



West Newbury Garden Club Newsletter • November, 2015

OVERWINTERING PERENNIALS

Jane Jeffers was kind enough to research best tips on overwintering perennials. "If you are planning to pot your perennials this Fall and overwinter them for the Plant Sale, here are some tips that will help ensure they survive the winter." Key tips:

- Plant perennials in a big pot. The bigger the pot, the higher success rate you will have in overwintering. This is because there is a larger volume of soil in a bigger pot to help insulate the roots, protecting them from freezing and desiccating.
- Insert a stake indicating the plant name and color!!!!
- Take the entire pot and bury it in the ground. This way, the roots are protected like they would be if the plants were actually planted in the garden. Be sure not to leave the pot in the ground too long in the spring or the roots will start to grow out the drainage holes, anchoring the pot into the ground. (A vegetable garden is a perfect spot to bury those pots.)
- Group pots as close together as possible in a sheltered site on the ground so they can absorb heat and moisture from the soil. (The east side of the house typically is a good spot.)
- Water pots thoroughly just before the ground freezes to give them a reserve supply to use during warm winter spells, but tip pots slightly to avoid over-saturation in the Spring.

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NEXT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 5, 2015, 6:45 pm

Town Offices Annex
381 Main Street, W. N.

Hosting the meeting

Chair Rosemarie McCobb
Barbara Berkenbush,
Carrie Crowley,
Barbara Merrill,
Nancy Pau, Audrey Tarr

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

Essex County Trail Association (ECTA)

Debbie Hamilton, long-time ECTA Board member and home gardener, will talk about the history, trails and activities of the Essex County Trail Association. West Newbury is fortunate to have at least twelve trails/properties managed by ECTA volunteers. Learn more about this dedicated organization and some of the native plants and trees that can be found in our own backyard and county.

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

www.wngc.org



Overwintering Geraniums

During a recent conversation about overwintering plants, my friend said that she threw out her geraniums at the end of each season. Many don't have the patience to dig up and save dahlia bulbs, but Geraniums (Pelargonium) can be successfully overwintered without much work. There are three techniques.

Move plants indoors:

Cut the stems back to 1/3-1/2 their original height; repot in 6-8" pots; place in a cool room in a sunny window; water only when the soil feels dry; pinch back as needed to promote branching; bring outdoors in the Spring - gradually accustoming them to direct sunlight.

Bare Root: Dig up the plants, shake off the dirt and remove only the dried, dead leaves. Check to make sure that there is no mold on the plant stems. Put the plants, roots up, in a box or paper sack. Store in the cellar away from direct sunlight. Once a month during Winter months, soak the roots in water for an hour or two. Return them, dried, to the box or sack. In the Spring, clip off the dead leaves, pot the rooted stems and water thoroughly.

Cuttings: This technique involves more work, but can multiply the number of geraniums you have for next year. For more information on cuttings, go to: <http://www.weekendgardener.net/perennial-flowers/overwintering-geranium-110811.htm>

LAST MEETING'S HIGHLIGHTS

Succulents: The Craziest Plants on Earth

Accompanied by a variety of fascinating plants, Master Gardener **Melissa Pace**, presented an informative and entertaining program on the variety and uses of succulents in our indoor and outdoor gardens. "Succulents", Melissa explained, "are not a classification of plants, but a description of types of plants that have the ability to retain water in dry climates or soil conditions." Thus, besides cacti, succulents are included among Agave, Aloe, Euphorbia, Haworthia, and Sansevieria (also known more commonly as Snake Plants). Melissa discouraged using fine sand for potting succulents, and recommended a mix of soil-less material and gravel. Predictably, these plants prefer sunny locations, and should be watered only when dry. She distributed a helpful listing of specific succulents, and on-line sources for buying succulents.



Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Directors met on October 10th. Among issues discussed were the need to find chairs for the May Plant Sale and the 2016 80th Birthday of the Club. There are many new club members, and a recommendation was made to offer those interested a more detailed explanation of club committees and activities following the November meeting.

Member News

It was wonderful to have Virginia Hallman with us again at the last meeting!

We're 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.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

November 5, 10 am-noon **"Growing Gardeners: Children, Schools and Gardens"**. The workshop is being led by John Forti, Director of Horticulture, Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Chairman: Betsy Williams 978-470-0911, betsy@betsywilliams.com held at South Church, 41 Central Street, Andover, MA Members of GCFM, guests welcome. Donation \$5/ \$10 at the door. Let Marie Scher know if you would like to be involved and attend the workshop.

