



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • November, 2014

DIGGING FURTHER: SOIL TESTING

Wondering why some of your flowering plants, vegetables or lawn might be doing poorly? Different plantings require soils with different minerals. Perhaps your soil is deficient in trace minerals, over saturated with fertilizer, acidic, or just plain "tuckered out".

The results of a soil test give recommendations for the next growing season. Testing your soil in fall before the ground freezes gives you plenty of time to amend your soil. A typical soil test provides information on the pH (acidity) of your soil sample, as well as the amount of extractable calcium, magnesium, potassium and phosphorus. Included in the report are recommendations for amounts of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) you might need, as well as recommendations for adjustments using lime, if needed. Separate soil samples are needed for different garden areas i.e. separate samples from your flower garden, vegetable garden or lawn.

Further information at **University of New Hampshire:** 603-862-3200:
<http://extension.unh.edu/Gardens-Landscapes/Home-Soil-Testing>
Soil Testing Services: **University of Massachusetts:** 413-545-2311 or
<http://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-and-tissue-testing-laboratory>

NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 6, 2014, 6:45 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting

Chair Jane Jeffers
Hope Cole
Dianne Faulkner
Donna Greene
Helen Thumser

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

Putting the Garden to Bed

Jean Anderson of Garden Sense in Wakefield will give us tips on closing our gardens for the winter. Jean has been a presenter for 15 years and has an extensive collection of plants that she also sells from her garden. Visit Jean's website at www.garden-sense.com/

If you've not already done so, remember to bring your \$25 check for your annual membership.

www.wngc.org



Maintain Your Tools

After a growing season, garden tools benefit from some clean-up and attention of their own. Take some time to spread out all of your garden tools – planting and weeding tools, pruners and loppers, shovels and hoes, hoses and rakes.

Do some tools need replacing? For some of the tools you use the most, think about investing in some very good quality tools. They will last longer, and likely be more efficient and safer to use. For the tools you plan to use next season, a good cleaning, lubrication or sharpening may bring them back to life.

Cornell University's Cooperative Extension has a great article on "Caring for Your Tools". The article provides excellent information on how to preserve wooden handles; sharpen edges on shovels, pruning and hedge shears, hoes and trowels; prevent rust; and store tools. Pruning saws, they advise, should be sharpened by a professional. To read the article, go to: http://fyi.uwex.edu/cwas/files/2013/01/Caring_for_Your_Tools.pdf

Note: **Kelly's True Value** at the rotary in Newburyport offers a sharpening service off site. Drop off and pick up on Tuesdays. For more information call: 978-462-2951

LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS

Easy Holiday Centerpieces

To get in the mood for a creative season Linda Zukas, Annuals Manager from Churchill's in Exeter demonstrated some great ideas for simple, elegant Holiday table-scapes. Using a base of fresh greens she added various items such as candles, gourds, ornaments, ribbons and even potted herbs to distinctively change the theme of any table. Simply changing the color of the tablecloth or adding a mirror under a candle could completely transform any look.



Linda suggests building each design on something such as a wooden box or elegant tray that can be easily removed to make room for the food or guests! Keep it simple and experiment often.

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on October 9th.

Establishing Guidelines

Jane requested the Board's assistance in preparing a WNGC Notebook that would contain tasks and guidelines for club officers, committees and annual events. This information would be very helpful as members take on projects.

Club Records, Photos and Materials

Board members discussed how the Club's historic records and materials could be best archived. Any club members who have experience and interest in scanning documents for an electronic record should speak with one of the Board members.

Member News

A big thank you to Nora O'Neil. She has offered to coordinate the Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear Poster Project for elementary school children.

We're always interested in keeping our members informed and included. If you know of any members who have special events going on in their lives, please tell one of the Board members.

Updates: Kathy Krajewski's new email address is the following:
Kathy@nemcvt.net

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Bert Ford & More!

Cushing House at Christmas

Our club will be decorating the Oriental Room of the Cushing House for Christmas this year and we are looking for volunteers to be on the decorating team. Sign-up will be at the November meeting.

