



Plymouth Garden Club

April 2025

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: PlymouthGardenClub.org

Membership

Active 90

Associate 11

Life: 4

Garden to Fork

By Joy Sand

With the first lengthening days of early spring, a gardener's thoughts turn to seed starting. Direct sowing of a garden plot depends on timing. Peas tolerate cold and can be sown as soon as the soil is workable. As the soil warms - 60 degrees - lettuce, spinach, radishes can go in. Tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, and peppers need warmth - day, soil, and night temps of 65 -70 degrees. Eggplants, tomatoes, etc. are best started indoors.

The techniques for starting seed early inside apply equally to flowers and veg. The early starting of seeds is intended to fool the seeds into thinking they are growing under conditions that are warmer, sunnier, and more reliably moist than in the outside 'real world'.

It all starts with the containers. Commercial growers use 4 or 6 pack plastic flats. These can be reused if cleaned thoroughly with 3 parts water, 1 part bleach. But take out containers, yogurt cups, cottage cheese tubs can all be adapted for seed starting. Biodegradable pots - CowPots - can be used for starting
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Our April meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9 at the Chiltonville Church. Social time begins at 12:15 PM. The meeting will start at 1pm. Our program will be 'From Fungi to Foraging' by Jana Harris. We'll learn about the history of Fungi on earth; the relationship of fungi with trees and plants, and the life cycle of mushrooms. Jana will talk about hunting, safety and ethics, and share 5 mushrooms to know, edible and non-edible; how to grow mushrooms from a kit. Fungi are considered the miracle workers of nature. Fungi can be food, a decomposer of debris and a healing agent. A business meeting will follow the program before our traditional tea.

Hospitality: Thank you to the April Tea committee chaired by Nancy Carafoli and Nancy Markley with help from Jeanne Burnell, Denise Faherty, Maureen Garber, Joan Govoni, Joy Sand, Geri Williams, and new members Andrea Feeney, Donna Prosser and Beth Soukhanov.

New Member: We welcome **Pat Windelspecht**, 9 Minter Ct. Plymouth MA 02360, 617-721-9100, email: pwindelspecht@gmail.com to our club

Jr. Gardener Environmental Program: Geri Williams needs help packaging the individual seedling trees to be given to each 3rd grade student on Thursday, **April 24 at 10am** at her home 42 Carters Bridge Rd. Please sign up to help on the sheet at the meeting. With the Parks Dept. we will plant a tree at Nathaniel Morton School on **Monday, April 28 at 10am** and help the 3rd graders pot their seedlings. Please come and help.

Books and Blossoms Four is More: On **April 25 and 26** our Club will again present this fun event in the Felhow Room in the Library. Members will interpret a book title with a table setting on a card table. Set up will be Friday, April 25th at 10am. If you have a card table that could be used, contact Linda O'Neill at 508-759-1870. Library visitors will be invited to view the tables starting at noon Friday and play a game to guess the book title of each table. We need hostesses/docents during the Books and Blossoms open hours on Friday afternoon and Saturday. Please volunteer for a 2 hour shift on the sign up sheet at the meeting. There will be an open reception from 4 - 6pm in the Felhow Room on Friday. Any donation of finger foods will be appreciated.

June Luncheon: Paula Butterfield, Dee Dee Dunlap and Karen Baker have planned a wonderful Annual Luncheon on **June 11th at 11am**. It will be held at East Bay Grill on Water St. Cost will be \$43. You can pay Paula or Dee Dee at the April and May meetings, be sure to turn in a reservation form with your choice of entree with your payment.

