meets every couple of months by teleconference. The dates of Meetings are usually set for the year so we know when a Meeting is coming up. We need YOU and your ideas on the Executive! Our members are spread widely, and the teleconference Meetings work well. Nobody has to travel unless there is more than one member in an area and it's convenient to get together and share a phone call. If you could contribute a few hours to help with moving our organization forward contact one of the Executive and offer to be a Member at Large or another position of interest to you.

Don't forget, now that we are starting to frequent gardening centres, your membership card for AMGA and NSAGC (you are a member if you belong to AMGA or another Garden Club) entitles you to a 10% discount on plants, etc at most Garden Centres.

Hope to see you at the AMGA Conference & AGM July 9-10!



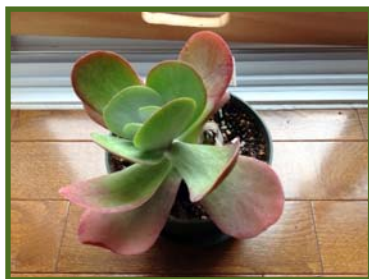
Presidents Message

by Heather Connors-Dunphy



Hello AMGA members ...It is cold and dreary as I write this... however the rhubarb is up in the garden and I have seedlings set out in the greenhouse. Can the real spring be far behind?

Due to family circumstances last fall I did not get any garden clean up done. It is still there waiting for me! The birds certainly had a wonderful time with all the spent echinacea flowers. Despite heavy snow the yucca are standing straight... they have been planted for at least six years and although they have produced several pups, they have not bloomed...yet! Some rhodos are still under the snow but on those I can see, the buds seem to have survived a hard winter. I always marvel at the tree peonies... the stems are gnarly sticks, but the buds look viable and quite a number of them have begun to swell. Some of the purple heuchera are already sporting foliage and brightening up. In the gardening promotions I see lots of succulents being used in containers; I think I will give that a whirl this season.



Succulent for 2015 container planting

Your Executive met by phone in February and April. The 2015 Conference was developed at these and other meetings. All the info is on the website and registrations are being processed.

The Executive will be putting forward proposals at the AGM to simplify volunteering requirements. A simplified membership renewal process with one date for all documents is also being proposed

Preset conference hours are being introduced for two events happening this summer. We are working on the definition of another membership type which will likely also be on the AGM agenda.

We have another Executive meeting in early June to prepare for the AGM. Please share your ideas, constructive comments etc. with us. Lynn will be contacting you re: recruitment of Executive members for the 2015 slate of Officers. Anita is also looking for someone to share the workload in the member hours and reporting area.

I know that you all work hard on your volunteering and I want to thank all those who have stepped forward and contributed articles to the newsletter. In the meanwhile...I have just completed an article on invasive plants for the newsletter. I also receive emails from the public (generated through the AMGA website) on their gardening questions.

These usually turn out to be a learning experience for me. As the result of one of these I have to do some research on ferns. Last week's questions were about native milkweed.

Happy spring. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Truro.

- *Heather*

Message from Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

- by Carol Goodwin



Happy Spring everyone! I really feel we can say 'I made it' after this winter, but unfortunately a lot of wildlife did not. Help out by choosing a tree or shrub that hangs on to its fruit all winter so it will be available when the crunch hits. There's good information on crabapples here:

<http://migarden.msu.edu/uploads/files/e2177.pdf>

Sherry and I have been working hard to get the MG Summer School organized. It's ready and the information is on the Extended Learning website here:

<http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses.html>

As well, we're rewriting the MG Plant ID and Use course. It will be 150 plants instead of 100. The new course will replace the existing one in October 2015.

I have been working with the other executive members to organize the second annual AMGA Conference. I think it's going to be great! The details are in the newsletter, so I'll just say – take a look! I am working on a new MG course in garden design (yay!). It will begin in October 2016. Once I have that done, I'm open to suggestions for the next one!

I have finally bitten the bullet and retired (the end of June), but the university has hired me to manage the Master Gardener program. That's why I finally have time to write the new course! One of my colleagues, Norman Goodyear, has moved to MUN Botanical Garden. We will be working together to create a 'home' there for our MGs in Newfoundland, and I'm really excited about that! He will be a great asset to both us and Memorial University.

