



Antigonish Garden Club

Fall 2020 Newsletter Member Submissions

Members have submitted some notes regarding this most unusual 2020 gardening season. We hope all will enjoy these anecdotes. Included are both observations and some questions. Hopefully members will give some feedback and perhaps be able to answer some of the questions. Just email sbryson@ns.sympatico.ca We'll get any answers "broadcast" to all.

Yvonne Maas

I had wonderful perennials and potted plants this year as we had access to water from the pond.

The lawn on the other hand turned brown as I was not about to start watering it. We were over run with voles this summer, they tried just about everything in the veggie garden. The beets and bean plants were their favorite then they moved on to the carrots, cukes, red onion.

They loved any type of campanula plant and even nipped an entire fully blooming clematis.

Margorie Willison has discovered that nasturtiums planted in goutweed will kill off the goutweed.

I also discovered that rosemary planted with your carrots will deter the carrot fly.

I bought a little device to keep the deer away called “Deer Guard” which actually worked. Found at Home Depot online.

The perennial yellow foxglove from Darwin Carr was beautiful it is in the first picture.

The yucca at the Heritage museum in full bloom after only two years.

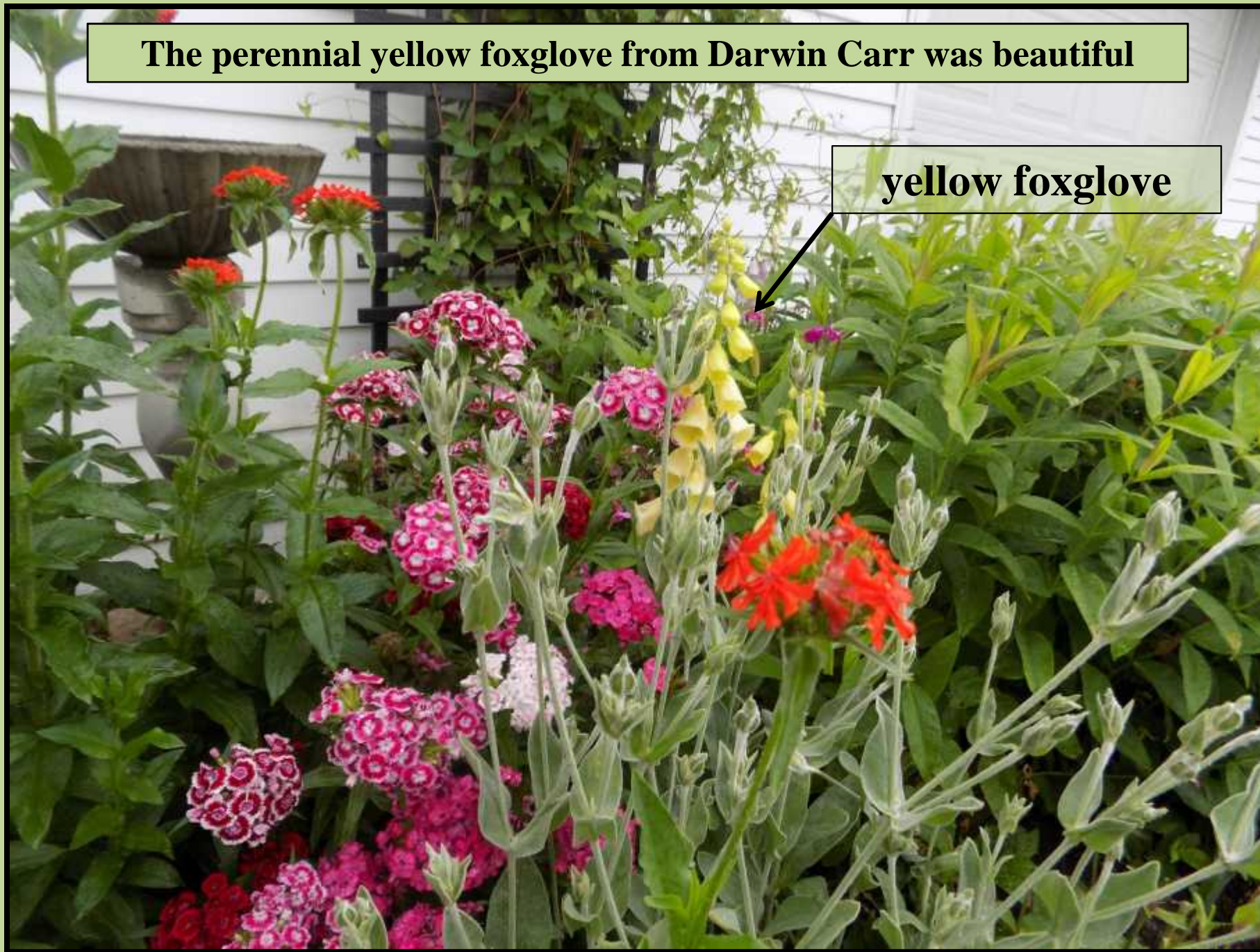


Yvonne's “Deer Guard” Device

**Bird-X Inc. Solar Yard Gard Ultrasonic
Animal Repeller Animal Control
Solar Powered 3000 Sq. ft.
Model # YG-SOLAR-LF|Store SKU #
1001341104 (The Home Depot)
\$52.98 / each**

The perennial yellow foxglove from Darwin Carr was beautiful

yellow foxglove





**Yucca at the
Heritage Museum**

Vibrant Summer Edges






Vibrant Summer Edges

**It was a great year
for Phlox**





Maryvale School Garden Fall Clean Up - Thanksgiving

Paula, Michelle and Yvonne did the fall cleanup on the flower bed.

Yvonne's comments-

Everything is looking pretty good.

We will have to prune the big shrubs in the spring, otherwise there are a couple of holes for more perennials in addition to the annuals.

I suppose the addition of a few bags of black earth here and there would be beneficial, hopefully next year will not be quite so dry.

