



# Plymouth Garden Club

October 2022

Colleen Costa, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

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

## Membership

Active	80
Associate	14
Life:	3

### Summer Vacation Is Over For Houseplants From Joy Sand

Houseplants that went outside for "summer vacation" need to return to their "home, sweet home" for the fall and winter. First move plants from bright sunlight to more shady locations for four or five days to minimize shock.

Most likely, the plant has outgrown its pot. If roots protrude from the drain hole, the plant is pot bound and needs to be repotted, use a pot no more than 2 inches wider than the old one. Cut away the escaping roots from the pot with a sharp knife or scissors.

Plants such as spider plant (Chlorophytum), peace lily (Spathiphyllum), flamingo flower (Anthurium) and peacock plants (Calathea), tropicals grown primarily for their foliage, have clumping root systems, and they are easy to divide. Shake off most of the soil and slice through the roots where they meet the plant. Be sure each new plant has at least three healthy leaves. Repot each plant in a new pot with fresh soil. Keep the plants moist, but not soggy.

If not dividing a plant, remove it from the pot, shake off the soil and resettle the plant with fresh soil. Add the spent soil to the compost.

**OCTOBER MEETING:** Our **October Meeting** will be Wednesday, **October 12th at 1pm**. Members will start gathering at **12:30pm at the Chiltonville Church**. Geri Williams will be our speaker. She will present a slide program "Lessons I've learned gardening around Great Herring Pond" and will feature some new flowerbeds that she has dug and planted in the past two years to reduce grass. Geri has also been focusing on native plants and will show some of her successes with them. Bring in a horticulture specimen, with the rain of late, plants are growing again! We'll all continue to learn from these examples.

The speaker will be first, followed by a brief meeting, then tea refreshments.

**REMINDER:** the **OCTOBER FLORAL WORKSHOP** will be led by Nancy Carafoli **Wednesday October 12 at 10:00AM**, Chiltonville Congregational Church before our regular meeting. Bring \$25 cash or check payable to Plymouth Garden Club. This is a fun opportunity for new and veteran members to gather and learn to create an arrangement to bring home. Nancy will provide all materials for us. Please bring clippers and gloves, and a snack or lunch if you wish. Call Susan Denehy 508-317-4130 to see if there is still room if you did not sign up last month.

**ART IN BLOOM** is this coming weekend **October 14 to 16** at the Art Center. Friday and Saturday 10 to 4, and Sunday 1 to 4. We will have 25 floral designs, with 15 from our club and the rest from The Evening Garden Club, Kingston Garden Club and Great Island Gardeners. Some of our members have volunteered to be hostesses. Nancy Carafoli will donate the signature framed table centerpiece and Judy Brown will create her usual spectacular entrance arrangement. The reception is on Friday, Oct. 14, from 6 to 8, with refreshments, and music by a pianist and flutist. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. The event sponsors are Crystal Lake Garden Center and Stevens the Florist.

**LIBRARY BEDS:** Debby Clark-Lalley and Coletta Candini are planning to spruce up the beds and plant mums on **Monday, October 10th at 10am**. All members are encouraged to come help. Thanks to all who volunteered to tend an individual bed for the coming year.

**BULB PLANTING:** To continue our tradition of planting bulbs each fall around town, we will be planting 300 daffodil bulbs and 100 scilla at the **Manomet Library on Tuesday November 1 at 10am**. Please come help, many hands make the work go quickly. Bring gloves, a trowel and shovel.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Crystalannpayne@gmail.com).

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Keep plants well watered.

Before bringing your plants inside, inspect them for pests. Spraying with a fine mist of water or dilute Neem oil will discourage hitchhikers.

Although not dormant, most houseplants slow their metabolism during fall and winter. They need less water and no fertilizer. Over watering creates boggy soils and encourages fungus gnats. Water when the top inch or two of soil feels dry. Holiday blooming plants have been "force fed" to prepare them for sale. They continue to need water, but no fertilizer.

Groom plants to remove dead or dying leaves, but postpone pruning until spring. Most houseplants originated in the tropics and need humidity support in our dry homes. Run a humidifier or place plants on pebble and water filled saucers.

In the spring, usually mid May, houseplants can return to the outdoors. Some tender tropicals like orchids and African violets should never leave home.

Congratulations PGC on a great flower show!

*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me,  
fluttering from the autumn tree"*  
Emily Bronte

Garden on.... Joy

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

Treasury report as of 9/31/22:

Checkbook: \$12587.58

Scholarship fund: \$11,832.50

## 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 air and support a myriad of species of important insects and other wildlife.

Minimize hard surfaces: instead of traditional asphalt, consider alternatives like porous pave® made of recycled tires; perkcrete® – a permeable concrete; porous asphalt and grasspave® - a grid system that allows grass to grow while providing a stable surface for vehicles.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We still need a **Recording Secretary**. Jeanne Burnell is willing to cover the General Meetings, but we need someone to share the duties and cover the Board meetings on the first Wednesday morning each month. If you are willing to attend Board meetings and take minutes to help the club, please contact Dee Dee Dunlap (508-746-8932) or Eileen Gallerani (508-746-3155).

We also need someone to co-chair the Greens Sale with Geri Williams and Linda O'Neill. They have been doing it for a number of years and we really need someone to assist them and 'learn the ropes' to be able to continue this important Club fundraiser.

**GREENS SALE:** We will hold our **Holiday Greens Sale December 1-3** in the Fehlow 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Call Geri 508-833-4355 for more information.

**Etiquette, Friendliness and Courtesy:** Let's all try to make our Club known for it's enthusiastic and friendly members. Let's welcome everyone and think before we speak, especially when we are interacting with other organizations and the public.