There were 13 MG students from the Atlantic region in the program this year. I would appreciate suggestions for getting the word out and where we could best promote the program.

I'm always glad to hear from you, so email me anytime you want to get in touch. I still have my Dal email, carol.goodwin@dal.ca





Invasive Plants

- by Heather Connors-Dunphy

Several days ago I was having a discussion with someone about the control of woodland angelica. It has become a very common plant in the mid and lower St John River Valley and is taking over large areas of the river bottomland, where it displaces native plants and creates an inhospitable habitat for wildlife. This plant produces a lot of seed and also spreads by rhizomes.

I then began to wonder how prevalent it is in other provinces, and what the invasives profile is elsewhere in the country, or at least where AMGA members garden!

What are invasive plants?

- ♦ they come from outside the province or area
- ♦ they have the potential to force out native plants;
- ♦ decreased natives means decreased biodiversity

What makes a plant invasive? After much reading a good list of characteristics of invasive plants is:

- ♦ high annual seed
- ♦ spreading underground roots that quickly reestablish after cutting, pulling or burning

What can we as gardeners and citizens do about invasives? (sourced from a Field Guide to 12 Invasive Plants of Concern in New Brunswick, Managing Invasive Plants section, NB Invasive Species Council brochure)

- ♦ don't buy or plant any of these species
- ♦ dig up and destroy those that arise in your yard.
- ♦ do not compost flowers, seeds or roots

- ♦ cut stems before flowering to reduce seed production
- ♦ check boots, bicycle tires etc. before leaving an infested area
- ♦ be prepared to repeat control measures
- ♦ limit disturbance of natural areas - disturbed areas are more easily invaded

As I was preparing this listing and doing the research I realized how many of these plants have medicinal properties and perhaps benefits. Seed for many of them is commonly available. Quite a number are also considered invasive in various US states and in the UK.

The table on the following page was composed from the resource web sites noted. I have included the common and Latin names and the provinces where the plants are considered invasive. You will note that a number of the plants are considered thugs in more than one province!

Sources:

PEI Invasives Council www.peiinvasives.ca
 NB Invasive Species Council www.nbisc.ca
 NS invasives problems with invasivespeciesns.ca so table is limited to info on Halifax at www.halifax.ca/energy-environment/invasivespecies.com
 Newfoundland and Labrador data www.env.gov.nl.ca
 Ontario information and an excellent brochure in pdf format www.invadingspecies.com

Common name	Latin Name	NB	NS	PE	NL	ON
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	x				x
Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	x				
Dog-strangling vine	<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>	x				x
Flowering Rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	x				
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	x		x		x
Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	x	x	x		x
Glossy Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	x		x		
Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	x	x	x		x
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	x	x		x	x
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	x				
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	x	x	x	x	
Woodland Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	x				
Yellow Flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>			x	x	
Wild Cucumber	<i>Echinocystis lobata</i>			x		
Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>		x	x		
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>			x		x
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>		x	x		
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>			x		x
Bittersweet Nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>					
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>		x		x	
Common Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>		x			
Goutweed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>		x		x	x
Yellow Floating Heart	<i>Hymphoides peltatum</i>		x			
Black Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>				x	
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>				x	
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>				x	
Wild Chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>				x	
Sea Buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>				x	
Maitoba maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>					x
Noway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>					x
European or black alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>					x
European spindletree and winged euonymus	<i>Euonymus europaeus and E alatus</i>					x
non-native bush honeysuckles	<i>Lonicera spp</i>					x
Reed or Giant Manna Grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>					x
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>					x



AMGA Conference

IMPROVING SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

Following is the schedule of events for the AMGA Conference taking place Thursday, July 9, 2015 and Friday July 10, 2015 on the Dal Agricultural Campus in Truro. Don't miss it!