Maryvale School Garden Fall Clean Up - Thanksgiving



Michelle working



Maryvale School Garden Fall Clean Up - Thanksgiving

**Bill's Jackmanii did well but
unfortunately we lost the
clematis Tangutica.**

**(Clematis jackmanii was planted
in memory of Bill Wilgenhof)**

**It was a beautiful day to work on
the bed and work off some of our
turkey.**

Pat Smith

My garden wisdom from this year is:

“Don’t make a mouse hotel in your backyard!”

I got a large old round bale of hay to plant my potatoes in. The potatoes grew nicely but when my son went out to pick some of the first potatoes he came in and reported that mice were running everywhere and they were eating the potatoes. OK, I tried that one, it has its pros - the potatoes were nice and clean, no dirt; it has its cons - mice.

I enjoyed a few garden visits with Penny MacDonald, Cordis MacDonald, Fran Guinnane and the Steinhart’s garden tended by Isabel Rochas. Isabel and Liz both visited my yard as well.

I really enjoyed seeing the school garden in all its glory this summer.

I grew pumpkins for the first time and the best was ‘Naked Bear’. Naked Bear is grown for the seeds (no shells), but the flesh made a beautiful puree for pumpkin pies. The seeds were so easy to deal with. I shall plant this again next year. I got the seeds from William Dam Seeds.

Pat's Pumpkin



from- William Dam Seeds

Naked Bear F-1

Most productive edible hullless variety in our trials. It produces lots of plump edible seeds without hulls making it a variety that can be used for both a pie pumpkin and edible seed market. Full vine produces concentrated sets of 2-3lbs fruits with a slightly flattened globe shape, rind is light orange with gold flecks. Thick meat flesh has a sweet nutty taste. Mostly hullless seeds can be used for roasting or pressed for oil. Tolerant to PM 105 days Pkt contains 10-13 sds.

Mary Campbell

North Grant

notes and questions

My **Pinky Winkie Hydrangea** bush last year had many beautiful blossoms, but this year they were very few and very small.

The apples on my trees are very plentiful, large and almost worm-free.

My veg garden did well, especially the rutabagas and tomatoes, although a lot of tomatoes are still green on the vine.

