



Lexington Field & Garden Club

September 2024 Newsletter

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Welcome to our first newsletter of our new season and in a new format. It was a fantastic gardening summer, wasn't it? Many of our gardens look like jungles! But how did it get to be September already? The picture reflects our Fragrance in the Garden talk on September 11. Hope to see you there and around town. Lots happening!



Kathy Leva, *President*

Upcoming LFGC Public Events

Wednesday, September 11

9:30a Fragrance in the Garden

Wednesday, October 9

6:30p Floral Inspirations of the Impressionists: Giverny and Beyond

Other Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 7

Lexington Living Landscapes' Open Gardens Day 10 am - 3 pm

Stop by any of multiple locations to see the many forms a pollinator garden can take, or learn what alternatives to the traditional lawn fellow residents have tried. A detailed schedule and map of participating properties will be available by Labor Day at www.lexingtonlivinglandscapes.org.

Weston Nurseries will host a Blooms, Brews & BBQ in Hopkinton 11 am to 7 pm to raise money for the Jimmy Fund at the Dana Farber Cancer Research Center. There will be local bands, lots of kid's activities, and delicious local food. A worthy cause. [Weston Nurseries - Premium Plant, Garden and Landscape Supply](#).

Sunday, September 15

Bikeway Block Party 11 am - 4 pm

Bikeway Block Party is an inclusive, community-focused festival designed to showcase our area's diverse array of arts, activities, and culture and celebrate our shared space.

The Minuteman Bikeway and local parks will set the stage for musical performances, dance lessons, yoga classes, drum circles, bubble blowing, bike decorating, pick up kickball, and so much more! [Home | Bikeway Block Party](#).

IF you would like to volunteer at the Block Party, **sign up here** [Munroe Center for the Arts & Lexington Friends of the Bikeways: Bikeway Block Party \(signupgenius.com\)](#).

September 21 - 22

New England Fall Flower Show 2 - 6 pm

Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) is delighted to announce that the 138th New England Fall Flower Show, will take place on Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22, 2024 at the Garden at Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA. Tickets for the weekend-long event, including a Friday night preview party are available now. More details and tickets can be found at www.masshort.org/fall-flower-show.

Tuesday, October 1

Grow Native at the Lexington Farmer's Market 2 - 6 pm

Still in plenty of time to get your new plants in the ground and established well before the first frost. [Calendar of Events | Grow Native Massachusetts](#)

We want your Input

Please take a couple of minutes to answer the questions in this survey <https://forms.gle/KAFYqmm6WcJeki1Z9> to help us understand your needs.



Greta Ljung Obituary, Boston Globe

Greta Marianne Ljung, 82, passed away peacefully, in her home in Lexington, Massachusetts, on August 12, 2024 more than two and a half years after first being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. She was born to Ellen and Johannes Ljung in at a small town called Jeppo, in the western part of Finland. The country was at war with Russia at the time, and one of her first memories was of Russian planes dropping bombs on a nearby town, while the

family covered the windows with blankets to prevent their home from being seen at night. The war years brought much hardship, but the Finns showed their “sisu,” and the country prevailed.

Greta graduated from high school near the top of her class, and later studied at Åbo Academy in Finland, where she received a BS/MS degree in Psychology. Following graduation, she was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Uppsala in Sweden, where she had an opportunity to work with statistician and econometrician Herman Wold. She later earned a Ph.D. degree in Statistics at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where her advisor was the world-renowned statistician George E. P. Box. Their joint work resulted in several publications, including a 1978 *Biometrika* paper on a goodness-of-fit test for time series modeling, now often referred to as the Ljung-Box test. In 2016 she also became the co-author on the fifth edition of his by then classic *Time Series Analysis; Forecasting and Control*, originally published by Box and Jenkins in 1970. The importance of her published work is evidenced by more than 80,000 citations attributed to her by Google Scholar.

Greta’s professional work included faculty positions at Boston University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She was later Principal Scientist and Chief Statistician at AIR Worldwide in Boston, where she led the development of probabilistic models to estimate potential economic losses from natural hazards such as hurricanes, tornadoes, hail storms, and wild fires.