You can find more details about the Conference at:

<http://atlanticmastergardeners.ca/documents/conference.2015.pdf>

Thursday, July 9 - Day 1

8:00-9:00 - Registration, Arrival and Welcome
- **Collins Building**

9:00-10:30 - Case Study Meet the kids behind Hope Blooms. The founder of Hope Blooms, Jessie Jollymore and a team of the Hope Blooms kids will tell us how gardening has changed their lives and changed the Ahood@. This is an inspiring story you'll want to hear. You'll be able to meet the Hope Blooms kids, and you will have an opportunity to stock up on what is becoming the Canada famous Hope Blooms salad dressings. Learn more about Hope Blooms here:

www.hopeblooms.ca

10:30 -10:45 -Coffee break and a continued chance to interact with the Hope Blooms kids.
- **Collins Building**

1:00 - 1:30 - Set up period for the Annual AMGA Plant Exchange. The plant exchange is being organized and managed by the Cape Breton Chapter of AMGA. Our thanks go to this great team. Plants will be stored in the Lath House behind the Collins Building.

10:45 - 12:00 -Community Gardens a roundtable discussion with several Community Garden groups and organizers. What do they do? What kind of help and assistance do they need? How can a Certified Master Gardener bring advice and assistance to these groups?
- **Collins Building**

12 :00 - 1:00 -Lunch -Enjoy meeting and interacting with the Summer School I students In the Alumni Garden Gazebo. What a great opportunity to tell them how rewarding it is to be a Certified Master Gardener and a member of our organization.
Lunch is INCLUDED in your [Registration](#) fee.
(rain location: **Collins Building**)

1:30 - 4:00 - The **2015 Annual General Meeting**
- **Collins Building**

4:00 - 4:45 - AMGA Plant Exchange – **Collins Building**

5:30 - 6:15 - BYOB reception to be held at
Saloni Tapis Restaurant.

6:15 - 7:30 - Dinner - at Saloni Tapis Restaurant

SALONI TAPI RESTAURANT : This restaurant does not maintain a bar. We are permitted to bring our own bottles of wine for the reception as well as dinner. You will be charged a \$3.00 corkage fee for each bottle you bring. The corkage fee will be added to your dinner bill. A limited selection menu is being created for the evening. You will be responsible for your own bill, gratuity, and corkage fee.



Conference 2015

(continued from page 4)



Friday, July 10, 2015 – Day 2

9:00 - 10:30 - Sustainable Gardens.

Rain Gardens, Interior Green Walls, Green Roof. Demonstrations - Sustainable Gardens..... Interior Green Walls, Rain Gardens, Green Roof. Demonstrations – Collins, Cox Buildings and Jenkins Hall. This session offers several opportunities to see and learn about new types of gardens. Meet at the Collins Building. Shannon Kilyanek, Instructor at Dal, specified, installed and maintains interior green wall in the Cox Building. We will tour the green wall and learn about this technology and what it takes to maintain it.

The Level I Summer School folk under the direction of Tracey MacKenzie, Assistant Professor at Dal, will be building a rain garden, n Jenkins Hall. We will tour this project and learn the principles of rain garden design. Tracey will also help us to understand the principles, design and maintenance of green roof installations.

10:30 - 10:45: Coffee Break – Collins Building

10:45 - 11:15 - Rewards of a Home Greenhouse
- What you want to know .
Presentation by AMGA President, Heather Connors Dunphy.
Heather will share her fifteen plus years of experience with hom and not-for-profit greenhouse operations.

11:15- 12:00 - Superfoods and Nutraceuticals

– Collins Building

The Dalhousie faculty have been studying the efficacy of substances in plant by products such as apple peelings, in the treatment of disease. One of Dr. Rupasinghe's Phd students will be giving us an update on their research and where it is leading. For further info:

<http://bhcri.ca/dr-vasantha-rupasinghe>

<http://www.chairs-chaieres.gc.ca/chairholders-titulaires/profile-eng.aspx?profileId=2792>

12:00 - 1:00 -Lunch (on your own)

1:00 – 3:00 - Road Trip! A bus trip to visit Marcus Casson at **Casson Family Farm**, an organic market farm in Tatamagouche.
Bus pickup at the **Collins Building**.
The Challenges of Organic farming will be discussed and organic Produce will be available for sale.