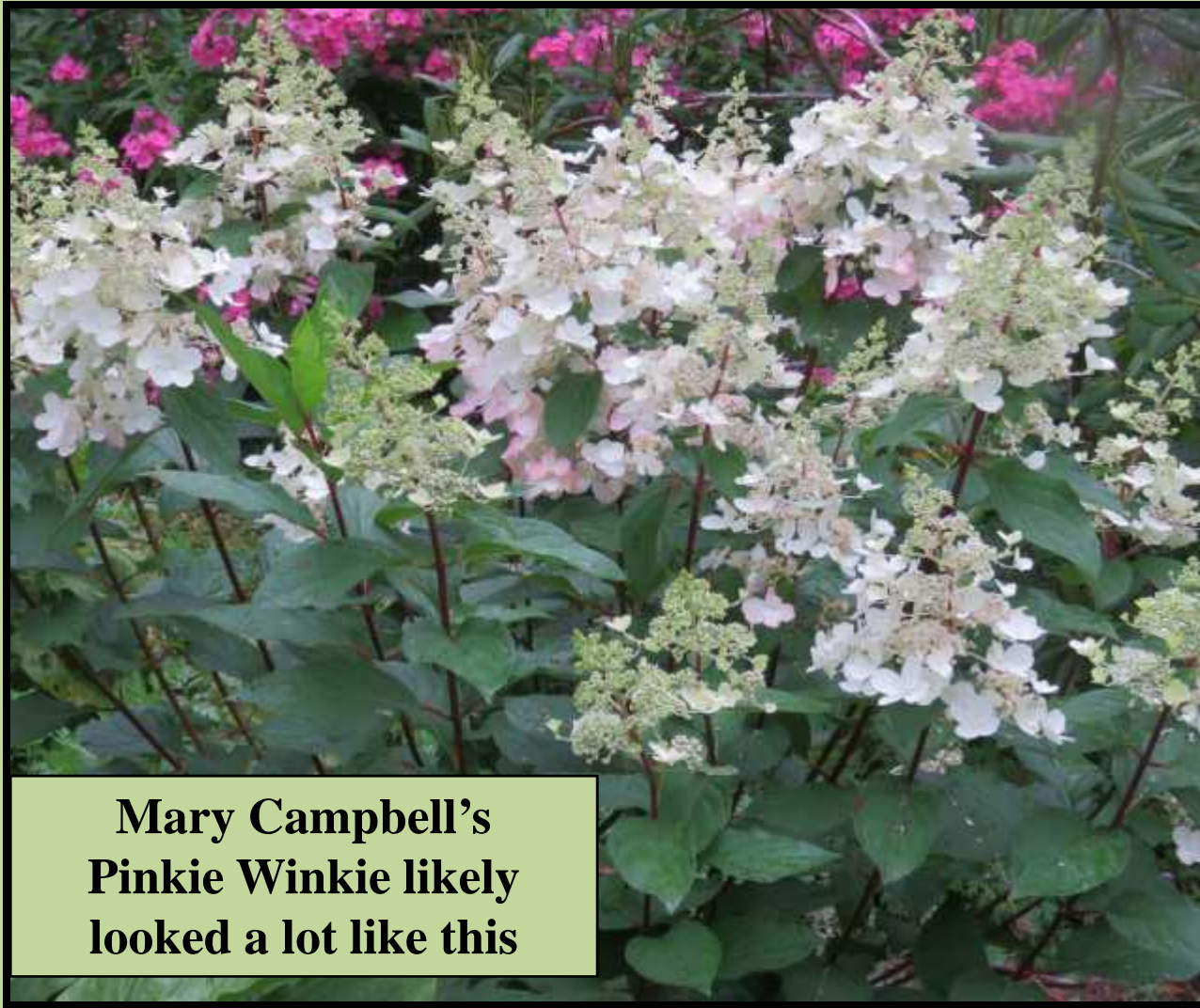
The Asian bad ladybug showed up at my house one warm day in October for one day only so far.

Someday perhaps the club could visit several greenhouses in the area

Do you think our summers will continue to be so hot and dry?

Would anyone have a gate for sale, about 9 or 10 feet, aluminum, steel or wooden?

