



Plymouth Garden Club

November 2022

Colleen Costa, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active	80
Associate	14
Life:	3

The Challenges of Autumn From Joy Sand

If you thought gardening this growing season was challenging, hold on to your garden gloves for the post drought fall. Over the last few years, the trend in fall gardening has moved away from the manicured and trim look to a more “natural” landscape. Seedheads are left to find winter birds. Branches that fall in the garden are left to shelter insects and small mammals until Spring.

The acute dry conditions of summer especially the 100 degree days in July stressed trees and shrubs. Their leaves changed color early and fell, leaving bare branches. The temptation is to cut away the dead. Don't do it. The tree or shrub is sacrificing leaves that will die anyway in order to save the whole plant. Wait until Spring.

In the Spring, give the branch the “bend test”. If the branch is pliant and doesn't break, chances are very good that it will leaf out. If the very end breaks off, keep testing until the branch bends. It can leaf out, maybe slowly.

One hotly contested area of yard and garden plant management is the English style lawn. These grasses thrive only in cool, moist conditions. They turn brown and become dormant as temperatures rise and rainfall vanishes. Most of these laws bounce back with fall rains.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Our **November Meeting** will be Wednesday, **November 9th at 1pm.** Members will start gathering at **12:30pm at the Chiltonville Church.** The meeting will be “**Thanksgiving Holiday Table Design**” by **Elaine Mellen** she comes from Dedham, MA She maintains her own blog **Good Dinner Mrs. Mellen** is a regular featured writer for Victoria Magazine. The speaker will be first, followed by a brief meeting, then tea refreshments.

Holiday Luncheon will be December 14, 2022, at 12:00 Noon—please join us. The Host Committee has arranged for Mamma Mia's Pinehills to cater our hot luncheon dishes –Vegetable Lasagna and Chicken Broccoli Alfredo with ziti. Rolls and butter, as well as Caesar Salad will also be served. Coffee and water will be provided. Plastic silverware will be provided or you may bring your own! **Sign up and pay \$10 (checks to Plymouth Garden Club, cash, or credit card) at the November meeting.** You can also pay on the Garden Club website www.plymouthgardenclub.org website under SHOP, Dues and Gifts Options, select December 2022 Luncheon and \$10 will be selected. If you have any questions call: Karen Baker 508 209-0306.

DESSERT: Bring your favorite Christmas cookies, bars, candies, etc. to share, along with the recipe for a PGC Christmas recipe book to be made and sold after the first of the year.

Recording Secretary. Monica Hurcombe has stepped up to be our New Recording Secretary. Thank you, Monica and welcome to the Board.

ART IN BLOOM was a great success due to Nancy Markley hard work along with her team of helpers. There were 25 floral designs, with 15 from our club and the rest from The Evening Garden Club, Kingston Garden Club and Great Island Gardeners. Our own Geri Williams was voted most popular arrangement.

LIBRARY BEDS/BULB PLANTING: Debby Clark-Lalley and Coletta Candini would like to thank all the members who helped with planting the mums and bulbs to add to our town's beautification. The mums this year were donated by the Sheriffs Department.

HEDGE HOUSE – The Hedge House will be presenting “A Christmas Carol” the weekend of **December 3rd and 4th** with self-guided tours from 11:00 to 4:00 PM. In addition, on the weekend of **December 10th and 11th** there will be a performance that brings to life the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his Christmas Eve transformation from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. A flyer will be available at our meeting but mark your calendars for some holiday fun.

A drought tolerant grass seed, Black Beauty is coming on the market. It consists of tall fescue grass and can be used to thicken existing lawns. Or consider replacing grass with ground covers that don't require mowing.

Continue mowing until day temps are in the 50's. Remove the bag and leave the clippings on the lawn. When mowing or clipping be aware of praying mantis egg cases. They are deposited on tall grasses or sticks. The cases look like short, dry cigars. Mantises eat a variety of harmful insects.

Add a top dressing of compost to new plantings and lawns. It will hold moisture and protect roots. But don't fertilize. Late fertilizing stimulates late growth and further stresses plants. It also interferes with the natural slowing down of the plants metabolism for winter.

**“There is nothing
That makes it way
More directly to the soul
Than beauty.**

Joseph Addison

Garden on

***Friends are the
flowers in the
garden of life.***

Treasury report will be posted
at the meeting. For a copy
email treasurer@plymouth
gardenclub.Org.

GREENS SALE: We will hold our **Holiday Greens Sale December 1-3** in the Fellow Room of the Library. We will hold workshops to decorate fresh wreaths, fill baskets and create floral arrangements on Thursday and Friday Dec. 1 & 2 and will sell our creations starting Friday afternoon at 1pm till closing and Saturday Dec. 3 from 10am - 4pm. Lots of help will be needed, all skill levels and people to sell. We are looking for donations of mugs for small arrangements, containers, baskets, etc. ornaments, sparkly decorations and picks, spray painted dried seed heads and grasses and anything you think we could use to create beautiful things to sell. This is one of our major fundraisers to support our club activities, Scholarships and all our projects around town.

JUNIOR GARDENER ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM:

We have been invited again this year to present our environmental program to all the Plymouth Public School 3rd grades. We will be going into the classrooms in March and April 2023. If you are interested in volunteering with this program to educate the students about the unique ecosystems here in Plymouth please add your name to the sign up sheet at the meeting. Geri will schedule a training before the holidays. We need at least **10 members** to help out to continue this program so please consider sharing your talents. Call Geri 508-833-4355 for more information.

CRYSTAL PAYNE, our Club Technical Chair has been sending out most club communications via Mail Chimp. Email messages come from **Plymouth Garden Club** info@plymouthgardenclub.org. Check your spam box. If you have been having trouble receiving communications contact Crystal. Please send any information to add to the website to Crystal at Crystalannpayne@gmail.com.

The Chiltonville Church has added a \$50 ser charge per month to our rent for Heating for our meetings. Further, we have found that an overpayment of rent in the amount of \$875 has been made over the last year. Cynthia our Treasurer, and Colleen our President are working with the church Treasurer Peter Forman to resolve these issues.

Let's Practice Eco-Friendly Landscaping

Among the goals of an 'Eco-Friendly Landscape' are:

- Provide healthy habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.
- Control storm water on the site and allow it to soak in slowly.
- Conserve water and treat it like the important natural resource it is.
- Create healthy soils without pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizers.

Some things you can do to achieve this:

- Plant native plants, shrubs and trees. Native species provide biodiversity important for pollinators, birds and wildlife, require no fertilizer and most are drought tolerant.
- Minimize lawn area.
- Create a vegetable garden and compost
- Plant more trees for today and tomorrow. Trees offer home energy savings through shade from hot summer sun and buffering of winter winds. They sequester carbon, clean the