3:00 - Bus trip back to the College - drop off – Collins Building and our goodbyes

For Residence Info contact Dalhousie at:

<http://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/agriculture/ExtendedLearning/MG/MG%20SS%20Registration%20Form%202015.pdf>

AMGA Conference 2015 Registration Form

Tuesday, July 7, Meet and Greet - No Charge

☐ Yes, I'm attending

Wednesday, July 8, President's BYOB - No Charge

☐ Yes, I'm attending

Full Two Day Conference. Thursday Lunch Is included in Registration Fee

\$100.00 for AMGA members

☐ Yes, attending as member

\$125.00 for non-members

☐ Yes, attending as non-member

Or

Day 1 – Thursday only. Lunch is included In Registration Fee.

\$65.00 for AMGA members ☐ Yes, attending as member

\$80.00 for non-members ☐ Yes, attending as non-member

Or

Day 2 – Friday only –

\$65.00 for AMGA members ☐ Yes, attending as member

\$80.00 for non-members ☐ Yes, attending as non-member

ADDITIONAL RSVPS REQUESTED :

Will you be joining us for the reception on Thursday evening

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you be joining us for dinner on Thursday evening
(you will be billed individually for your dinner)

☐ Yes ☐ No

The Thursday Luncheon. Included in your Registration

☐ Yes ☐ No

The Tuesday pre-conference Meet and Greet
(no charge for this event)

☐ Yes ☐ No

President's pre-conference BYOB on Wednesday evening
(no charge for this event)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you be attending the AGM?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please indicate if a guest will be accompanying you and for what events:

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Registrants Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph: _____ email: _____

Email this registration form to: Aileen.reid@apreid.com (Aileen Reid, Secretary)

Pay pal or email fund transfer to: atlanticmastergardeners3@gmail.com

Funds must be received to reserve your spot.



Notes from the Greenhouse

– Part Two

by Glen Nichols



Now it's April and, unfortunately, the snow is still deep and the winds keep howling... what a winter we've all had in the Maritimes. But in my greenhouse the boxes of lettuce greens, towering tomatoes, and fragrant flowers have kept a bit of summer alive and this gardener nearly on the right side of sanity. My hoophouse woke up in February and I put my first transplants out there about a month ago. Although I have had to keep using the double blanket treatment for the many double-digit "minus" nights this month, the warm and cosy days mean the baby lettuces and Ruby choy are nearly ready to start using.

This is my second of two articles about my greenhouse adventures. Last November (when I first noted the snow and winter winds... seems like a lifetime ago), I wrote about how I constructed my three different styled structures, with costs and challenges. This time I want to focus on a few more detailed aspects for those of you who are inspired to try your own bit of summer in the winter in 2016: ventilation, pests, passive heat storage.

Ventilation

Like the real estate adage, "location, location, location," I have learned that for home greenhouses it's "ventilation, ventilation, ventilation." In my original box-in-the-back-of-the-garage greenhouse in Moncton, I had no ventilation at all. The result was excessive humidity leading to issues with mildew and

damage to woodwork around windows. I didn't use that space in the summer because the heat would have fried anything in there. The thing to remember, which took me a few years to grasp, is that keeping a greenhouse warm enough is not the biggest challenge, it's keeping one cool and dry enough.

In my heated solar-shed greenhouse in Sackville, I planned for multiple openings top and bottom at both ends, and I installed a thermostatically controlled fan to push more air through when the temp gets up there. This was incredibly easy: I simply used a basic 12-inch "barn fan" (100 cfm, I believe), and humidity-proof thermostats are readily available at good hardware stores. On sunny days, even in January, I open a couple of vents and by February the fan begins to kick in regularly. The result is almost zero excess humidity. There are only a few days in mid-winter when there is any noticeable condensation on the inside of the glazing (triple-layer 16mm polycarb, which has an R-value close to regular double-pane windows in your house). I also have a small 6" circulating fan that runs on a timer to keep the air within the space moving even when the vents are all closed.