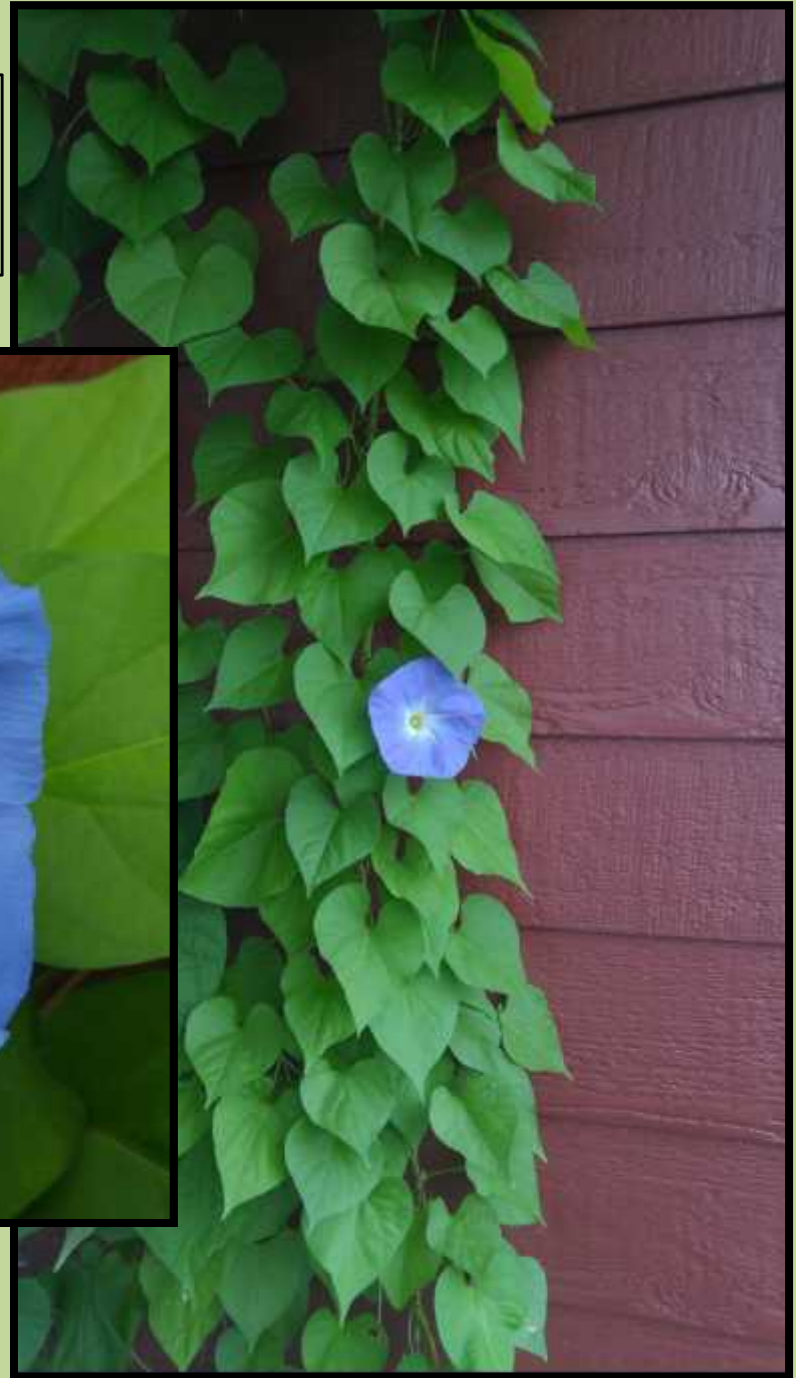
What a beautiful fall we are having.

