



THE LEAF

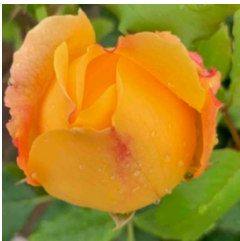
THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

June 2020

President's message - Norma Austin

Hello Everybody,



Let me start by saying that I have a bit of bad news which will be followed by a lot of very GOOD news. So—stay with me on this.

The coronavirus is slowing down but still dragging on. It looks like physical meetings may not be allowed until the new year. The executive is making plans with this in mind, knowing things can change.

Another consideration is that St. Stephen's Church is holding its services in the Hall (where our meetings take place) while the Church is undergoing renovations. Once those renovations are complete, they will tackle the hall, mainly the kitchen, likely in September. There is no certainty.

Now for all the GOOD news!

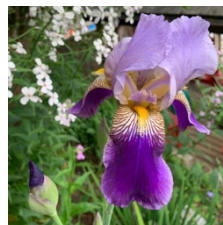
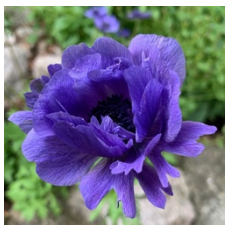
As you know, Maria Issa has been keeping the club connected by way of our exceptional (one-of-a-kind) newsletter. Jackie Morris has done a tremendous job of organizing and running a successful virtual plant sale—hundreds of dollars and still counting! Maria's "Big Dig 4" was well attended and money from that is still pouring in. (Let me know if you want to be part of the Donations Committee to decide if and how to disperse 50% of the money collected.) Aline Burlone has continued to update our website and is putting together a virtual tour of Members' Gardens on our Vimeo account (remember her amazing LVGC history video!!?)



Although I have singled out these three members, let us also hail the work of the MAL team, the Vegimates, and all the members who offered plants to be picked up at their homes. And don't forget the successful "pig poo" pickup, run by Kelly Robertson and her team (Pat and Andrew Holmes, Susan Huber, Maria Issa, Ian Austin)... way way back in March. A big THANK YOU to all!

Going forward, how do we stay connected while staying apart? Come September, we will be using ZOOM to present speakers at 7PM sharp on our usual meeting nights, the

3rd Thursday of the month. Jacquie Morgan has been busy contacting potential speakers. On September 17, Hayne Wai and Robert Wilmott, both long-time Master Gardeners and experts on Chinese gardens, will give a presentation on Vancouver's Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden.



LVGC MEETINGS
Normally 3rd Thursday
of each month (except
July and August) at
St. Stephen's Church
1360 E 24th Street
Please note that ZOOM
MEETINGS WILL START AT
7PM

HOWEVER:
LVGC is currently in
hiatus - we miss you, but
we want you to be safe and
healthy

LVGC in-person activities
are suspended due to
COVID-19 but your exec is
working on virtual
connections

Even though we have a
Mailing Address:
Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053
1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3S9

To limit unnecessary trips,
we are not picking up the
mail

PLEASE USE
ELECTRONIC ACCESS
Your emails are welcome!
<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>
lvgc.membership@gmail.com

Executive 2020

President

Norma Austin x

Vice President

Jacquie Morgan x

Secretary

Susan Huber x

Treasurer

Ginette Handfield x

Membership

Sue Callahan x

Doreen Marbry x

Members at Large

Pat Holmes x

Lori Herman x

Suzanne Mazoret x

Jackie Morris x

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa x

Julie Kehler x

Jane Sherrott x

Plant Table

Norma Buckland x

Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta x

Maggie Davis x

Susan Nicholls x

Daphne Page x

Sunshine/ Door Prizes

Lorraine Robson x

Website

Aline Burlone x

Executive Meetings

By Zoom

Next Newsletter Deadline

Beginning of September

If you have material to delight your fellow members - please submit it *via* the time-honoured routes or email to <mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com>

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition: Rosemarie Adams, Aline Burlone, Sue Callahan, Kitty Castle, Barb Downman, Linda Howe, Julie Kehler, Lorraine Robson, Bogna Ross, Diane Sekora, Jane Sherrott, Kathy Stubbs



I'm sure you've all heard of ZOOM and many of you have already used it. If not, friends or family members should be able to help you get set up. For anyone who does not have Internet access, let Maria know and she will try and find someone who is willing to share their computer with you if it can be done comfortably and socially distanced.

There has always been interest from some members to be able to communicate with each other on-line. Now's the time! Lorraine Robson and I have opened a Facebook account for the club and have... cleverly 😊... named it "LVGC Facebook Group." It is a private space for current members of Lynn Valley Garden Club to post photos, ask gardening questions, or share gardening-related information or events.

I know that the main concern of many people who have not used Facebook or avoided Facebook is privacy. We have taken that concern into account—rest assured that our Facebook group is VERY secure. Our account is both CLOSED and HIDDEN. Closed means you can only join by invitation from an Administrator. Hidden means that no one can find it unless they are already part of the group. So, how do you join? Please read Lorraine's detailed instructions in this newsletter. If you have questions, you can reach Lorraine or myself at lvgc.facebookinvites@gmail.com.