What I would recommend, though, is incorporating automatic vent openers in your greenhouse project. Because of the thick walls in my unit, and because I wasn't sure how the openers

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East wall of greenhouse showing barn fan, thermostat & fan speed control.

worked (and the price-tag scared me off), my vent covers are all manual: meaning I have to pull them off and put them on as needed. This is generally not an issue, but I have been known to forget to open them or if the weather changes suddenly, the greenhouse can overheat in no time flat. So... ventilate, ventilate, ventilate!! And hook up at least some of your vents to open and close automatically based on temperature. I have no ventilation for the hoop house, and although there's a few weeks in October and April when things can get a bit steamy, since I remove the cover as soon as nights are decent, there's not a real problem. I do leave the end a bit unhooked for a while in the fall so I can pull the end down a bit when I really need some air in there.

Pests

I never anticipated the pest problems in the hoop house. Squirrels and other rodents tunnel up into the space from outside and have been known to snack on the greens. The holes also leak cold air directly inside which doesn't help either. I had thought, when assembling it and I was renovating the attached garden shed, of skirting the outside (down 8" and extending horizontally) with some half-inch chicken fencing. The season progressed fast and I got lazy and thought, oh there won't be any problems...": famous last words! So, two years later, my plan this summer is to dig up the perimeter again and install the darned fencing to keep the critters out.

The raised beds were filled with sod I pulled from the new beds I was creating elsewhere. How clever I thought I was "recycling" the sod, large piles of which I was already composting in various stacks around the yard. Then the next year I began to notice little seedlings suddenly collapsing. At first I blamed cutworms, then slugs (lots of those in there too anyway), but the damage just didn't seem to fit the criminal. Then I happened to notice a bright orange worm wrapped up in one victim's roots... which I quickly learned was a wireworm (larva stage for the click beetle). And these beasties have become my number one enemy. There is basically no solution for them: they live in sod and will search out any new roots if the sod is removed (so my sod filled bed were feeding the creatures with my lettuce roots!

One way I've found to reduce the numbers is to bury potato-baits (2cm bits of potato attached to wires) which I dig up every few days and gleefully dispose of the attached worms. The literature says the current population should fade in 3-4 years. Learn from me: don't create raised beds using sod cut from lawns until it has been WELL composted.



Two wireworms caught in the potato bait I just dug up; each bait can attract up to 30 or so a day on a good hunt!

In the heated greenhouse, I struggle with thrips. They are throughout my system and while I have a couple of times completely gotten rid of every houseplant and started over, they still re-infest. The greenhouse this winter was especially bad. Again, I don't know of any solution except to discard infected plants and/or put up with the damage. I have learned though to never purchase house plants from greenhouse or nursery without a LONG isolation period.

Passive heat storage

Finally, I just want to recommend the use of passive heat storage. I was skeptical (but doubtful enough of my doubts to plan my solar shed with bench widths to accommodate a water wall....), and couldn't get a system of passive heat storage set up before my first winter. The next summer though I found 100-litre heavy-duty black storage boxes at a local hardware store for a good price. I bought 8 and set up a double row, giving me about 800 litres of heat-storing water. According to my research, that size of room should have about 1000-1200 litres, and I do have room to go to a third row but the weight of just the second row makes the bottom row bulge a fair bit, so I've not dared add another row.



Each container holds about 100 litres of water (excuse the messy bench... it's been a long winter!)

The surfaces do tend to create some condensation that puddles on the bench, but the difference in keeping a steady temperature in the greenhouse is remarkable, even though I only have about 2/3 the recommended volume of storage. I don't have precise statistics because I cannot separate the electric costs for the greenhouse from the rest of the bill; however, even though I raised the minimum temperature the year I added the passive storage, the electric bill did not go up. I strongly recommend incorporating passive heat storage into your future greenhouse space.



Climate Change In Our Gardens!

-by Sue Stuart

The winter of 2015 in Atlantic Canada seems to have confirmed in my own mind that “Climate Change” or “Global Warming” (or whatever term defines it best) actually does exist! The 3 months between late January and late April here in Nova Scotia didn’t really seem like “warming”, but definitely seemed like “change” - to the extreme!. Three months is appropriate timing for winter—but they weren’t the typical 3 months usually labeled “winter”! Much food for thought and Action here!