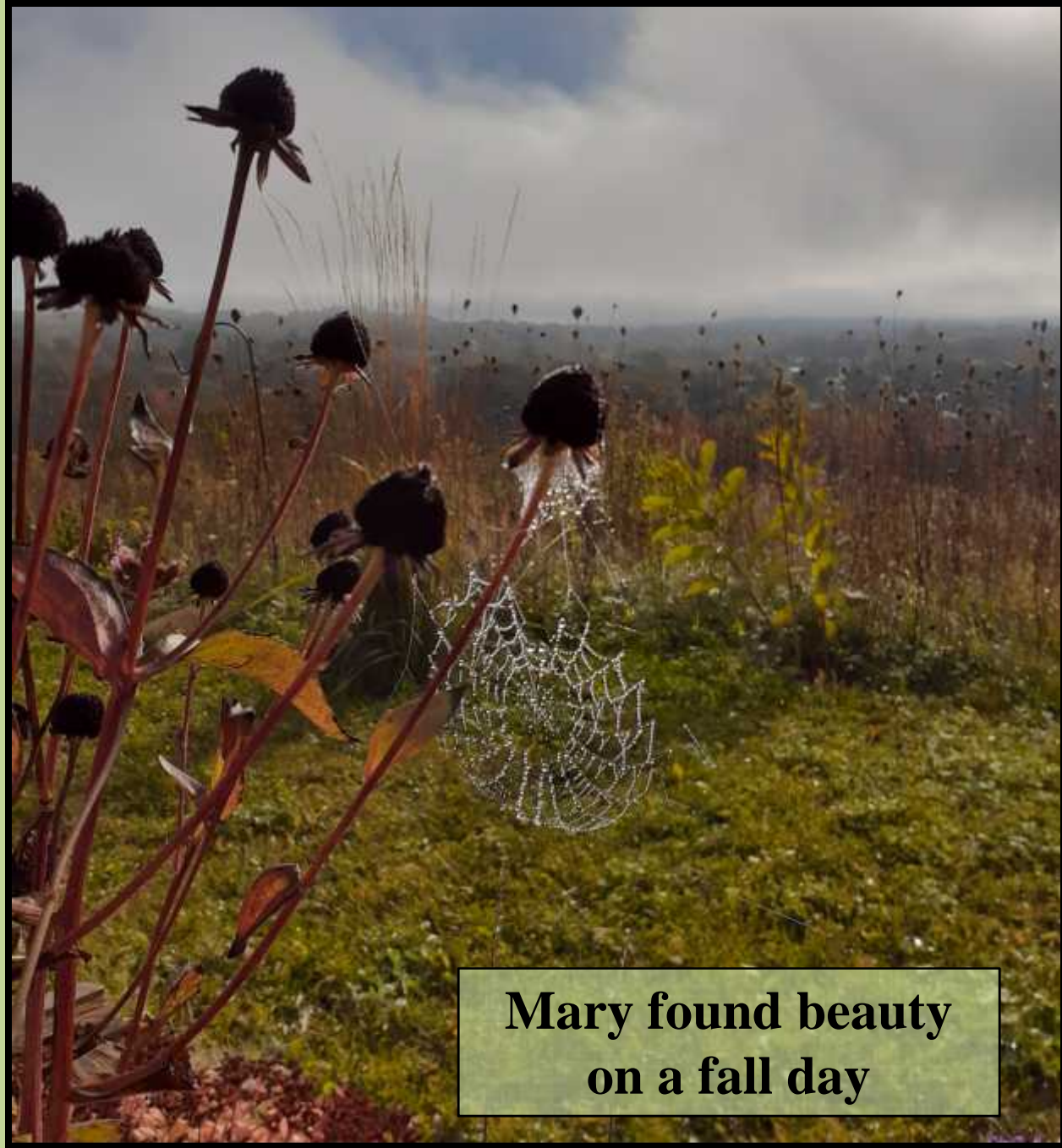


**Mary Campbell's
Pinkie Winkie likely
looked a lot like this**

**Hydrangea Pinkie Winkie was an addition to
many Garden Club Members' gardens, 2018**

Mary Ballard
pleased with her morning glories





**Mary found beauty
on a fall day**

Kristine Swaren

Here are a few random thoughts about our garden, with photos attached:

I find that bush-type peas like a little bit of support even if they aren't tall climbers, so I had a eureka moment when I planted them in a circle at the base of a **tomato cage**. Just enough support, easy to install and easy to pick. Some of the circles had a few radishes in the centre too.