There is more good news! You... yes, YOU... have an opportunity to be part of the 2021 Executive Team. It's hard to see good people leave "the Team" but we know they will continue to be active in the club, so it's all good. We now have room for newer members with new ideas. Read the nominating committee's write up in this newsletter... and step right up.

That's all for now, Folks. Back to enjoying our gardens...

Keep well and stay safe.

Norma



REPORTS

VP - Jacquie Morgan

The following speakers have been approached for ZOOM presentations:

1. **Hayne Wai and Robert Wilmott**, Dr Sun Yat Sen Gardens, Master Gardeners and experts on Chinese Gardens for a presentation in September.

2. **Joanne Melville** will talk about the Hycroft Garden Restoration for the October meeting

Presentations will start at 7:00 pm (15 minutes earlier than usual!!) and will last approximately 45 min to one hour (including questions).

[The audience will not be visible on the video]

Members who cannot view ZOOM presentations at home:

Members who have limited or no internet access could share a computer screen with a host who does - with social distancing in place. Members without computer access - as well as those willing to share!!! - are asked to send their names (to Maria/Newsletter) and we will try to match up computer-buddies.

Treasurer - Ginette Handfield

Bank Balance at the end of May	\$10,601.14
In Petty Cash	<u>\$522.65</u>
Total	\$11,123.79

The following discussion was triggered by a Membership Committee request AND by other Exec Members:

- Membership Committee was seeking a method of supporting members who either do not have email and/or not able to access websites, web presentations, *etc.* provided by the Club
- Other Exec. noted that the club has a substantial reserve and were seeking a method of providing a benefit to all Club Members (as we could not provide a Bus Tour or Members' Gardens Tour in 2020)

MOTION to be discussed and voted upon on at the AGM:

"The Executive recommends that LVGC 2020 membership fees be carried forward (extended) for 2021."

Membership – Sue Callahan and Doreen Marbry

- Current membership total is 146 members
- There were concerns that members without internet access, and others not having a Bus Tour or Members' Garden Tour were not receiving value from their membership. See above for the proposed motion in the Treasurer's report.
- Any new members would be charged the usual fee of \$20

MALs – Jackie Morris, Pat Holmes, Lori Herman, Suzanne Mazoret [FYI: MAL= "Members At Large" – technically the voice of the members on the Executive. In practice, they also take on the organization of the Plant Sale, when we have one - no mean feat!]

The current MALs will continue to work on the existing Plant Sale Binders so that they are current, accurate and comprehensive.

Jackie writes: "In terms of the **Virtual Plant Sale**, I enjoyed talking to my customers and finding homes for my plants, but it took a huge amount of time. I much prefer our live plant sale. While there is seeding and prep time for the plants, they are all out the door at once with lots of hands to sort and organize on the Friday and fun selling on the Saturday with the added bonus of lots more money for the club. So let's hope the "second wave" is barely a ripple next fall and we can get back to our enjoyable activities!"

Sunshine - Lorraine Robson

On behalf of our garden club, I have sent three get-well cards to club members in February and one this week. Please do let me know if you hear of any club members in need of "Sunshine," so I can send them a friendly note.

[...and since Lorraine is a true 'sunshine' – she is figuring out and organizing how we can connect through **facebook**... more on that further down: keep reading!! -eds].

Hospitality – Sharon Carabetta, Maggie Davis, Susan Nicholls, Daphne Page

[...are probably boiling lots of water and drinking endless cups of tea and coffee (decaf, of course!) to stay in practice until we meet again.]

Website – Aline Burlone

Aline, who has made an extraordinary effort to keep the website going for you during "all this" – and to make sure all sorts of exciting "plantertainment" is at your fingertips - has yet again added a wonderful series of interesting information. Aline is also creating a **Virtual Members' Gardens Tour** – the link will be forthcoming soon!! She writes:

"There are several links on the Homepage <http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org> on the following topics:

Native plants
Plant Propagation
Borders Free Bees project in conjunction with
Vancouver Master Gardeners
Loutet Farm sales and protocols to follow
Chelsea Virtual Flower Show

Gardening on the verge in North Vancouver
Planting guide for Fall and Winter (yes it its
already time to think about this!)
Horticultural Myths
Saving seeds
Pruning"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO THE 21 ST CENTURY, FELLOW LUDDITE GARDENERS!!

Your club has gone virtual! The 'old club' has not gone away, there is just *more* – much more!! Thanks to the hard work and endless testing done by some techie wizards (*aka* Lorraine Robson and Norma and your Exec), there is now an *LVGC Facebook Group* that is VERY private - accessible to current members only; not seen by the internet world, not even find-able if you don't know it exists. This group will allow you to share information, pictures, tips, discoveries, websites; ask questions and get answers sooner than posting in the Leaf; or just chat and commune with kindred gardening spirits. To access this very exclusive, select and entertaining group – here are your instructions:

How to Join the LVGC Facebook Group

- Lorraine Robson

Our new LVGC *facebook* account will help us stay in touch with each other, share photos of our gardens, ask gardening questions and receive answers, and seek or share seeds, divisions, and plants.