Garden Therapy: on **Tuesday, April 29 at 2pm** Nancy Carafoli will lead a group of PGC volunteers to help residents of Newfield House create small arrangements for their rooms. Nancy still needs a few more helpers. Please contact Nancy at 774-454-8654. Thank you to Susan Weitzmann and her nine helpers who visited **Plymouth Rehabilitation** last month.

plants with a long tap root. The plants don't require transplanting before going into the garden. For recycled containers, use any sharp tool to make drainage holes. Fill the container 2/3 full of germination mix and add seeds. Soak the germination mix in warm water first. Regular potting mix is too heavy for seeds. Lightly cover the seeds with more mix. Seed packages offer directions on planting depth. Mist with water. Place the seed containers in a solid bottom seed tray and set the tray on a heat mat for bottom warmth. Heat mats range in size from 1 - 4 flats. Position grow lights over the flats. Affordable full spectrum LED lights have become readily available. Seedlings need 12-16 hours light per day. A timer is helpful. Keep seedlings evenly moist. Once seedlings reach 2 true leaves, transplant to a larger - 4in. pot. Fill a pot with 50-50 mix of potting and garden soil. Use a plastic fork to loosen the seedling and plant in the pot; fill pot with soil mix. Return pots to tray and continue with light and water. Heat is no longer needed. Grow on until 4-6 inch plants form. Before transplanting to the garden, 'harden' new plants 3-5 days outside. Expose plants to increasing periods of sunlight and breeze. Transplant on a cloudy or misty day.

Garden on.... Joy

Come Grow With Us!

2024 - 2025
Our 96th Year

New Scholarship Opportunity: This spring we are offering a \$250 subsidy to a Club member's family member who might not be planning on going to a 4 year college but is interested in pursuing a career in gardening, farming, floral or landscape design work by attending a 2 year Jr. College or doing an apprenticeship. If you have a relative graduating this June who is eager to learn more and try their hand in a botanically oriented field contact Geri Williams at 508-833-4355 or geri3williams@comcast.net.

Plant Sale: Our next big fundraiser will be on **Saturday, May 17th** on the front lawn of the Library. The proceeds of the sale will fund our student scholarships and community projects. We need all members to participate. As you work in your gardens look for plants that could be divided or have spread where you don't want them. Many perennials benefit from dividing in early spring. If you pot them up in April, they will be healthy, good sized plants for the sale. It is a policy of the Club that all members contribute 5 plants to the sale or make a donation \$15. In May you can purchase annuals or herbs to donate or put them in a basket or small window box, these always sell well. We need volunteers the day of the sale starting at 7:30am to set up tables, help with the intake and pricing of plants, and during the sale help the many customers who come to buy plants. We have usually sold most of the plants and baked goods by 2pm, but still need volunteers to clean up. Janet Voyer and Becky Freer Freedman will chair the Bake Table. Donations of baked goods, cookies, breads, jams, etc are welcome. Please make your baked goods as appealing as possible and list ingredients. The Bake Sale and Boutique Tables will also need volunteers. There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting, please sign up to help for at least a couple of hours.

Volunteer Opportunity: Kim Corbin, the new Executive Director of The Plymouth Center for The Arts, has asked if our Club could create seasonal arrangements in the 4 large pots on the front walk of the center. This is a 4 time a year commitment, not requiring consistent maintenance. If you would like to help out with this effort to beautify the front of this downtown building. Contact Sharon Ferraguto at beachrose22@yahoo.com

Membership Update: Any members who have been in our Club eight years or longer are welcome to transfer to Associate Membership next year. This may be especially beneficial for members who are finding it difficult to attend meetings, and you would not be required to serve on a tea or other committees. If you would like to change to Associate Membership for next year, please do so when paying your dues by June 30.

Sending Thoughts to some Members: A few of our members have had surgeries or losses. Ellie Gilbert has sent cards from the club, but letting you know: Jane Gregg was hospitalized for gallbladder surgery, Linda Berthed for ortho and Debbie Wells for a stent. Expressions of sympathy sent to Kate Angley on the death of her stepmother and to former member Liz Hester on the death of her husband Jim. Dedicated member Coletta Candini is no longer able to leave her home, she would appreciate notes and afternoon visits, text her before planning to visit. If you hear about a member to whom we should send a card, please notify Ellie Gilbert at 508-732-0410 or coastalgardenerma@gmail.com