



Club Flower  
Plymouth Gentian

Website: [PlymouthGardenClub.org](http://PlymouthGardenClub.org)

# Plymouth Garden Club

May 2018

Linda O'Neill, President

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## Membership

Active	75
Life:	2
Associate	13

## Horticulture By Joy Sands

### Chill Out for Perennial Seed Starting

Some seeds come with a recommendation for stratification prior to sowing. Most perennials are self-sowing, and their seeds are equipped with germination inhibitors such as waxes, oils, or heavy seed coats. These protectors prevent premature germination in the garden. They need a period of cold/freezing and moisture to germinate. This natural period is stratification. If a plant self-seeds – such as Amsonia, baby's breath, astilbe, coneflower, delphinium, lavender, foxglove, lupine, or liatris – the seeds need stratification.

One method of indoor stratification is to use the refrigerator at 37 to 40 degrees. The seeds can be chilled just by laying the packet on the fridge shelf, but it is best to moisten the seeds. Place the seeds on a moist paper towel, put the towel in a plastic bread bag, and refrigerate.

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Our **May 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING PROGRAM** will feature “**Jaw Dropping, Traffic Stopping, Get Your Neighbors Talking Containers**” with Deborah Trickett, a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist. Deborah will show us how to create stunning containers to turn our front steps, back decks and patios into welcoming places. We will also welcome some of the other SE District Club Presidents and their guests to our club meeting. Please introduce yourself and welcome them.

**PLANT SALE** - Our annual **Spring Plant Sale is May 19** from 9am - 1pm. All club members are expected to participate. **Please bring your baked goods, plants and attic treasures to the Chiltonville Church on Friday May 18 from 2-5pm or Saturday morning between 8-9am** so we can be set up and organized before the doors open at 9am.

Volunteers are needed to price and set up Friday afternoon, and on Saturday to staff the Bake and Attic Treasure tables and to help answer questions about the plants and help customers with the plants and baskets. More volunteers are needed to clean up at 1pm. Please sign up to volunteer on the sheets on the tables by the windows.

As you clean up your garden, note the perennials that are crowded and dig and pot plants for the sale. Plants look much healthier and sell better if potted up at least a week before the sale. Include a name label. If you aren't able to pot plants ahead of the sale, you can dig them the day before, wrap then in damp newspaper and put in a plastic bag.

If digging is not your 'thing', create container or basket gardens. Line baskets with plastic food containers and cut slits for drainage. Fill with potting soil and annuals.

This is our last fund-raiser of the year, which supports our Scholarship Fund, Civic Projects and Programs. To make this sale a success, we need YOU to help set up and price on Friday, help the day of the sale or clean up afterward.

**JR. GARDENER ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM** –The Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at South Elementary School on April 27 was well received. The children loved potting up their seedling trees and the Principal, Mr. Blaisdale was very enthusiastic and appreciative. We received a letter from Alison Riordan, the Science Coordinator for the District thanking us for our meaningful and relevant program and our continued commitment. The seedlings for all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders were paid for by a grant from Entergy Pilgrim Station. Some extra seedlings will be for sale at \$1 each on the Ways and Means table.

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Check the seeds every 2 or 3 days and plant any that sprouted.

A quicker and easier stratification process is the ice cube method. Fill an ice cube tray half full of water and freeze. Remove the tray and set it on the counter until a thin layer of water forms on the top of each cube. Add 1 to 4 seeds, depending on the size to each cube, and add water to fill each cube. Leave seed cubes in the freezer for up to a week. Seeds such as lupine have a hard seed coat. They should be nicked by a file or craft knife before chilling.

To plant, pop the seed cubes out of the tray and push each cube into seed starter planting medium in a six pack or small pot and cover the cube lightly with more soil. As the ice melts, the seeds will settle into the medium where they will germinate.

Remember to dead head the blossoms on your bulbs when they are spent. This saves the plants from wasting energy trying to make seeds and allows them to put all their energy into the bulbs forming next years blossoms. For the same reason it is also very important not to cut off the foliage until it starts to yellow and dry. Now is a good time to feed your bulbs. Apply a good, slow acting fertilizer (3,5,3) or compost.

If you decide you want to move or divide some of your bulbs, you can dig them up after the foliage is spent, divide and replant. This works particularly well with Narcissus. Digging and dividing is a great way to spread your bulbs around your yard economically.

**GARDEN THERAPY** - I would like to thank all the helpers who attended the Garden Therapy at Laurelwood in the Pine Hills last month: Norene Casey, Linda Berthold, Marie Young, Marcia Sykes, Jane Gregg, Rose Cain, Ann Urquhart, Marie Dunlop, and a special thanks to Coletta Candini for providing the glass painted jars, as well as filling them with oasis.

There will be a signup sheet at the Club meeting for our final Garden Therapy session this year on Thursday, **May 10 at 9:45am at Brookdale**. Call Meghan Rinker at 774-4047539 to join the fun.

**LIBRARY FLOWER BEDS** – Thirteen members and Liz Hester's husband showed up to clean the Library beds on Saturday. We spent about two hours pruning the mugo pines, red twig dogwoods, and the mop head golden thread cypress and doing some weeding. We desperately need someone to coordinate this project, and we still need more help maintaining the beds through the growing months. We like to have 2 members share responsibility for each bed. It involves checking your bed intermittently to dead head and weed. Please contact Linda O'Neill 508-759-1870 to help with the maintenance of a bed. We've received many compliments from the library folks on the new daffodils in front of the entry wall.

Our **JUNE LUNCHEON** will be at the **Plymouth Yacht Club** on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. The lunch entrée choices are Lobster on Caesar Salad, Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast, or Vegetarian Stir fry. Cost for all options will be \$35 per person. Elaine Finneral or Jane Bishop can take your check for lunch with your entrée choice at the May meeting. You may bring a guest to the June Luncheon, but they must pay Elaine and indicate their entrée choice by June 4.

**DUES** for next year will remain the same at \$40 for Active members and \$60 for Associate members. They should be paid at the May meeting. You can write one check for your dues and the luncheon.

**TEA COMMITTEE:** There will be a sign up sheet for the monthly Tea Committees for next year at the meeting. All Active members are required to serve on a Tea Committee each year. See Marie Dunlap to sign up or call her to choose your month otherwise you will be assigned where needed.

**SE DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW at Heritage Gardens** will be Tues. July 24, noon -5pm and Wed. and Thur. July 25 & 26 10am – 5pm. All design classes are filled, however you can enter horticulture specimens or a fairy garden Tuesday 7-9am. Call Geri Williams (508-833-4355) if you have any questions about horticulture entries. A great way to see the show and Heritage Gardens free is to volunteer to Hostess for 2 hours. Gail Reilly is coordinating the Hostess schedule. Gail will be at our meeting or you can contact her at [gailcreilly@comcast.net](mailto:gailcreilly@comcast.net)