Greta was a longtime member of the American Statistical Association and served as President of its Boston Chapter, covering five New England states. She served on several editorial boards and many committees. After retirement, she did volunteer work for several non-profit organizations including Finlandia Foundation – Boston. Her other interests included travel, arts and antiques, and a variety of outdoor activities, such as gardening, swimming, and hiking. She was a passionate gardener and a strong advocate for the use of native plants to promote biodiversity and benefit wild life.

Greta is survived by her husband Bert Beander, whom she met in 1973 when they were graduate students at the University of Wisconsin. Long hours waiting for computer output in the University’s Computing Center left plenty of time for conversation and led to a lifelong friendship and love between them. She is also survived by a sister, Lisa-Teir Siltanen of Korsholm, Finland; and a brother, Stig Ljung of Elenäs, Finland; along with ten nieces and nephews residing in Finland and Sweden. Her husband also had family in Sweden and they made many trips to visit them over the years.

There will be a Private Burial at Westview Cemetery in Lexington. A Celebration of her Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute or to Finlandia Foundation – Boston.

Plants and Mosquitos

Why you get bitten by mosquitos

Only female mosquitos feast on us to get a 'blood meal' that enables them to produce eggs.

Mosquitos pick on people with a high metabolic rate and who emit more carbon dioxide – those who are pregnant, working out, or drinking alcohol. They also seem to be attracted to dark clothing.

Breeding is their driving force when not biting you. They nestle around areas of standing water no more than 12 inches deep, such as in a bucket or garden pond, backyard debris, clogged drains and gutters, or water left out for pets and wildlife. So put a pump onto your pond, empty buckets, clean up the backyard, clear your gutters, put pet water bowls inside.

Before you reach for a chemical spray, surround yourself with plants that naturally repel mosquitos.

Plants that repel mosquitos

1. **Basil** - What's not to love about basil? Whether you're making a pesto or a pizza, basil can add a delicious zing to Italian food. Best of all, mosquitos are repelled by the scent so you can enjoy your meals bite-free.
2. **Lavender** - Mosquitos hate the smell of lavender, so it's a good excuse to grow it in abundance. Either in a pot or flower bed, lavender loves full sun and needs to be watered once or twice a week.
3. **Catnip** - Cats love the essential oil nepetalactone that catnip produces when its leaves are crushed and rubbed on your skin, but mosquitos are repelled by it. It's a vigorous grower and can get out of control, so grow it in a container. Also, your cat will love you even more!
4. **Lemon balm** - Another fragrant plant, lemon balm, will help keep mosquitos at bay. Best contained in a pot, it loves plenty of sun and regular watering.
5. **Allium** - A member of the onion/ garlic family, ornamental alliums produce pompom clusters of flowers that seem to float above long, slender stems. Grown from bulbs, it's from here that sulphur compounds are produced that mosquitos find unpleasant.
6. **Citronella grass** (*Cymbopogon nardus*) - The delicate, long leaves don't repel mosquitos, but if you crush them and rub the oil on your skin, it masks the odor of your carbon dioxide. Grow in a garden or container and keep the soil moist but not wet.
7. **Marigolds** - Marigolds contain a compound called pyrethrum that is foul-smelling to various insects, including mosquitos. Plant them in a border or a pot to pretty up your garden, then add them to your veggie patch to ward off aphids, thrips and whiteflies.
8. **Rosemary** - The aroma of rosemary is potent, and while it enhances a lamb roast, it also revolts mosquitos. You can also snip off a few sprigs and hang them around windows or doors to keep mosquitos from coming indoors.
9. **Lemon thyme** - The strong, fresh citrus scent of lemon thyme is hated by mosquitos as it interferes with their ability to detect human aromas. Rub the leaves on your skin to set free the essential oil.
10. **Floss flower** - This lovely little annual has a powerful punch as it contains the chemical coumarin, which repels mosquitos. Leave it to do its job in your garden bed, and don't rub it on your skin, as it can irritate.
11. **Bee balm** - Also known as monarda or horsemint, the fragrant oil released when you crush the leaves confuses mosquitos and masks your body aroma. A bonus is