Art In Bloom

The WNGC has also been invited to participate in Art in Bloom April 24th to 27, 2015. Our application must be submitted by Dec. 5, (or sooner.) We send an Arranger and one Assistant. While the Arranger is primarily responsible for the arrangement, the Assistant helps with the creation of the arrangement and daily maintenance. Arrangements must be set up by 9:15 AM on Friday, the 24th, and then removed by 9:15 AM the following Tuesday. Please let Jane know if you are interested or need details.

Beginning Orchid Growing

Saturday, November 8, 2015
You don't need a greenhouse to grow orchids. Learn essentials to achieve success on your windowsill. Greenhouse Manager Lynn Ackerman teaches the best methods for orchid lighting, watering, fertilization, repotting, and selection.
Lyman Estate Greenhouses,
Waltham, MA. 10:00 AM. to noon.
Cost: \$25 (Registration required)
Phone: 781-891-1985
www.HistoricNewEngland.org

Open Houses to Inspire

November 7-9, 2014
Churchill's in Exeter, NH
Holiday Open House
www.churchillsgardens.com/events/434/

November 22-23, 2014
Ford Flower Company
83 S. Broadway, Salem, NH
Open House and discounts!
www.fordflower.com

Holiday Blooms with Designer Bert Ford

from Ford Flowers in Salem, NH. The Tewksbury Garden Club has invited us to this presentation being held at the Tewksbury Country Club. Bert is an entertaining presenter, and does spectacular holiday arrangements. The presentation is at 7pm and the cost is \$15. With your paid admission, you'll enjoy an evening of floral design, refreshments and creative baskets to win! Entry is \$15.00. Purchase your tickets in advance as they **will not** be sold at the door. Jane Jeffers will be going, and invites those wishing to go to call her about carpooling.

Now is the time

Planting

- Plant evergreens until mid-month, and deciduous plants, tulips, lily bulbs until ground freezes.
- Pot up hardy spring bulbs to force for winter bloom.

Pruning

- Finish pruning late summer- and fall-blooming shrubs.
- Limit pruning of spring-flowering trees and shrubs to removal of awkward, diseased, or damages branches to preserve next Spring's bloom.

Fertilizing

- Fertilize trees shrubs and vines when fully dormant.
- Spray anti-desiccant on broadleaf and newly-planted evergreens and on rose canes to prevent moisture loss during the winter drought.

Garden Maintenance

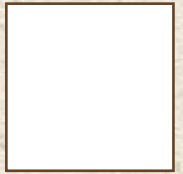
- Cut perennial stalks to 4" except for ornamental grasses, as they are good for winter interest.
- Begin spreading winter mulches, preparing winter plant protections.
- Fertilize lawns after the first frost to promote root growth.

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.



West Newbury Garden Club
P. O. Box 11
West Newbury, MA 01985



Visit our website TODAY!
www.wngc.org

You will find links to upcoming events and gardening resources as well as copies of newsletters, the club's history, and much more.

RECYCLING POTS AND TRAYS

Generally, curbside recycling programs are unable to accept plastic plant containers, such as pots and hanging baskets. A call to G. Mello Disposal Corporation confirmed that plastic garden pots are considered "trash" and they do not recycle them. After a successful pilot program, all Lowes Home Improvement Stores now offer a recycling program for plastic pots. "This new program gives consumers a responsible recycling option and makes it easy for them. We provide a cart for stores and customers to

return plastic plant trays, pots and tags, regardless of condition. No matter where consumers purchase the plant, they are encouraged to return the materials to a Lowe's Garden Center to be recycled." According to their website "Customers now have a place to take used pots; our suppliers are able to reuse the plastic trays, and recyclable material is diverted from the landfill. Everyone wins with this new program. Once the pots and trays are returned to the store, they are picked up by local vendors and sorted. The reusable material is sterilized and reintroduced to the production cycle. Serviceable trays are recovered and reused in the growing, shipping and sale of live plants. Material not deemed reusable is crushed, banded and sent for recycling."

http://www.lowes.com/cd_Garden+Center+Gets+Greener+With+Recycling_283670888_

The Seabrook, NH Lowes Home Improvement has ended its 2014 collection program, but will begin accepting gardening plastics again in Spring 2015. For information, call (603) 760-4017. NOTE: Please save your 7"x7" or 8"x8" planting pots! We use these for transplanting perennials for or our May Plant Sale!