The things you post in our LVGC Facebook Group will be visible only to other members of our Group. Only current members of our club will be eligible to join.

If you do not have a *facebook* account yet, you will need to set one up. If you're not sure how to do this, perhaps you know someone who could help you get started. Teenagers make wonderful helpers with technology! Once you are the proud owner of your very own *facebook* account:

1. Send a "Friend request" from your *facebook* account.

(Be sure to send it to the right one; there are a few other people with the same name as me but with different photos. Because our club's *facebook* account is "hidden," we need to be connected as *facebook* friends for me to be able to invite you to join the group. When I receive your 'friend' request, I will 'accept' it and send you an invitation to join the LVGC Facebook Group.)

2. Click on "Accept" to accept the invitation to join once you receive it.

(You should then be able to post photos, questions, and comments in the LVGC Facebook Group, as well as see what others have posted.)

3. If you have questions, please send an email to lvgc.facebookinvites@gmail.com so we can try to help. The "Help" function of *facebook* is also very useful. Just click on the question mark and type in your question.



The (postponed) Great LVGC Bus Tour



To our Members: We were so disappointed that we had to cancel our bus tour! Please know that your \$20 payment to hold your seat is in good hands and will be refunded as soon as the Club is up and running again. Hopefully we will be able to continue with our bus trip next year. (These funds are kept separate from the Club's general ledger.)

-- Doreen, Diane and Rosemarie - your Bus Trip Committee."



Do you want to get to know some of your fellow garden club members? How about letting your name stand for a position on the executive or a part of one of the committees? We do have lots of laughs & great food, and you get to know more people in the club!!! Remember many hands make light work!

Some of the members of the executive will have completed their terms of office at the end of this year and your Nominating Committee is searching for replacements for 2021. Our Constitution states that members can hold executive office in any one position for two years, and then move to another position for two years, if they wish. A member can hold office for a total of four years. This has worked very well in the past and many of our members have been on the executive. After a break of two years, anyone can rejoin the executive again. As there will be a number of vacancies this year, hopefully some of these members would like to rejoin the executive for 2021. The outgoing members are always willing to transition the new members onto the executive. Vacancies for this next term will include:

MALS - 2 (we already have one person is willing to stand, but we need 2!)

Secretary - 1 (we have a person willing to stand for nomination)

Treasurer - 1

Membership Committee- 1 (a knowledge of Excel is an asset!) (we have one person willing to stand for nomination)

Sunshine Committee - 1

Please contact Rosemarie Adams or Sue Callahan if you are interested in any of these positions - we are looking forward to hearing from you!



Food Bank &/or Harvest Project



In case you are missing the exercise of dragging those “non-perishables” to LVGC meetings: ... both the **Food Bank and the Harvest Project** need our help more than ever - and while we may be stressed with it all - we are not going hungry. Lots of people are going hungry - as things are NOT back to normal: many people have lost their jobs and those jobs are not coming back quickly enough. Please, please send them money through the “CANADA HELPS” website. You get an instant tax receipt. Also, anything you donate to COVID-19 relief gets **MATCHED 100%**. As Anna Marie would say “*What a deal! Do it now!*”



“Making a garden is not a gentle hobby – It is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole, and once it has done so he will have to accept that his life is going to be radically changed. There are seasons he will hesitate to travel and if he does travel, his mind will be distracted by the thousand and one children he has left behind, children who are always in peril of one sort or another. However sober he may have been before, he will soon become an inveterate gambler who cuts his losses and begins again; he may think he intends to pare down on spending energy and money, but that is an illusion, and he soon learn that a garden is an ever-expanding venture. Whatever he had considered to be his profession has become an avocation. His vocation is his garden.”

----Mary Saton “Plant Dreaming Deep”.

Big Dig Success Stories

Members reported on their success in rescuing and finding new homes:



Sue Callahan: Here's our success story of that rhodo extracted during *Big Dig 1*! It is so beautiful in Jo Ditlove's garden

Kitty Castle: *Big Dig 3* - Oregon Grape (*mahonia aquifolium*)...that is one tough plant and seems to manage on the steep slope where it will probably end up. Please go and check out my *Butterflyway project* which is a few houses over, in the 4100 block of Sunset. The *Sunset Butterflyway project* is along a public pathway and is really in two parts. The top flat section has a flowerbed with bee and butterfly attractive plants and then a wild section in progress to the top of the stairs. The next section

is beside the stairs past a steep slope where some of the rescued plants have ended up.

<https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway/north-vancouver/>

I worked with Lorraine and we got almost all of the rescued plants (*Big Dig 4*) tucked into the Sunset Butterflyway!!

Kathy Stubbs: *Big Dig 4* - A few prizes there. So nice to actually be able to see the plant and flowers rather than just guessing from some stubble in the frozen ground.



"SPEAKERS"

We obviously don't have any till September - but meanwhile, we have these for you!

OFF THE CUFF LINKS

Millennial Gardeners

- Julie Kehler:

There has been a fair amount of media exposure over the past several months about the enthusiasm of young gardeners! Did everyone see this CBC item?