- the colorful feathery red, pink, lavender, purple, or white flowers.
12. **Sage** - Toss sage leaves on your barbecue or firepit to release its earthy aroma and keep mosquitos at bay. Dried sage will also do the trick.
 13. **Mint** - The fresh, strong scent and taste we love in our drinks, chewing gum and toothpaste is loathed by mosquitos, especially when you crush the leaves and rub them on your skin. You can also dry them in a bowl inside.
 14. **Peppermint** - Research has shown that peppermint oil repels mosquitos. You can easily grow peppermint in a pot. Keep it happy with lots of sun and regular watering. And when it's not keeping mosquitos at bay, you can use the leaves to brew up a pot of refreshing peppermint tea.
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It's Catalog Season

FREE ONLINE GARDENING CATALOGS

1. **Burpee**www.burpee.com Burpee is one of the oldest companies in the business. Request your free colorful catalog that includes over 100 new products, gardening tips, and great deals. Don't forget to sign up for the money saving email list.
2. **Annie's Annuals**www.anniesannuals.com Annie's carries some of the rarest annuals around. Request a free catalog and discover a plant you haven't tried before. You can also watch free instructional videos on the website!
3. **Territorial Seed Company**www.territorialseed.com Territorial ships live plants right to your door. Request their colorful catalog so you can enjoy all of the varieties they have to offer and enjoy a 100% money back promise on your purchase. Want butterflies to flock to your garden? Peek at the easy butterfly feeders you can make in minutes!
4. **Gardens Alive**www.gardensalive.com Gardens Alive is an excellent source for seeds, fresh plants, fertilizer, and other gardening supplies. Request a free catalog which also comes with a coupon good for \$25 off your \$50 order.
5. **RH Shumway**www.rhshumway.com RH Shumway is also one of the older names in the gardening business. Request a free catalog and when you order, they will treat you to two free packs of seeds. They also offer a free online garden planner.
6. **Park Seed**www.parkseed.com Check out a free Park Seed catalog and find a variety of flower and produce seeds sure to excite you. You will also be treated to a \$10 off coupon when you sign up! Sign up for their newsletter while you are there to get a free shipping coupon.
7. **Prairie Nursery**www.prairienursery.com Prairie Nursery is perfect for the person looking for grasses, wildflowers, and native plants. Head to their website to learn more about these products and request a free catalog.
8. **White Flower Farm**www.whiteflowerfarm.com White Flower Farm offers seeds, bulbs, live plants, flower arrangements and more. Sign up for their free newsletter and get free gardening tips and advice. Also, don't forget to request a free catalog.
9. **Pine Tree Garden**www.superseeds.com Pine Tree Garden offers a free catalog, shop for organic products, and even find plant-based cosmetics. This is a unique gardening company that offers plant-based items for all areas of life.
10. **Raintree Nursery**www.raintreenursery.com The website offers 4-inch pots on sale, you can get plenty of free gardening advice, and request a free catalog too. Don't let poison ivy get you down this gardening season. Check out the recipe for Homemade Poison Ivy Scrub.

11. **Sow True Seed**www.sowtrueseed.com Sow True Seed company offers a beautiful free catalog as well as 15% off your purchase when you sign up for their free e-newsletter.

12. **Wayside Gardens**www.waysidegardens.com Visit the Wayside Gardens website for all your planting needs. You can request a free catalog when there as well as sign up for their e-newsletter.