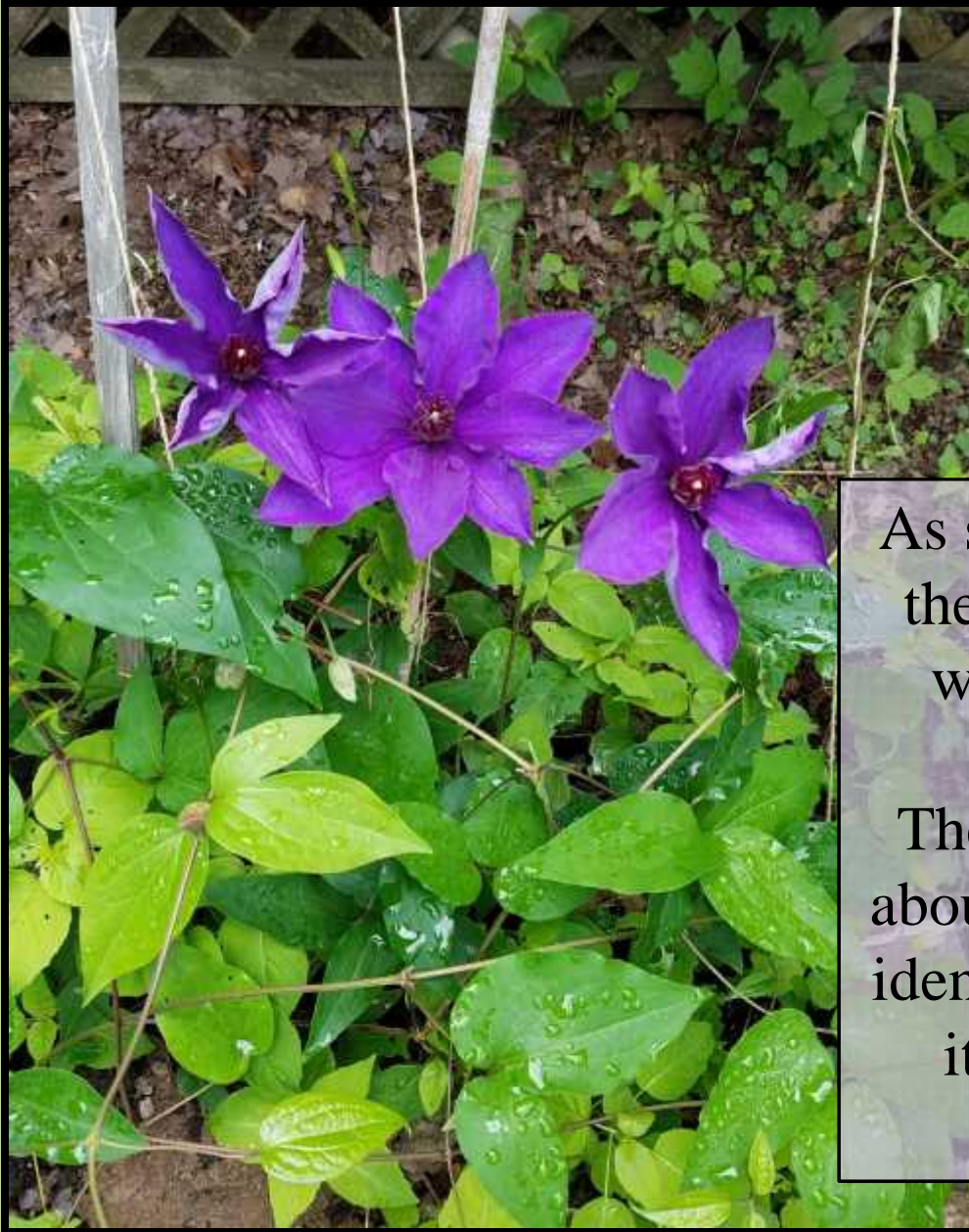
Common Red Soldier Bugs



About the middle of July, some red bugs showed up on my parsley and peas.

After a little research, I was happy to find out that they are the **Common Red Soldier Bugs**, the adults feed on aphids, pollen and nectar (when not doing what they're doing in the photo) and the larvae feed on slugs and snails.

So if they visit your garden, welcome them!



As some of you know from visiting, the perennial gardens at our house were well established before we moved here in 2019.

The clematis in the photo bloomed about the end of June - if anyone can identify it, then I can figure out what its pruning schedule should be.

Thanks!

There are still more day lilies, irises (photo) and hostas than we would like to keep, so if you would like to help divide them in the spring, please get in touch. I can't identify variety names though.

I also have **lots of seeds to share**: various veggies and herbs as well as poppies, calendula and others. Call or email: Kristine 613-200-8138, kristine.swaren@gmail.com



Siberian Iris
? variety

Sharon Bryson

The 2020 gardening season was certainly unique, started too cold and too hot then continued too hot and too dry. It seemed like we were on “fast forward”. Autumn seemed to be a welcome respite.

Every gardening season, we all learn something new. My big enlightenment was that potatoes were classified as **DETERMINATE** or **INDETERMINATE** much as tomatoes are. I came across this reference in a NSAGC Facebook post. Ever since Pat gave a talk about growing potatoes in containers, I have grown a few for the last several years. I was always a bit dismayed that there were not more “layers” of tubers as the pot was filled with soil. Lo and behold the varieties I grew were considered “determinate”, meaning they produced their tubers in mostly a single level. Other varieties considered “indeterminate”, would produce tubers in a series of layers.