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/costofliving/the-struggles-of-newly-minted-graduates-and-of-independent-restaurants-in-the-face-of-the-pandemic-1.5568450/gen-z-and-millennial-canadians-are-really-digging-gardening-right-now-1.5568454>

On that particular subject, I have been giving Zoom "tutorials" to a young gardener starting her first vegetable garden in Calgary and another young family who took advantage of the new-found time at home to build raised beds for vegetables here on the North Shore. So I'm wondering if our club might have a role to play in helping this new generation of gardeners in our neighbourhood. Ideas, anyone?



Climate Change and Woodland Ecology

- Jane Sherrott

Installing heating cables in the soil in a forest and then examining changes in soil microorganisms, trees and plants over an extended period (29 years so far) has proven to be a novel way to gain insights into climate change. Since CO₂ is a significant heat-holding greenhouse gas, I found this article describing the findings on soil microorganisms' release of CO₂ particularly interesting and thought others might too.

<https://harpers.org/archive/2020/06/ground-control-harvard-forest-massachusetts/>

The Code of Life: How genomics is saving our honeybees

We are all aware of the 4 threats faced by honeybees: Pesticides, Parasites, Pathogens and Poor nutrition... - then we can add a 5th, "Predators" - those killer hornets you saw in the May *Leaf*. Unfortunately, there is more: heat as a consequence of climate change. UBC is studying bee genetics to understand how they can save the bees.

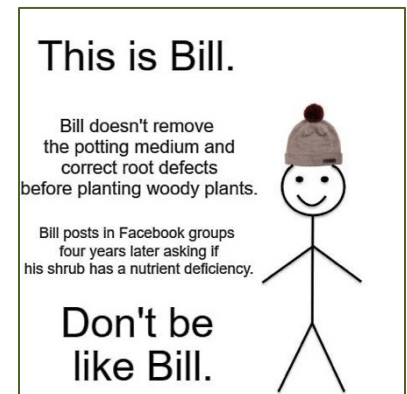
<https://youtu.be/YRfeQ8mggrM>

What Went Wrong with my Vegetables and Flowers? *sourced by Linda Howe* [someone is singing my song....]

This article may be behind a paywall - depending on your personal use of the NYT - but if it allows you in, it's worth a read.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/20/realestate/what-went-wrong-with-my-vegetables-and-flowers.html?referringSource=articleShare>

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North Shore Black Bear Society

- Sent in by Kitty Castle

As we all share our environment with critters large and small and we like to live with them in peace, I wonder if the LVGC membership might be interested in these Online Programs now being offered by the North Shore Black Bear Society? I am attaching their schedule for June.

They have 3 different programs and their speaker is Luci Cadman, their Education Coordinator, who is very well informed and a good presenter.

- 1) Cubs: 45 minutes. Thursday June 18 @ 10am and June 23rd @ 1pm. (Designed for Grades 1 to 7)
- 2) Exploring Bear Country: 1 hour. Tuesday June 16 @ 10am and again on Monday June 22 @ 7pm
- 3) North Shore Wildlife: 1 hour. Saturday June 20 @ 10am and Thursday June 25 @ 1pm

To register - email nsbbsociety@gmail.com to receive your Zoom code.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm&ogbl#inbox?projector=1>

The Hostas with the Mostest

As you know, there are quite a few hosta-aficionados in the club. I have seen enormous, interesting, or just plain weird hostas in some people's gardens. Send in your pictures - with size reference - and an imaginative title - and we will do something with them. Definitely they will be in the *Leaf* and on the website - and if the pictures warrant, maybe a few prizes can be had... Who knows? Suggestions welcome!

Totally not plant related but fun: What Shakesperean character are you?

Click on this link and do the survey! <https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=157528368620>

A Garden for Daily Living (author unknown)

- found by Diane Sekora

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of Mind
Peace of Heart
Peace of Soul
Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness
Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce really love one another
No garden should be without
turnips:
Turnip when needed
Turnip to help one another



TURNIP THE MUSIC AND
DANCE!
Water freely with patience and
Cultivate with love,
There is much fruit in your
garden
Because, you reap what you
sow.
To conclude our garden,
We must have thyme:
Thyme for fun,
Thyme for rest
Thyme for ourselves.
Pretty nice garden, don't you
think ?



Jan Valair

- remembered by Kitty Castle

I have just learnt that a long-time member, Jan Valair, died at Cedarview Lodge in late May. She had been there since August 2019. Cedarview Lodge did not have any cases of Covid-19 and her family was able to be with her at the end. Jan was a very active member in the Club until about 4 years ago when she had a serious fall and head injury.

She was quite a character: loved music and was learning to play the bagpipes before her fall. Jan was on the executive as part of the MAL team in 2010 and 2011, then again in 2013 and 2014. Jan contributed hugely to our Annual Plant Sales, usually arriving with a trailer full of plants.

If anyone wishes to send their condolences, send them to her daughter Karen Valair.



I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine.

