



Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Plymouth Garden Club

October 2021

Pat Parker, President

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Membership

Active	64
Associate	13
Life:	3

Help Bulbs to a Better Start From Joy Sand

“She who plants a garden believes in the future.” That is never more true than in the fall. For generations, the guidelines for planting bulbs were simple. When the nights chill and the leaves begin to change, plant your bulbs. Choose sites that are in full sun, and where you can see and enjoy the blooms. Now we are advised to take a more scientific approach to planting. Plant bulbs when the soil temp has chilled to 55 degrees. That is usually after two weeks of 40-degree nights. Recent record summer and early fall heat has extended that target temp into November. Last fall, I celebrated Thanksgiving planting daffodils. Soil with a pH in the neutral range is best. Avoid planting too close to streets where road salt can accumulate. Areas that receive road spray can be treated with granular gypsum applied in fall and spring with a lawn spreader. Don’t bother with bone meal in the hole. Instead apply 5-10-5 on top of the soil. Bulbs should not be planted in containers or window boxes

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OCTOBER MEETING: We will gather this month on **Wednesday, October 13th at the Chiltonville Congregational Church.** The meeting will start promptly at **1pm** but members can start to gather at 12:30pm to meet and greet. Our speaker will be **Michele Fronk Schuckel** and her program will be “Winter in the Garden: Plants & Animals that Thrive and Survive in the Cold.” Michele will share the seasonal survival techniques of the animals in our yard and the plants that best support them.

The Board discussed keeping all our members safe from Covid 19 during the October Board meeting. It was suggested that we mandate masks and suspend our tea service. However, it was decided to strongly recommend wearing a mask during the meeting, and maintaining social distance while eating. If you have health issues, it is your choice to keep your mask on and not eat, we all understand.

Bring in a horticulture specimen (stem) from your garden, please label it with the botanical name as well as the common name.

FLORAL WORKSHOP: Before the meeting this Wednesday, Geri Williams will give a demonstration of 4 design types that are included on the schedule for our Club Flower Show planned for next September. The workshop will begin at **10am** and last for about 1.5 hours. All are welcome. There is no need to preregister and no cost to attend as this will be a demonstration with time for all to ask questions, but you will not create an arrangement to take home.

BULB SALE: The tulips and daffodils bulbs that members ordered will be packaged in bags with your name for pick-up on the **Ways and Means Table** at the Club meeting in October. There will be a small number of bulb packages that were not preordered also available for sale as well as some interesting items secured by the Ways and Means Committee. Several hundred bulbs will be plant at the American Legion on a date later this fall when the soil is cold enough. Thank you Joy Sand and Cynthia Sykes and Ways and Means for organizing this.

PENNY PINES PROJECT: We will again be collecting spare change donations at the meeting this month to help support the replanting of trees in National Forests damaged by fire or natural disasters. Last month we collected nearly \$31. When we collect \$68 it will be sent through the National Garden Club program.

ART IN BLOOM: A dozen members of our club created beautiful floral designs to interpret art works at The Plymouth Center for the Arts from October 8 to 11, which brought in many admiring visitors. Members of the Plymouth Evening GC, Kingston GC, Aptuxet GC and Great Island Gardeners also participated.

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where exposure to sun causes a freeze thaw cycle that stifles root growth. I place my bulb containers away from heat reflecting walls and wrap the pots in sheets of insulating bubble wrap.

When buying bulbs, add high pollen, early blooming varieties to provide the first fresh food after the long winter. Bees favor blue, purple, white and yellow blooms. One of the most welcome sights in late February or early March, is a plump black and yellow bumble bee upended in a crocus. It makes my heart sing, “we have made it. There will be spring.”

Bee friendly bulbs include Allium, Anemone, Camassia, Crocus, Fritillaria, Hyacinthoids (English and Spanish bluebells), Muscari, and Scilla. Purchase bulbs that have not been treated with pesticides, particularly neonicotinoids (linked to bee colony collapse disorder). Dutch bulbs are grown under some of the most stringent environmental restrictions in Europe. Dutch flower bulbs are bee friendly. Read labels carefully for bulb origins.

At end of the season plant sales, consider adding native plants when you purchase. They add pollen for bees, butterflies, and moths, and seeds for birds. They bloom from midsummer to hard frost. Showy goldenrod produces tall, yellow blossom spikes. It's not invasive. New England aster, *symphoricarpos* Nova Angliae, blooms in pink, magenta, blue, and purple daisy-like flowers. Cutleaf cornflowers are bright yellow with a yellow-green center on a six-foot spike.

Garden on!

CONSERVATION TIPS: Taking care of the environment begins in your own backyard.

- Now – before leaves start coming down – go over your lawn with a metal rake to remove dead grass and any debris that may have accumulated over the summer. Then when the leaves fall you can mulch them with your mower and leave in place (or apply to your perennial beds) to improve the soil for next year.
- Leave your leaves under trees and in flowerbeds where you can. Many caterpillars and other insects utilize fallen leaves as protection for the winter. In spring these insects provide food for our early returning birds.
- Fall is also a very good time to plant shrubs, trees and perennials. The cooler weather means less watering and stress for them and provides a good start getting established.
- Leave seed heads from coneflowers, black eyed Susans and similar flowers standing in your gardens, the birds will thank you this winter.

BOOKS AND BLOSSOMS CHAPTER 3: This year's version was well received in the Fehlow room of the Plymouth Public Library. 149 Library patrons visited and enjoyed viewing the lovely table settings, guessed the books that were being interpreted, and made generous donations totaling \$76.

GREEN SALE: Our Annual Green Sale will be held at the Plymouth Public Library on **Saturday, December 4, from 10am – 3pm.** We will hold workshops on Dec. 2 & 3 in the Fehlow room to decorate wreaths, fill outside boxes, and make holiday centerpieces. All members are needed to help, all skill levels are welcome. We will provide help and instructions. We are not sure if we will be able to purchase the wooden boxes that we fill with greens for porches and gravesites, so if you have one from a previous year or any other basket or suitable container and would like to donate them, please bring it to the October and November meetings, give them to Geri Williams. If you would like us to refill your wooden box, we will do it for \$20. Boxes this year will sell for \$25 or more depending on the cost of boxes. Save dried flower heads, grasses, seedpods, and pinecones, spray them with silver, gold or red paint. Pick up and donate small sprays, snowflakes, fake fruit, glittery flowers or ornaments that we could use on wreaths or in arrangements and baskets. If you are going through your old holiday decorations, call Geri (508-833-4355) to arrange to donate ornaments or old wreaths that could be redecorated.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: Please welcome and introduce yourself to our new member **Sharon Ferraguto.** She is an avid gardener and is anxious to learn more from us and our programs. Put her information in your yearbook: Sharon Ferraguto, 3 Weathervane, Plymouth 02360
Home phone: 508-927-4339 Cell: 978-618-7838

Thank you to Sam Machado, an Eagle Scout and neighbor of Colleen Costa who has agreed to setup the tables and chairs for our meetings at the Chiltonville Church no longer has a custodian to do this.

Building Community through Gardening Together