

Durham Master Gardeners

**Presentation Library – 2023**

All presentations are now available as webinars with time for a Q & A period. In the interests of staying ‘green’, audience handouts are provided on the Durham Master Gardeners website. [www.durhammastergardeners.ca](http://www.durhammastergardeners.ca)

Our presentations are categorized by broader ‘areas of interest’.

**NEW FOR 2023**

**Gardening for Climate Change**

Climate change is a new reality. What can we do to protect ourselves and combat climate change in gardening?

**Indoor Plants**

Many houseplants are easy to grow, but they must be given appropriate care in order to thrive. In this presentation, we provide numerous plant care tips and best practices to ensure your plants’ survival.

**THE BASICS**

**How to Plan a Successful Garden**

This presentation on planning a successful garden covers evaluating site conditions, other factors such as maintenance, function and style and finally planning your garden space and selecting plants.

**Preparing Your Garden for Spring**

Spring is a time of renewal in the garden and this talk provides information on getting your garden ready for the new growing season. Topics covered include spring clean up, lawn care, creating healthy soil, insect and weed control, planting and mulches.

**Getting Your Garden Ready for Winter**

A presentation about getting your garden ready for winter, what to clean up, what to leave, how to deal with annuals, perennials, bulbs, evergreens, ornamental grasses, roses, shrubs, trees and lawns.

**Perennials**

In this presentation, we focus on perennial plants used in a permanent garden. Topics covered include the ideal conditions for various plants, the many colours and sizes available in both flowers and foliage. We also cover the where and when of planting, pruning, adding or removing to make your perennial garden beds a thing of wonder.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF SOIL**

**Soil: It all Begins Here**

Soil is one of our most important resources and yet many of us know very little about it. This presentation will provide an introduction to soil, what it is, the different soil textures, the soil food web and how to create healthy soil.

**Compost: Black Gold for you Garden**

Discover how easy it is to turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich, dark compost in your own backyard.  Learn the benefits of backyard composting; how to get started, and the ingredients you need to make it work.

**HERBS**

**Herbs in Your Garden**

This presentation highlights best practices for successfully growing culinary herbs in your garden, whether it be in containers or in your garden bed. Tips for harvesting, methods of preserving and other culinary uses are also discussed.

**Around the World Herbs**

Get a taste of travel without leaving your kitchen! This presentation will help you plan inspired gardens with herbs from the east, west and many places in between. Grow and cook with herbs such as Thai Basil, Lovage, Sweet Cicely and more. Bon Voyage!

**VEGETABLE GARDENING / SEEDS**

**Introduction to Vegetable Gardening Presentation**

This one hour presentation will cover the why, where and how of growing your own vegetables, including a breakdown of cool and warm season crops, small space gardening and companion planting to maximize your harvest.

**Vegetable Gardening in Containers**

A lack of space for a vegetable garden doesn’t mean you can’t grow your own vegetables. In this presentation, we give you lots of great information about growing vegetables in containers, and show you how from early spring to late fall you can successfully grow and harvest fresh food.

**Square Foot Gardening**

Discover the Square Foot Gardening method that allows you to grow more vegetables, herbs and flowers in less space. This talk will explain the principles of Square Foot Gardening and describe the steps to completing your own garden bed. Other complimentary gardening techniques such as vertical gardening, succession planting and companion planting are touched upon in order to help provide additional tips and techniques for a successful harvest.

**Companion Planting**

This presentation covers how plants can benefit each other by being planted in proximity to each other. This helps in pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial creatures and maximizing the use of your space.

**Starting Plants from Seed**

In this presentation, we will provide the home gardener with the right knowledge and skills to make them successful at starting seeds at home for planting in the spring. Topics covered include proper storage of seeds, when to start seeds, germination requirements, lighting, thinning and transplanting, fertilizing and hardening off.

**GARDEN ANCHORS**

**Shrubs for All Seasons**

The focus of this talk is using shrubs in your landscape for colour and seasonal interest, including a brief overview of design. A selection of flowering shrubs and shrubs with colourful foliage or woody stems will be discussed, along with the newest offerings available for planting in this area.

**Trees for Small Spaces**

In this presentation, we discuss the smaller urban spaces of most homeowners today, the things to consider when choosing a tree and the different types of trees and examples of each.

**Planting Trees and Shrubs**

What do you do after you bring that tree home from the nursery? We cover planting basics and how to ensure that plant remains healthy from the start.

**Hydrangeas**

This presentation provides an understanding of the different types of hydrangeas, their care and pruning requirements. It covers how to create pink or blue flowers for hydrangea macrophylla, as well as, information on potential pests, how to dry blooms for indoor use and information on new varieties on the market.

**Roses for Today’s World**

Roses are still one of the most popular garden plants. In this presentation, we talk about why people want to plant roses, the major rose categories and how you can use roses in your garden, as well as the reality of dealing with Rose pests and the best new varieties.