William Shakespeare
'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (1595-6) act 2, sc. 1, l. 249

Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste

William Shakespeare
'Richard III'

MISCELLANEA

Free Spirit Order

- Barb Downman



It was great to support *Free Spirit* and heartening to learn that they did quite well in May and are hoping for a strong June. Lambert and Marjanne really appreciated that the group order was from members of the LVGC.

I had fun out at *Free Spirit*yes I did pick up a few treats that were not on my original order (a few lovely perennials and a few of the choice annuals Lambert grows ...Cupcake Cosmos, *Cerithe*I could have gone completely crazy as everything is so beautiful. They have such an artistic eye that it is both very inspiring and very intimidating to walk around the nursery.



What Are These Critters? A cautionary tale...

- by Aline Burlone

One morning near the end of May as I was enjoying my cup of coffee, I saw my husband head for the garage in his full mask respirator outfit. What was he up to? Going to Costco? Intrigued, I followed him and found him rummaging in the cupboard that used to hold pesticides, muttering to himself, "We must still have something in here?"

- "What are you doing?" said I.
- "Well," he said, "you should see the caterpillars crawling on the *Ceanothus* in the front yard".
- "But what are they?" I asked.
- "I don't know," he responded, "but we need to get rid of them".
- "Not necessarily!" "Let's check them out."

We made our way to the front and found these little critters munching on the leaves of the *Ceanothus* bush.
- "I wonder what they are? Could they be tent caterpillars? But there is no evidence of a big web. Let's take them off and put them in a holding pen (*aka* a plastic container) until we know more about them."



So saner heads prevailed, and we started researching what pests might attack *Ceanothus* - none of the ones we found looked anything like these little guys. Have you ever tried to identify a caterpillar when you have no clue what you are really looking for? After a fruitless search we decided to consult an expert: Linda Gilkeson. We sent her pictures to see if she could let us know what we were dealing with. She responded very quickly with an identification. To our surprise what we have are the caterpillars of the California Tortoiseshell Butterfly (*Nymphalis California*). We instantly returned them to the bush and will keep an eye on them to see if we can see them form a pupa and turn into butterflies. We then remembered that earlier in the Spring we had seen butterflies in the back yard. We dug out the picture and realized that that was probably the parent.

These butterflies range along the Pacific Coast from Southern British Columbia to Baja California and east to Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. When there is a periodic population explosion in Mexico, they can also be seen as far east as Vermont and New York. They prefer woodland, brush area, forest clearings and edges, as well as chaparral.

Adults emerge in June and fly until fall and then hibernate over winter. The following spring they fly until April and May, mating and laying eggs for the next generation. The eggs are laid in bunches on the host plant and the caterpillars feed together on the leaves when young. The host plants are various species of wild lilac (*Ceanothus*).



So if you happen to have a *Ceanothus* in your garden and you see some of these caterpillars*, be kind, be calm, and share the plant with them and you might be rewarded by having more butterflies flying around in the summertime.

*NOTE! Be aware that if there is a population explosion, they may defoliate your plant but a few should not hurt it.

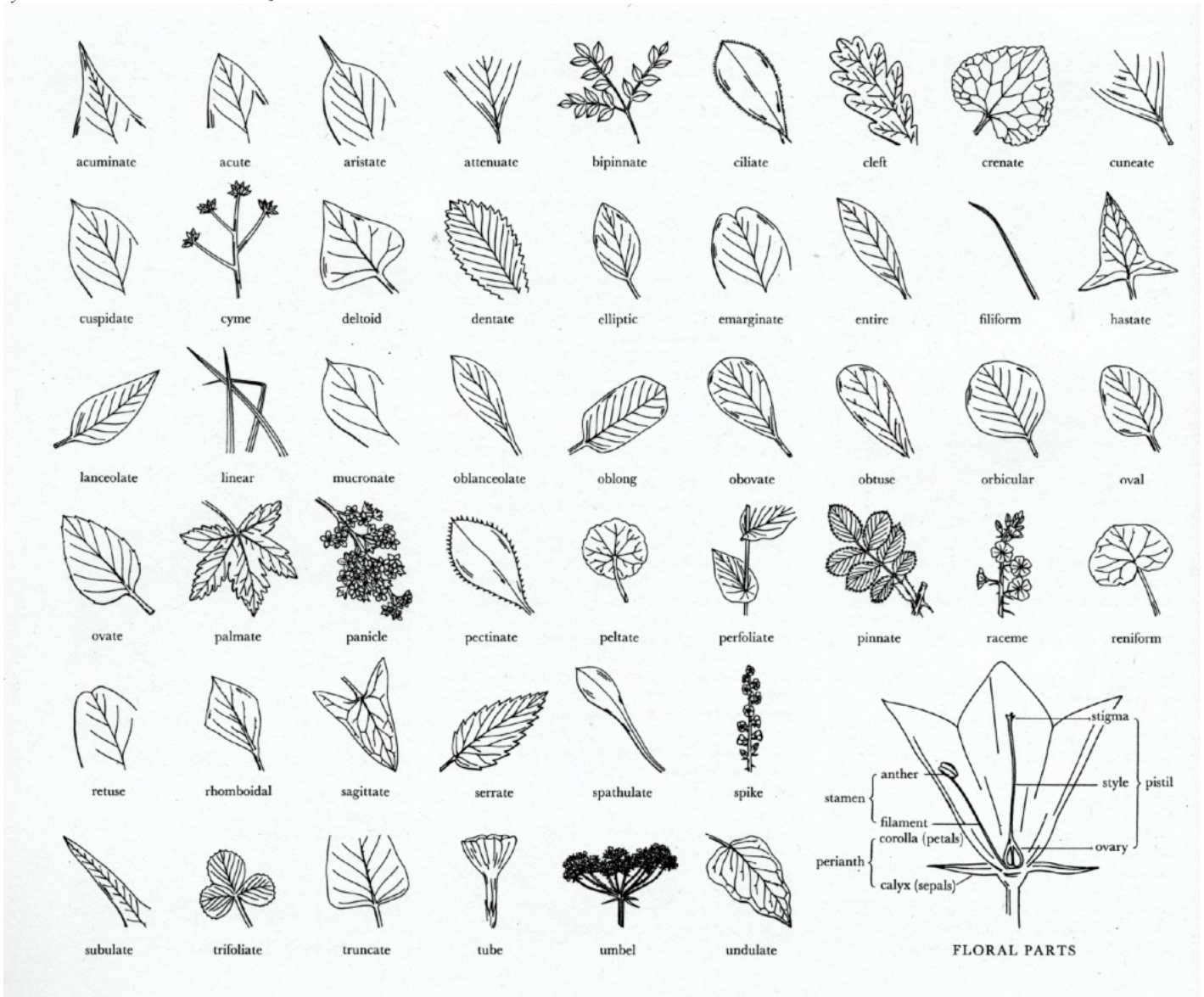
Disclaimer - we do *not* have any pesticides in our garage!!