Roughly speaking the “determinates” are usually earlier maturing varieties, while the “indeterminate” types are later maturing.

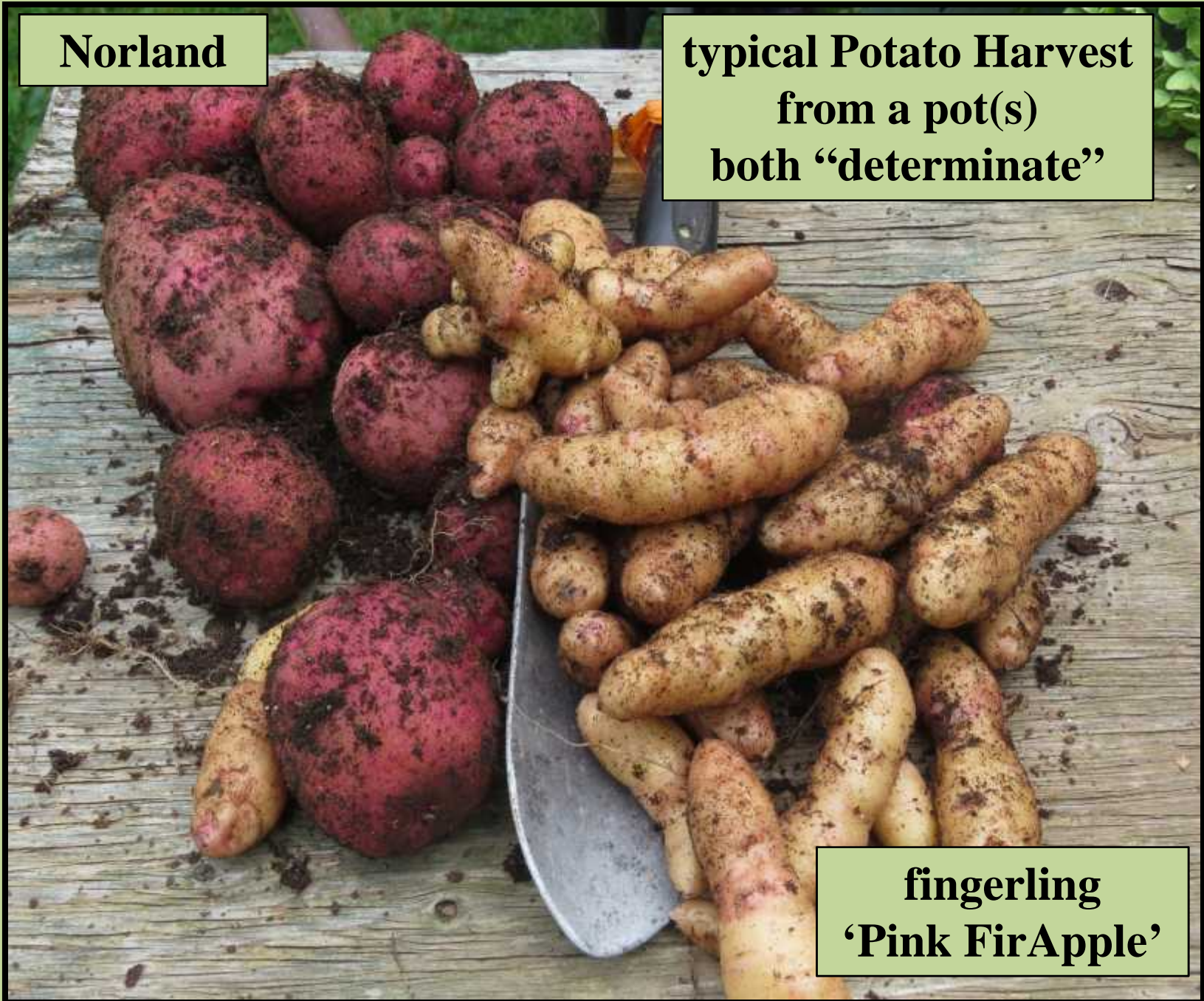
There is a very good explanation for all of this at this [website](#).

