



Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	72
Associate	13
Life:	3

The Bradford Pear From Joy Sand

Once again, a horticultural variety introduced as a landscaping miracle has proved to be a science fiction type villain. The Bradford pear was widely planted beginning in the 1960's as the tree of choice in suburban neighborhoods, malls and colleges. Bradford pear trees were the choice because they were readily available, not particular about soil, produce clouds of white blossoms in spring, not bothered by pests and have mahogany red leaves in fall.

But over time an ugly downside appeared. The blossoms smell almost fishy. The branch structure is weak, prone to snapping in wind, and as trees age blow down. Billed as sterile, two Bradford pears cannot reproduce. But as a callery pear, Bradfords can cross pollinate with other pears and the seeds can be widely spread by birds.

The offspring pears spread rapidly. The branches bear thorns 3 to 4 inches long. Trees grow rapidly to 15ft. in a decade, 50 by 30 ft. at maturity. The tangled branches do not support caterpillars or other herbivorous insects. There is nothing for birds to eat.

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Plymouth Garden Club

December 2021

Pat Parker, President

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DECEMBER MEETING: We will gather this month on **Wednesday, December 8th at the Chiltonville Congregational Church** for our annual Holiday Luncheon. The meeting will start promptly at **noon**. This year to insure a safe and enjoyable lunch for all we will be having our lunch catered by Mama Mia's. You should have already let Karen Baker know if you are planning on coming to insure enough food. Committee Members will bring desserts and serve lunch. If you could bring cookies call Kevinette, 508-747-5919. Colleen Costa has arranged musical entertainment for our cheer. It is strongly recommended wear a mask while socializing. Bring your own silverware and a tree ornament to exchange. If you would like, please bring a small centerpiece for the tables that will be auctioned after lunch.

HOLIDAY GREENS SALE: Thanks to the hard work of many members decorating wreaths, filling the wooden boxes, creating lovely arrangements and swags, as well as bringing in greens, donating supplies, welcoming and helping out customers, we had our most successful sale ever. Final income numbers are not available yet, but more than \$3000 was netted. Thanks also to all who shopped and encouraged your family and friends to come to our sale. Quite a few of our newer members came to the workshops and enjoyed learning decorating techniques and the camaraderie of working together and getting to know each other better. Special thanks to Linda O'Neill, Geri Williams, Pat Parker, Cynthia Sykes and Judy MacDonald who worked each day and were instrumental in preparing for the sale, and Paula Butterfield for publicizing the sale on Facebook

WAYS AND MEANS: Opportunity chances will be available at the lunch for a tree decorated with lottery tickets. The winner will be drawn after lunch. There will be some of the beautifully filled outdoor wooden boxes, suitable for cemetery or porch use, available for purchase along with some other items from the Greens Sale.

JR. GARDENERS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM: Alison Reardon, the Science Dept. Director, has reworked our Powerpoint presentation for 3rd graders to make it more appropriate for their learning style and more interactive. The amount of information has been simplified and reduced and there are sections where the students are encouraged to talk with each other. We will need to train volunteers on this new presentation. Geri Williams will be away until the middle of March, but will schedule a training soon after. The school presentations will probably be scheduled for April into May. If you are interested in helping with this program or would like more information, contact Geri at 508-833-4355 or geri3williams@comcast.net

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Bradford pears were originally introduced in North and South Carolina, but they've spread along the East Coast and to Texas and the Midwest. South Carolina has added it to their Plant Pest List and will ban the sale of the tree in 2024. Anyone who produces proof of a destroyed Bradford pear receives a native sapling. Ohio will ban the pears in 2023. In other states efforts to ban Bradfords face steep opposition from the plant industry.

Good news for birders: Mass Audubon says it is safe to fill feeders again. The mysterious disease that caused blindness and death never appeared in NE. It seems to have concentrated in areas where cicadas hatched and poisoned birds who ate them.

More Internet faux "information": adding lime and powdered detergent and spaying plants to deter deer. DOES NOT WORK. Instead mix cayenne pepper and liquid dish soap to spray threatened plants. Also try wrapping the lower 6 to 8 feet of yews, hollies and rhododendrons with plastic deer fencing until spring. Also try spraying with commercial Deer Out repellent. It smells like peppermint and lasts for weeks. When the odor fades, spray again.

Enjoy the garden planning months. Garden on! Joy

Building Community through Gardening Together

Treasury report as of 10/1/21:

Checkbook: \$16339.47

Scholarship fund: \$9581.19

CONSERVATION TIPS: Some gift giving ideas to help protect the planet:

Give a gift of a stainless-steel water bottle that can be filled with tap water. If you have taste/safety concerns about tap water, give the gift of a water filtration system or Brita pitcher along with the stainless-steel water bottle.

Reuse/Recycle! Gift quality not-new items from your own bookshelf or attic or basement. For example: combine a set of glass beer mugs you never use with a 6-pack of a specialty beer; flower pots with cuttings from your own garden or house plants; or have someone's treasured item repaired.

Use recycled wrap for gifts. Don't use foil paper...it can't be recycled. Avoid glitter...it is toxic to the environment.

Give the gift of your time: an IOU to bake and deliver a special food or meal; teach someone to knit or crochet; talk someone through converting to organic lawn care, etc.

Christmas trees: it's best to buy a live tree and plant it after the holidays. Or buy a locally grown cut tree collected after the holidays by your town and composted. Or cut off branches and use them to mulch tender plants in your garden. Switch to LED light strings, they use much less electricity.

Books for gift-giving: The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan
Native Plants for New England Gardens, by Richardson and Jaffe
Bringing Nature Home and Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy
Roses for New England: Guide to Sustainable Rose Gardening, Mike/Angelina Chute

Good Bug, Bad Bug: Who's Who...and How to Manage Them Organically, Jessica Walliser

Healthy Soils for Sustainable Gardens. Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides. 2009. Amazon.

These tips came from the GCFM 2020 Holiday Greetings on their website:
[Holiday Greetings from GCFM](#).

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: Please welcome and introduce yourself to our new member **Barbara Moser**. She has lived in many parts of the country and has enjoyed gardening in various climates. She is anxious to learn more from us and our programs. Put her information in your yearbook:

Barbara Moser, 64 Kensington, Plymouth 02360

Home phone: 508-224-8392 Cell: 828-674-0555

Email: bjm31121@gmail.com

AMERICAN LEGION PLANTING: Thank you to Coletta Candini, Pat Parker, Joy Sand, Debby Clark-Lalley and Marcia Sykes who dug and planted 600 tulip and 200 daffodil bulbs at the American Legion on November 19th.