Reference: <https://bugguide.net/node/view/1808471>

Leaf Leaves

- Aline Burlone and Bogna Ross

Bogna asked me to scan this page of botany which is useful in describing leaves. I scanned it from a book called "The Concise British Flora in Colour" by W. Keble Martin, Ebury Press and Michael Joseph; First Edition 1965 (this plate was in black and white). Reviews say it is "the" book for flower identification. We thought it might be of interest for the Leaf. [Amazon has it ...if you have deep pockets: hardcover \$531; paperback \$265; according to Jane a 10x cheaper version can be found at Abe Books Ltd - ed]



Slug Wars: Slug Control for Organic Gardens - from Organic Gardening by Susan Slape-Hoysagk

'Slug-Fo' 101

Slugs belong to the large class of gastropods, from the Latin gastro (stomach) and pod (foot), and they do in fact serve a purpose by literally eating their way through life. Makes sense if you are basically just a stomach traveling around on a slimy foot – and eat they do!

These slime-coated denizens of my garden are not particularly picky eaters, which makes them useful in the environment – just not my garden. By breaking down dead organic matter, including animal feces, nitrogen, and other essential nutrients, get recycled and reused in different ways. I hate to admit it, even by fertilizing the soil.

Also, believe it or not, slugs are a part of some animal diets. Birds, like geese, ducks, chickens, blackbirds, and thrushes, as well as frogs and toads, [and in North Van: raccoons, snakes and salamanders - m] are a few of the slug connoisseurs in our world.

Slugs reproduce by finding a mate or through self-fertilization since they are hermaphrodites. My local European slugs can lay up to an unsettling 500 eggs a year! If only they would stick to dead stuff and the dog poop. I have yet to be successful with slug training or relocation efforts, and thus my garden continues to be a slug battle zone.

[If you want to read the rest of this horror story - <https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/slug-wars-slug-control-in-your-organic-garden-zbcz1607>] and if you want some tricks to get rid of them read this:

Put out bait - Put out bait such as a pan of beer or an upside-down melon rind. The slugs will be attracted to the tender or liquid treat. With beer, they will drown in it. With the melon rind, you can collect the melon rind (and overstuffed slugs) the next morning and dispose of them. [Apparently when they are feasting and not socially distanced - the birds can get them more easily -m]

Read more at Gardening Know How: Facts About Slugs And How To Kill Garden Slugs <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/pests/insects/kill-garden-slugs.htm>



Groundcover for Shade

Bruce Tennant put out an all-points-bulletin looking for recommendations of groundcover that would do well in shade, preferably flowering and evergreen, and would survive occasional foot traffic. Here's what our members recommended:

From **Aline Burlone**: It's hard to find something that will fit all your requirements however here are a few that might work:

Cornus canadensis is one of my favourite groundcovers. It is in the dogwood family, is a native plant, has flowers followed by berries and although it is supposed to be deciduous, it seems to remain through the winter and will grow in the shade. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornus_canadensis. *Pachysandra* is another one that does well in the shade <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pachysandra>. Both of these spread by rhizomes so can potentially invade but are pretty easy to remove. I have both in our yard and like them both. I don't think they would like being walked on very much, but occasionally might work.

Ajuga reptans (beware of the reptans part - it means it creeps! but is fairly easy to pull out - it's in the mint family) is another one that might work. It has blue flowers and I think it would take more foot traffic than the others https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajuga_reptans.

