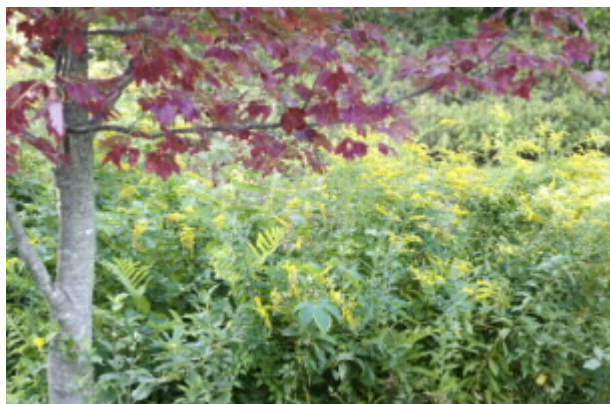




### Leaf Peeper Paradise by Virginia Hallman

Autumn has officially arrived and in the few weeks ahead there's no better place to view its exuberance and variety than Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. Just past downtown Boston on the Arborway, its 281 acres of trees, shrubs, and woody vines is truly world-class. Founded in 1873 as a mix of research institution and public park, its wide curved boulevards and plentiful paths continue to beckon visitors of all ages to wander among its living treasures. When I was there several weeks ago, fall colors were just beginning in trees like the young Maple below. I urge you to take the drive down and enjoy its most magnificent season.



### Our Club's Purpose

To encourage and cultivate an interest in gardening, to aid in the protection and conservation of natural resources, to encourage the study of horticulture and flower arranging, and to promote civic beauty.

### From the Editor

If you're wondering where the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of your newsletter is this month, don't bother looking. As a friend of mine recently said, "Events just overcame me." I won't bore you with the details of my busy month; I'll just apologize. If I can, I'll add an extra page to the next newsletter (but no promises).

*Virginia Hallman*

### October Meeting

#### Gardening is Murder

October 3, 6:45 pm – 1910 Building Annex

My gleanings from the web about this month's speaker, Neal Sanders, promise a lively and informative "can't miss" evening. This former corporate executive found himself at a crossroads some years back and decided to honor a longtime yen to become a fiction writer. Five books later, his gift for telling a good story has obviously been rewarding in more than one way.

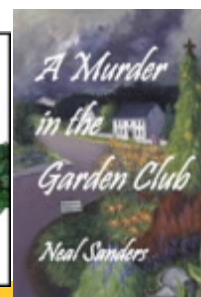


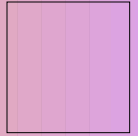
Neal is no stranger to gardens and gardening—or to gardeners. His wife Betty is a lifetime master gardener, accredited flower show judge, and a chemist who lectures widely (Neal has acclaimed himself, accordingly, "the principal undergardener"). Since 1999 they have applied their gardening talents to a 2-acre garden in Medford (see photo above of one of their many plantings) which in 2008 was selected for the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program as one of six distinctive gardens in the Boston area. Both enjoy writing about gardens and gardening as evidenced by their respective websites filled with articles, advice, and a garden blog. Here are their links:

<http://www.thehardingtonpress.com/gardenblog/> and <http://www.bettyongardening.com/> .

Hosting the October meeting will be Liz Scheld (chair) along with Jean Berkenbush, Karen Doliber, Marilyn Kent and Sandi Preble.

Need a ride to the meeting? Call Linda Schaeffer, 978-363-5251





Next **Board** Meeting:  
October 10, 7:00 PM

At: Town Office Building  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor Meeting Room

Next **Monthly** Meeting:  
November 7, 6:45 PM  
1910 Building Annex  
Main Street, West Newbury

**Newsletter copy deadline:**  
18<sup>th</sup> of the month

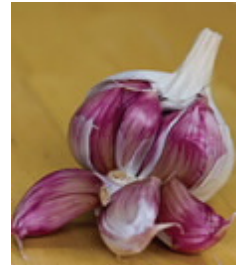
Copies of past Newsletters are available online at [www.wngc.org](http://www.wngc.org)

## Dear Peony

Dear gardening friends,  
Renewed interest in healthy living has brought a renaissance in growing one's own foods, hence the following letter from a fellow gardener:

*Dear Peony,  
I was so disappointed, again, by my garlic crop. The cloves went in big but came up small. Why? Why? What the ÷@\*<\*i!!! I've been a good little gardener, listened to mom—a bit, read a book or two. Help me, please.*

*Yours in Deep Dirt*



**Ajo Rojo** Beautiful red-burgundy hardneck variety. (Burpee)

Dear Dirty Gardener:

Here is advice from experienced gardeners: First, wash out that mouth of yours. Then, take heart for if you can grow onions (you can, right?), you can grow garlic. Choose a sunny location and pick the correct type of garlic. Hardneck types adapt best to cold winter climates. Check with your local nursery for the best varieties. The larger the clove, the larger the garlic bulbs it produces. Avoid grocery store garlic. It is often treated to inhibit sprouting.

Soil is most important. It should be loose, loamy, well drained. Your planting bed must be at least 12" deep. Mix in a 1-inch layer of organic matter (well-rotted manure or compost). Put the cloves into the ground 4"- 6" deep, 8" apart, pointed ends up. Cover the planted area with 4" inches of organic mulch (shredded leaves). The soil must be kept evenly moist.

Protect against temperature extremes with mulch (fluffy straw or wood chips).

Harvest when one third or one half of the leaves are brown.

Good luck and keep thinking big!

## Peony

Sources: Paul Rodman; [davesgarden.com](http://davesgarden.com); Kathleen Roberts

**Maisjik** Hardneck turban variety with robust pungency. (Burpee)