Now, in the first week of May, mountainous piles of snow and ice have disappeared (the ground actually was under there)! The Crocuses, Coltsfoot and Daphnee have bloomed, I’m starting to put my seedlings outside for short periods of time. All seems sort of right with the world—or does it?

I garden in Hammonds Plains, NS as well as at my cottage on Northumberland Strait, NB. Since building our cottage in 1998, even though we tried to protect the wetland area, coastal erosion has been at the forefront here. We have lost about 30 feet of coastline in total and have had to build a rock wall to prevent further erosion. So far this seems to be holding. However, according to climate change models, the land in Atlantic Canada is actually lowering (or sinking) and this will make our region even more susceptible to sea level changes.

The first three, in a list of climate change effects for Atlantic Canada: Rising sea levels, Extreme weather events & Coastal erosion! My little domains have experienced all of these! And these are only some of the changes that have occurred, are occurring or possible in the future.

Why? - Scientists tell us it is due to greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. We are the

the ones burning fuel in our vehicles, our homes, etc. We all want the latest manufactured items resulting in emissions that pollute the air we breathe.

What can each of us do to help?

Government regulations to reduce fuel and energy consumption are needed, but slow. We can’t wait! We as individuals, communities, master gardeners, Canadians can help remind politicians that maintaining natural resources, nurturing our environment, protecting the health and well being of our future population is essential! But we must do more.!

As gardeners we have the ability to make a difference in small ways to benefit our gardens, our yards, communities, our total environment:

- 1) Use energy-efficient tools, equipment & products
- 2) Plant native trees (one tree can absorb and store a ton of CO₂), shrubs and flowers in our yards to encourage pollinators and avoid invasive species. We are losing beneficial species at an alarming rate and playing havoc with ecosystems. Let’s bring them back!
- 3) Compost in our own yards to reduce greenhouse gases, provide nutrients for the soil /plants and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers that pollute our lakes, rivers, etc and their inhabitants.
- 4) As Master Gardeners we can encourage others to “grow” and promote a healthy environment!
- 5) Grow vegetables, fruit, nut trees and flowers that attract pollinators for these food plants.

Working in our garden is great exercise, we see the “fruits” of our labour in the fresh and healthy foods we grow and at the same time reduce, even in a small way, the pollution caused by excessive long distance transportation of products.



Identify This Plant



This mystery plant in the Winter Newsletter from Roger LeDrew, was successfully identified by several members:

***Tamarix ramosissima* 'Summer Glow'** or salt cedar found at many nurseries in Nova Scotia. It is a beautiful wispy shrub and can grow anywhere in our climate. It is considered invasive in many areas south of the border and it is also on the nature conservancy invasive species list. It can be managed in your own garden and is a wonderful specimen plant for back of the border as it will grow 10 -12 feet. It should be cut back to the ground in late winter and will continue to do well for 25 years.

- by Roger LeDrew

Tamarix ramosissima, or Five-Stamen Tamarix. It is the perfect plant for a coastal property as it has excellent salt tolerance. It is a large rather rangy shrub with foliage almost like that of junipers, usually light green to gray-green. It flowers in July on new growth so prune in March to induce long, feathery growth and summer flowers. Plant in full sun in really any soil, heavy clay to sand. Zones 3-8. It should be used more often in gardens as the fall colour is a brilliant yellow. - by Lynn Brooks

The plant is a tamarisk, or salt cedar, botanical name tamarix. The variety is likely "summer glow". Great plant for someone like Aileen Reid, dealing with salt spray! Additionally, they are deer and rabbit resistant! - by Linda Hachez

A P.S. to the above info -

Salt-cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) is a hardy shrub with arching branches and dense clusters of pink, late-summer flowers. Found in wetlands, it draws salt from the air, depositing it into the soil, killing native plants. —**Alison Beck (Canadian Gardening)**

So perhaps it might be best to avoid planting Tamarix in our seaside areas - Sue Stuart



This is our new "mystery plant". It was contributed by Anita Sulley—her favourite tree!

Send your guess to:

suestuart@bellaliant.net

You may win the opportunity to choose our next mystery plant !



AMGA EXECUTIVE

2014 - 2015

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