From **Jane Sherrott**:



We dug up a grass area in March at home this year and replaced it with tough, low, flowering plants that I started from seed I got from Jelitto. I chose these plants after reading about Avondale Park in the UK that planted a grass-free lawn. They based their plant selections on growth trials done in a PhD thesis by Lionel Smith at the University of Reading. There are lots of articles on Avondale Park planting and his thesis provide information on the specific plants. They tracked the growth of the plants and I chose plants that had done well after three years and were noted for

shade tolerance. Many are old-fashioned lawn weeds or new cultivars of these that flower in different colors like a pink dandelion (!) or a coral English daisy. They were planted in a public park and have stood up to some foot traffic but not a lot because it is a shadier corner of the park with not too many people walking in the area.

Smith's thesis is available here <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14601176.2013.799314>. Note: \$44 US to download, so here's a picture that's free but worth 1,000 of his words!

For our shady area I hoped to recreate the multi-colored tapestry of burgundy, pink and green leaves with a range of textures that are represented in the Avondale planting.

Burgundy and pink

Ajuga reptans 'Burgundy Glow' has pink, cream and green leaves and grows fast and well in full shade. It's doubled in size from April to June and expands somewhat like a vine with half a dozen 'arms' coming off so it's not densely covering the ground.

Ajuga reptans 'Mini Crisp Red' has a dark color and it expands like a clumper with dense growth close together.

Acaena intermis 'Purpurea' is tough to germinate and needs cold first. It has pretty, feathery foliage and is a dense grower. It's grown in lawn bowling greens in its native New Zealand. Avondale saw it grow densely even with UK rain so this can work here!

I bought 4" pots of *Leptinella squalida* 'Pratt's Black' dreaming of the black and chartreuse foliage in the picture, but in the garden the color is the same as mud. I do love its leaves look like tiny ferns and hope it will be a good, dense ground cover for the gold Creeping Jenny growing over it. I divided each 4" pot into quarters that are growing well, but soil must make a difference because Julie found hers are just stubbornly keeping to their original size in full shade.

Speaking of not expanding at all, I bought one 4" container of *Trifolium repens* 'Autropurpureus' to see how aggressive it is. It's not growing or expanding at all yet. Green leaves and pretty flowers.

Bellis perennis 'Rominette Series' I'm not sure I like this updated cultivar with popsicle-coloured flowers. Fresh green leaves though.

Bellis perennis sp I love their white flowers and will make daisy chains with our grandson. Both clump up densely in a short time. I like their fresh green leaves for contrast fresh contrasting colour, and both bloomed abundantly in part shade.

Veronica repens Lovely delicate, tiny leaves, no flowers in shade, but still a nice very low groundcover. A sun-lover but I'm still hoping it will grow in the shade to weave through other plants. The sweet flowers sold me ~ and a pack of seeds is cheap!

Viola 'Sorority Sisters' I bought seed that's prechilled so no chilling needed. Tiny seed and the seeding instructions recommended sprinkling a few seeds together, so you get a mixture of enchanting flower colors in clumps. It's growing really fast with another purple-leafed *Viola riviniana*. Both bloom well in full shade, fill in quickly at about 3" tall, so not low and tight like a ground cover, but cover an area well.

I had a container of 1" tall dwarf mondo grass so pulled it into small divisions and they're doing well.

Gold for contrast with burgundy-brown

Fragaria vesca 'Golden Alexandria'. I couldn't resist a gold-leafed wild strawberry, but it probably won't grow well in the shade. The plants aren't growing at all in this year's spring coolness.

Yellow Creeping Jenny. It grows fast but is like an aggressive vine more than a dense ground cover. I like the contrasting gold against the bronze-brown of *Leptinella*. Surprisingly, its leaves can be crushed by foot traffic and its growth is not deterred. I have a large shade bed with it and don't mind ripping some out periodically when it gets too dense.

These are all newly in the ground so haven't been tested by our winter wet but all are recommended for shade or part shade (except the strawberries at Jeeper' Creepers (www.jeeperscreepersusa.com/)). This website has a good search function that enables you to search for ground covers with specific characteristics like handling foot traffic, shade, poor soil and so forth. The plants all grew with success that is documented with photos in Avondale Park that has a climate like ours so I'm cautiously optimistic we may finally get a lawn without grass.

If you are interested in the Avondale Park floral lawns, there are articles at

<https://chinampala.wordpress.com/2013/06/27/revival-of-the-floral-lawn/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/gallery/2013/jul/12/avondale-park-floral-lawn-in-pictures>