**HOT TOPICS**

**Invasive Species** **and Their Environmental Impact**

We will introduce you to invasive plant species in Ontario and provide a guide to identifying and controlling invasive species in your garden and community.

**Creating Naturalized Gardens**

This presentation focuses on creating naturalized gardens, what they are, how to plan a garden and evaluate your site. Then we cover 4 types of native gardens and some of the typical plants found in each one, choosing native plants for your garden, buying plants or growing from seed.

**Gardening for Pollinators**

In this presentation, we focus on some of our important native pollinators and the gardening practices that we can all implement in our gardens to help our native pollinators survive and thrive in the face of habitat loss and other threats.

**Pollinator Gardening for Children**

An introduction to gardening to attract pollinators specifically aimed at children.

**What Can Gardeners do in the Winter?**

For people who can’t wait for spring, this presentation explores a range of activities gardeners can pursue in the winter including planning and preparing for spring, winter garden art projects, indoor plants and starting seeds.

**Gardening in a New Subdivision: What to do and what to avoid**

Gardening in a new subdivision presents a homeowner with a mix of standard gardening

situations with some additional challenges. Learn what to do and what not to do in key areas.

a) Designing, planning, implementing b) Soil, sun, water c) Plantings – the what, where and

how for trees, shrubs, perennials d) Trending outside the box ideas – no mow lawn, square foot

gardening, containers, native plant and pollinator gardens.

**Creating Winter Interest in Your Garden**

This presentation is a design primer on making your garden look great in all seasons. It provides basic landscape design themes with examples of how you can apply them to your garden. The latter part of the presentation highlights specific plants and trees to use for winter interest.

**SPECIAL INTERESTS**

**Gardens and Wellness**

Gardens can be places of serenity and peace. In this presentation we will cover connection, reflection, sowing, nurturing, mindfulness, peace and ideas for making your own serenity garden.

**Raising Monarch Butterflies**

Monarchs are on the increase, in no large part due to homeowners and gardeners planting milkweed to encourage monarch development. What should you do when you find those pretty caterpillars on your milkweed?

**Bulbs: Jewels in the Garden**

This presentation covers the history and descriptions of bulbs, how you can use them in your garden, buying, planting and care tips. We will include some favourites, their blooming periods and esthetics.

**Potscaping/Container Gardening**

This presentation covers all of the key ingredients for successfully gardening in containers. The topics covered include containers, the right soil, and how to select the right plants based on colour, texture, scale and shape.

**Gardening for the Birds**

The focus for this talk is to provide an understanding of the needs of birds, how to design your garden to provide food, shelter and nesting spots. In addition, a seasonal selection of native trees, shrubs and perennials will be presented, along with how they meet the needs of various species of birds. Our intention is to inspire home gardeners to create native habitats and balanced ecosystems in their own landscapes.

**Xeriscaping or Water-Wise Gardening**

It is becoming increasingly more important to learn how to conserve water. The goal of Xeriscaping is to design and create gardens that can survive dry periods on their own without a lot of supplemental watering or fertilizing. This presentation will help you understand how to conserve water in the garden, select the right plants and how to maintain them.

**Rain Gardens**

Learn how and why water runoff has become a serious threat to our environment and what you can do to help offset the problem on your own property. Learn the basic principles of creating a rain garden and how a rain garden works, plus plants to choose to make your rain garden successful.

**In Person Workshops**

**Workshops are typically 2 to 3 hours in length.**

**Balcony Gardening Workshop**

This workshop will provide participants with the necessary knowledge to successfully grow flowers and vegetables in containers. Topics covered include starting plants from seed, selecting containers, soils and potting mixes, what to grow, design and site considerations, and companion planting.

**Pollinators Workshop**

This 2-hour workshop focuses on pollinators, why they are important, what they are and the threats to them. We cover good gardening practices for pollinators and the use of native plants to create pollinator and bird friendly habitats in our gardens. Hands on activities include building a mason bee house and planting native seeds in peat pots.

**Seed Saving Workshop**  
This workshop will give participants the skills and confidence to start saving their own seeds. Topics covered include what are seeds, selecting seeds to save, how to store seeds and how to check for viability. The activities include identifying and gathering seeds from a nearby park or garden, sorting and preparing seeds for storage.

**Introduction to Vegetable Gardening Workshop**

This two hour workshop will start with an introduction to soil, what it is, how to test it and how to amend it. Then we will cover the vegetable garden design and layout, siting and exposure, starting vegetables from seed, selecting what vegetables to grow and companion planting. The hands-on activities include soil texture tests, planting seeds in peat pots or germinating in plastic bags, as well as a square foot gardening demonstration.

**FEE SCHEDULE**

Webinar (45 minute presentation and a 15 minute Q & A) $150

In Person Presentation (45 minute presentation and a 15 minute Q & A) $150

In Person Workshop Price to be determined depending on the number of attendees/materials required/venue/time committment etc.

Mileage .50 cents per kilometre from the presenter’s home to venue and return