The next item has a table with lists of both types. Some varieties are common to our area, others are not. I marked some more common ones with **

DETERMINATE	INDETERMINATE
<p>Caribe Norland ** Russet Norkotah Red Norland ** Ratte Potatoes Chieftain ** Yukon Gold ** Sierra Rose Sierra Gold Gold Rush Adirondack Blue Adirondack Red</p>	<p>Russet Burbank ** Ranger Russet Alturas Century Russet Russet Nugget German Butterball Strawberry Paw Green Mountain * Canela Russet Bintje Red Pontiac ** Maris Piper Lehigh German Butterball ** Red Maria Butte Elba Red Cloud Katahdin ** Desiree</p>

Norland

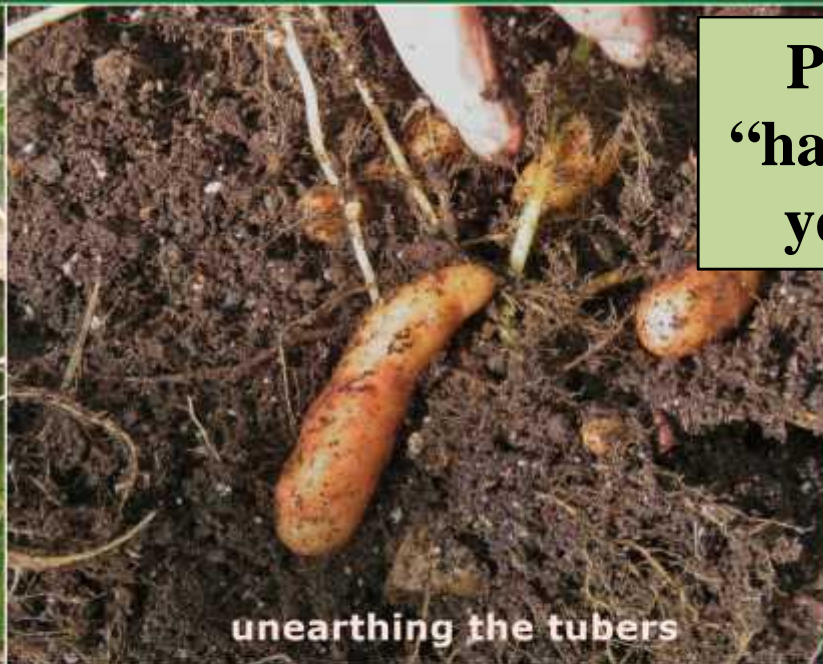
**typical Potato Harvest
from a pot(s)
both “determinate”**



**fingerling
'Pink FirApple'**



Pot to harvest



unearthing the tubers

**Pic of the 2016
“harvest”, the first
year doing this**



"Pink Fir Apple"

**~45 tubers
from 3 planted**



**these hands are no
longer with us!,
another novelty for
2020**



Bonnie Gillis



**These are just a few
of my favorite
pictures.**

**This was the first year
for these cone flowers
and the color was
vibrant!**

**The bees and
butterflies love them.**



On October 9th we had our first fall
of snow and I call this one
“My last Nasturtium of Summer”



Michelle Reid

The garden totem was a project that was inspired by Pinterest.

As is often the case, what looked so simple on that website actually was much more labour intensive in real life. I found I needed to go over the paint several times to keep the color vibrant. This started to create a problem because the humidity at the time was very high and the paint was taking forever to dry. I happened to be working up in Steve's shed and he was getting very tired of my project taking up the space on his work bench. The project also cost more than I expected. Several colors of outdoor paint cost about \$25.00 a can... (maybe more... can't remember exactly) so I say to all garden club members,

"Beware those Pinterest projects!!!!!"



Michelle's Covid-19 Garden



The **little rock garden** was built around the tree stump that was a casualty of Hurricane Dorian.

I had a stock pile of rocks that I'd collected and I thought they would make a nice wall around the stump. It didn't take long before it became apparent that my supply wouldn't get me as far as I'd hoped and I'd have to be content with a half circle garden.

The picture doesn't show the garden in its prime. Missing are the beautiful **snapdragons** that bloomed later after this picture was taken.

I will definitely plant them again next year.



**THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS
NEWSLETTER
I ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO MAKE
SIMILAR CONTRIBUTIONS AND WE
WILL PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER,
PERHAPS WITH A CHRISTMAS
THEME**