From ***Julie Kehler:***

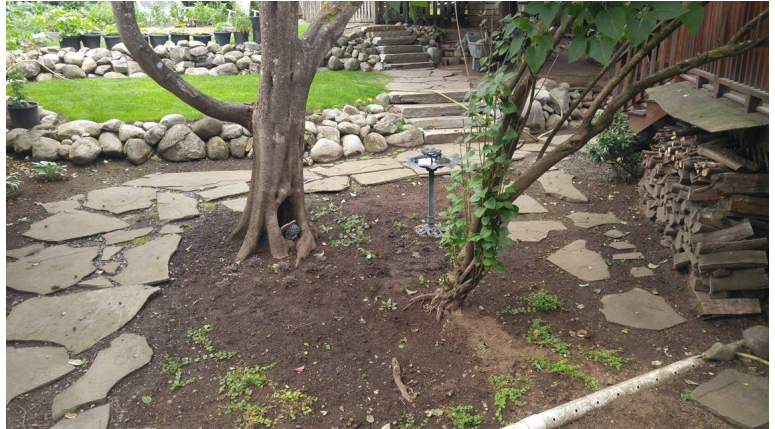
Sweet Woodruff. This would be my absolute top pick. Easy to pull out if it takes over in a spot you'd rather have clear, but otherwise really great spreader with sweet little white flowers and the foliage is mildly fragrant, too.

I've not grown this, but saw it at Phoenix Perennials along with a lot of other interesting groundcovers: *Pratia* 'County Park'. It sounds like it would be ideal in that it withstands heavy foot traffic, is evergreen, has little flowers, spreads, etc.:

<http://www.perennials.com/plants/pratia-pedunculata-county-park.html>

And one other which I do have in my garden: Lily Turf which, I didn't realize before, withstands heavy foot traffic. It looks like a grass, evergreen, has a few little spikes of flowers, survives under cedars...what's not to love?

Bruce provided a photo of his shade groundcover starts along with thanks for the recommendations. We look forward to seeing the evolution! (Bruce: please send regular photos from same angle!!!)



THE COMPOST BIN [Big Dig 4]

- Maria Issa

It was a lovely, sunny Friday morning and when I arrived at 10:03 (three miserable minutes late...!) – and already there was a small, socially distanced crowd waiting and waving in front of Keven-the-superintendent's house. I had hardly parked the car, when this wild lot grabbed metal implements and threw themselves at the poor, unsuspecting sea of weeds that hid the good stuff. They dispersed in all directions of the wind-rose: Rob headed West, to a certain windblown-looking bonsai potential... (more about that later). Susan and Marina headed North-ish to some comely blue flowers, then they disappeared in the undergrowth. Sue went South to Keven's fence-line and large fence-obstructing bushes, and Kitty East, in search of butterfly bait. I'm not really sure where Cheryl went, but she was armed to the teeth. Then others arrived: "thick and fast, they came at last, and more and more and more..." Well, a total of 12. Talk about stamina – Hiromi attacked the figs (!! Yes, FIGS!!) while Penny did the johnny-jump-ups (and has apparently sold them already!). Gillian circled and swooped blissfully and was happy to be out and doing. Kathy methodically extracted her surprises, and Courtney found the honeysuckle(s) and the coreopsis.



There were socially distanced, happy bottoms dotted about the landscape.

I have to admit, I have met my match - and have been surpassed! - when it comes to plant deracination. Sue can explain a plant, even really big plants, like a machine, in a matter of minutes. While I was still making my choices and contemplating – she had an *Acuba* and an *Azalea* uprooted and was making serious inroads on a big pine. She is a force of nature - and don't mess with her when she has a shovel in her hands! (The *Acuba* has already been delivered).

Rob attacked a windblown looking conifer: it looked skinny and ready to be pulled. Big mistake – like with last year's rhodo, a big tree had been cut right off at the base but had sent up a desperate, last effort shoot. Rob had to extract an immense trunk and root-ball, for a skimpy little tree. But he did it: it is currently sitting in an elegant bonsai pot, and in the arms of artistic braces.



I saw people with containers of interesting plants: for me, the new ones were candy tuft, pinks, knautia [yah: just bought \$ome from Free Spirit – so now I have a LOT] and some weird thing called spider wort... these were surprises to me as they were not in my gardening experience. Luckily Gillian knew pretty much everything. There were roses, rudbeckia, coreopsis, anemone, fuchsia, bearded irises and snapdragons! I hadn't seen snapdragons since I was little: that was a romp down memory lane. Fuchsias, on the other hand, bring back bad memories: grandmother's prize fuchsia at about age 5 and I still have little frissons of guilt about it. I systematically and premeditatedly murdered my fuchsia and I still have little frissons of guilt about it. circle - sort of sorts the karma, I hope.

After hours of happy hunting/gathering, the cars loaded – and I mean LOADED – and we socially home and do exactly the same in reverse. I've heard



from a few people who are still looking for more pots and places to put the pots. My crystal ball says there might be future calls for plant fostering until next year's Plant Sale as many people's spare nooks and crannies are filling up with potted rescues.

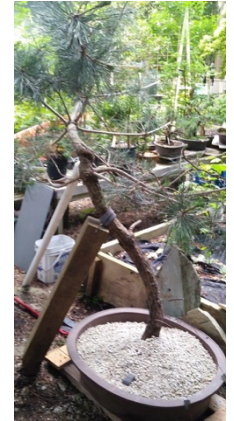
Now, while I can't prove this, I have a feeling that everyone was pretty tired and sore thereafter, and duly medicated with a glass of wine...



and trucks were dispersed to go



and trucks were dispersed to go



Jan Davidsz de Heem, Dutch, Baroque