



By the Garden Gate

Summer 2010

With summer's early arrival, blooms and issues are out of schedule. Sharp-eyed gardeners are already seeing sun-burned plants, aphid 'spittlebug' and Japanese beetles. Vigilance now can reduce your disappointments later!

As my crew and I settle into the rhythm of client garden care for the season, I am reminded of the importance of team work. No matter the size of garden project, there is a way each person can help. Perhaps at your house, there are wee folk who nap peacefully while you progress on work outdoors. Sometimes, gardeners and homeowners have wonderful vision and need able-bodies crew to make it all happen. Oh yes, and then there are the rewards of a hot shower and wonderful barbeque supper once your work is done. Your Garden coach crew neither naps nor are we 'wee folk' but we certainly are making changes to several gardens already this year.

However your garden changes unfold this summer, we wish you lots of blooms, helpful bugs only and periodic rains to cool everyone and everything. Enjoy this issue of By the Garden Gate!

Yours in gardening,

Cindy Bickerton

Holiday Care

Summer Time and the Livin' can be Easy

Your Garden Coach Crew is ready once again to maintain your gardens this year. Yes, that includes while you are off on holidays! A good way to keep your home looking loved and lived in while you area

In This Issue

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Your Garden Coach's By the Garden Gate is for our clients and associates across Eastern Ontario.

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The Wisdom of Trees

Stand tall and proud.
 Sink your roots into the earth.
 Be content with your natural beauty that just gets better as you age.
 Go out on a limb.
 Shelter those less strong and the young.
 Drink plenty of water.
 Remember your roots.
 Enjoy the view!.



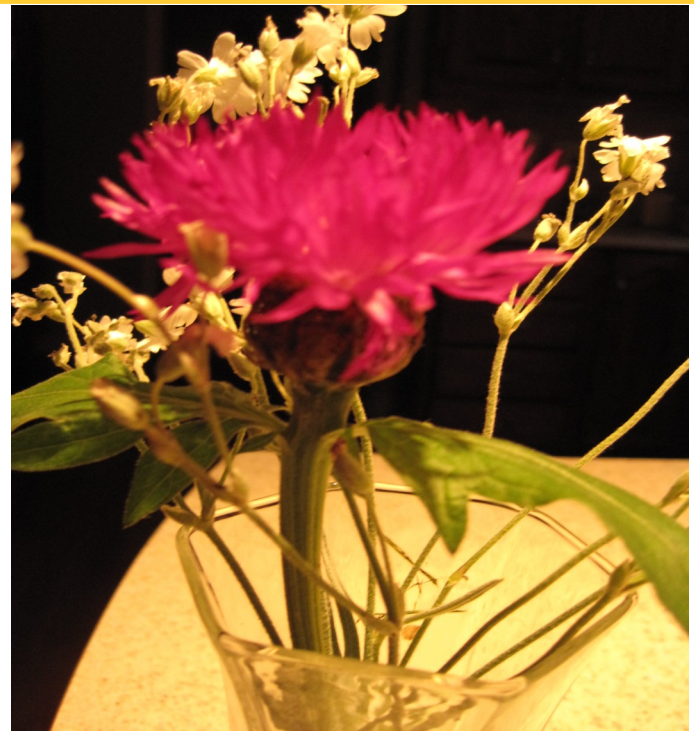
YGC favourite-Crab apple—pretty spring blooms and lovely aroma followed by summer fruit for

Feature Plant: Centurea...?

This issue's feature plant is a mystery for a few Garden Coach clients as well as me. It was established on the acreage I moved to recently and has since appeared on not one but three client sites. No one knows what they have – seems each specimen is old. Research shows it to be a member of the centurea family – like Bachelor Buttons, but taller. Note the thistle-like base under the bloom. Mine is shocking pink. One client has a shell pink version.



Can you shed light on this early summer stunner? I'll experiment with seed collection this fall to learn what treatments are needed so I can propagate the plant. Books tell me this is an annual that self seeds, much like cosmos – I beg to differ. Please get in touch if you can solve this mystery.



Free Trees one last time

Last call for free trees from Ottawa.

Even if you already have one, you can order again... one last time.