Tuesdays, Nov. 10, 17, 24, 10 am - 3 pm **Horticultural Techniques**
Garden in the Woods 180 Hemenway Road Framingham, MA
508-877-7630

Good horticultural practices form the backbone of any successful garden. Understanding how to apply these practices is the first step toward becoming a horticulturist. Learn how to select the right plant for the right place and how to plant and care for native plants. Students will learn the proper techniques for transplanting, soil preparation, mulching, watering, pruning, maintenance, winterizing the garden, and preparing it for spring. Bring a bag lunch. Fee: \$231 (Member) / \$272 (Non-member) Limit: 16 Register by calling: 508-877-7630, ext. 3303

Open Houses to Inspire

November 14-15, 2015, Ford Flower, 83 S. Broadway, Salem, NH Open House and discounts! Buy Bert's designs or the elements to create you own Holiday arrangements. More details on their [Facebook Page](#)

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- Cover the pots with some sort of insulating material. Try mounding pine needles or evergreen boughs on top of the pots, followed by a thick layer of snow. If snow is not reliable in your area, use an insulating blanket made expressly for this purpose. You can also try wrapping the pots themselves in some sort of insulating material for extra protection.
- Do not overwinter the containers on pavement or any other surface (such as a deck) raised above ground level. (Perennials left exposed on higher levels during the winter have little chance of overwintering successfully.)
- Pots can also be overwintered in a cold frame or unheated garage for the winter after the first hard frost, but not in a greenhouse or other warm place where they will not go dormant.
- For those perennials that you are wintering in the ground, mark them with stakes, so you can find them easily in the Spring, and write down the colors before memories fade.

Now is the time

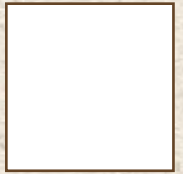
Plants that Typically Overwinter Well in Containers

Found at http://www.perennialresource.com/articles/181_The-Complete-Guide-to-Growing-Perennials-in-Containers.aspx

- *Achillea* (Yarrow)
- *Ajuga* (Bugleweed)
- *Alchemilla* (Lady's Mantle)
- *Armeria* (Common Thrift, Sea Pink)
- *Aster*
- *Bergenia* (Heartleaf Bergenia, Pig Squeak)
- *Brunnera*
- *Campanula* (Bellflower)
- *Cerastium* (Snow in Summer)
- *Clematis*
- *Coreopsis* (Tickseed)
- *Dendranthema* (Hardy Garden Mum)
- *Dianthus* (Pinks)
- *Echinacea* (Coneflower)
- *Ferns*
- *Geranium-Hardy* (Cranesbill)
- *Hemerocallis* (Daylily)
- *Heuchera* (Coral Bells)
- *Heucherella* (Foamy Bells)
- *Hosta*
- *Houttuynia* (Chameleon Plant)
- *Iris ensata* (Japanese Iris)
- *Lamium*
- *Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping Jenny, Moneywort)
- *Lysimachia punctata* (Variegated Loosestrife)
- *Myosotis* (Forget-Me-Not)
- *Phlox subulata* (Creeping Phlox)
- *Polemonium* (Jacob's Ladder)
- *Primula* (Primrose)
- *Pulmonaria* (Lungwort, Bethlehem Sage)
- *Salvia-Perennial*
- *Scabiosa* (Pincushion Flower)
- *Sedum* (Stonecrop)
- *Sempervivum* (Hen & Chicks)
- *Thymus* (Creeping Thyme)
- *Tiarella* (Foamflower)
- *Tradescantia* (Spiderwort)



West Newbury Garden Club
P. O. Box 11
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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.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS IN 2016

Next year is a special Birthday Year for WNGC! 2016 marks the 80th birthday of the West Newbury Garden Club. Club member, and former newsletter editor, Virginia Hallman, prepared a wonderful history of the club which can be found on our website at: <http://www.wngc.org/History.html>

Recent celebrations were held for the club's 70th and 75th birthdays. These celebrations were both catered dinners, held in September.

The 70th held at the 1912 Building Annex, and the 75th at Groveland Fairways. Delightful photos from the 75th are featured in our October 2011 newsletter, found at: <http://www.wngc.org/Newsletters/2011-12/2011%20-%20October%20Newsletter.pdf>

We need a chair and/or co-chairs to pull together a committee to start planning next year's fun celebration. It's party time!



WNGC 75th Celebration!