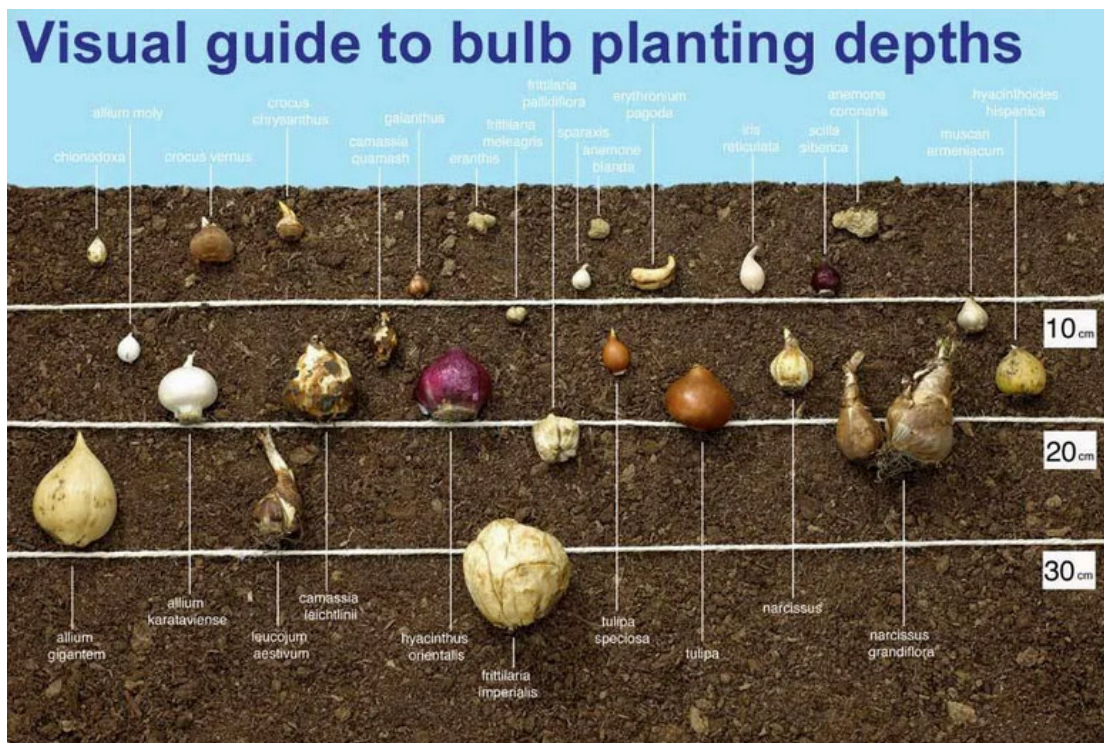
If you like to cozy up with plant catalogs, take a look at the book *"Onward and Upward in the Garden,"* written by Katharine S. White. She wrote a series of gardening articles for the New Yorker magazine from 1958 - 1970, comparing and contrasting garden catalogs, some of which are included in the above list. It's a highly entertaining book written by an opinionated New England gardener who would have fit right into this club! The loving introduction was written by her husband, E.B. White.

It is the perfect time to plant spring blooming bulbs

When the air starts to cool and there are fewer things to do in the garden, thoughts turn to next year's garden and spring blooming bulbs. It is the perfect time to start planting spring bulbs. Daffodils, tulips, crocus, snowdrops, grape hyacinths, camassia, alliums, and more can all be tucked into the garden right now. Although spring blooming bulbs can be planted in the ground up until the time the ground freezes, planting in cooler, as opposed to cold weather, is easiest. Some bulbs, such as snowdrops (*Galanthus*), Trout Lily (*Erythronium*), Martagon Lilies (*Lilium martagon*) and Madonna Lilies (*Lilium candidum*), need to be planted as soon as received to maintain sufficient moisture levels until roots are developed.

As the Autumnal Equinox arrives on September 22, 2024 at 8:43 am, the growing season and the light levels will start to wind down. September is the perfect time to reflect, plan, and plant for the next growing season.

Thank you, "The Dirt" for this tip from MMGA





Hartwell Avenue Compost Facility

Back before Covid, LFGC member **Betsey Weiss** worked with the Hartwell Ave Compost Facility to improve its grounds. Betsey planned, oversaw, and even weeded that garden for some time. Then, like many good projects, it succumbed to the weeds. Recently, some new DPW members tackled those weeds and created a garden with re-purposed artifacts. Nothing like having a goal and some volunteers.

Lexington Field & Garden Club

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