Out and About

Your Garden Coach is honoured to inspire people outside of its growing client list in the following groups:

Carlington Community Association – Front Yard Garden Contest. This groups wants to recognize home owners whose gardens are beautifying the neighbourhood. From June 1-20, entries will be received. I'll judge entries along with Mary Shermon Reid of Green thumb Garden Centre and Landscaping, then we will visit up to six finalists and the winner(s) will be announced.

Jacqueline Richards' "Just for Laughs" series for clients of this financial advisor enjoyed our Top Ten Tips for Successful Gardening. We sketched, had fun and several attendees left with clearer ideas of how to grow their own style of ideal gardens.

Thanks also to Jacqueline for interviewing me on her blog talk radio show. [http://www. Jacquelinrichards.com](http://www.Jacquelinrichards.com)

Horticultural Students at Algonquin College – I'll be teaching English to first year students this fall.

New helpful hints have been added to our web site. Both come from client requests for ideas— this time, adding curb appeal and creating great containers. Tell us please... what else would you like to see? What would help YOU as a gardener and homeowner?

<http://www.yourgardencoach.ca/tips.html>

<http://www.yourgardencoach.ca/a-votre-service.html>

Trees – so important for each property and for the whole planet

New Properties cry for them, older properties take pride in them... trees that is. There are as many types and sizes as there are people. Trees do so much for the planet and all living things, they deserve our care and attention.

How are your trees? To protect and maintain these landscaping and property anchors, keep them pruned, watered, fertilized and inspected for disease, insects and damage. Be sure you have done these tasks before you call in an arborist or rev up your chain saw.



YGC favourite-Sunburst Honey Locust—beautiful chartreuse leaves.



YGC favourite-Sumac (above)—produces clusters of deep red fruit (below) for a splash of fall colour and winter food for wildlife.



YGC favourite-Lebanese Cedar—beautiful shape, rarely found in Canada.

Pruning as Easy as 1,2,3

Pruning is an acquired skill, one that improves with practice and observation. To inspire you to prune correctly, we offer these tips:

Do invest in good secateurs and loppers and keep them sharpened.

Don't use dirty tools. If plants have diseases, sterilize your gear after each plant with a 1:10 bleach:water solution.

General Rule: prune after a tree/shrub blooms. Never prune when sap is running.



Always prune using sharp, clean tools.

Ready, Set, Prune!

Start your session by removing dead and diseased parts, then move to design. In order of priority, remove a maximum of 25% of living matter. Prune paying attention to these five "D's".

Dead-If no leaves are on the branch or stalk. Begin at the tip and work back, cutting out sections. Green inside the bark suggests there is still life in that part of the plant.

Disease-borers, tent caterpillars and the like should be cut off and discarded NOT in your compost but a plastic bag that gets knotted immediately upon the section being severed, and removed from your property in the garbage.

Damage— such as winter-kill breaks, deer munching and lightning strikes. Make the wound clean again. Remove rough edges where water and bacteria could collect.

Danger-if branches threaten people who walk by or pets or hydro lines, they should be pruned off.

Design-Finally, look at the overall form you want the plant to have. Air at its base? Air inside its crown? An artistic or whimsical shape to match the style of its garden?

Too much? Your Garden Coach and crew can maximize plant health and client pleasure with seasoned pruning techniques.



YGC favourite-Schubert Chokecherry-attractive deep purple foliage in the summer

Events

Book Sale – June 25/26, 9-5 at the Experimental Farm by Friends of the Farm. Building 72 in the arboretum.

Tour the Governor General's Grounds if you haven't already. Pack a picnic, delight in the extensive gardens and enjoy a free concert. Why wait for visitors – act like a tourist in your own town. Concerts are in partnership with the International Chamber Music Festival.

Saturday, July 24, at 1 p.m. *Songs and Tangos from the Americas* with Gryphon Trio and Patricia O'Callaghan

Saturday, July 24, at 3 p.m. The Band of the Ceremonial Guard

Sunday, July 25, at 1 p.m. African String Quartet

Sunday, July 25, at 3 p.m. Time for Three

Workshops—Plan Your Garden (basics) in a morning session and DIY Garden Design in an afternoon session (stand alone or as a follow up to the morning session) on Saturdays at Brookfield High School, both October 23 and March 26.