

Blooming hedges will grow on you!

Hedges are a natural way to provide both privacy and beauty to your landscape. Deciduous hedges lose their leaves every fall, while evergreen hedges keep their foliage year-round. Your choice will depend on what functions you want your hedge to serve.

Two factors to consider when choosing hedge plants are winter-hardiness and eventual height.



Chaenomeles japonica (Flowering Quince)

Ottawa is in Zone 5a, but if you live in rural areas or where hedges are exposed to strong winter winds and sun, choose plants that are hardy to zone 4. Hedging plants can be classified into three heights: low, medium and tall, but eventual heights can vary depending on growing conditions.

Trowel Talk!

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Low hedges are about "knee high". In dry, infertile or clay soil, plant low-growing evergreen junipers or deciduous spireas. Both are tough and versatile. Japanese flowering quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*) prefers sun to light shade in moist well-drained soil. It is grown for its red flowers, fruit and tangled spiny branches. Potentilla, one of my favourites, tolerates drought and excess moisture, sun or shade. Its delicate small flowers come in white, red, yellow or orange and keep blooming all summer long.



Spiraea hedge
(Brockville, ON)

Medium hedges are approximately shoulder high. In rich well-drained soil and light shade, Annabelle hydrangea spreads 1.2 - 1.5 metres. It has velvety medium green leaves with large white flower heads. It blooms from late spring to early summer, remaining showy much longer than most deciduous shrubs.

There are many medium height cultivars of cedar and juniper, with foliage colour ranging from yellow green to blue green. If you plant these near a road you will need to protect them with a barrier each winter as they do not tolerate road salt. The Japanese rose, (*Rosa rugosa*) thrives in full sun and is both drought and salt resistant. Its fragrant flowers bloom continuously from June to October. Al-

pine currant (*Ribes alpinum*) is attractive, hardy and thrives in sun or shade.

False spirea (*Sorbaria* spp.) gets mixed reviews as does sumac (*Rhus* spp.). Both are aggressive spreaders but if you can contain them or have lots of space they are certainly attractive. False spirea has large bright fern-like leaves and creamy white flower plumes. Sumac is unsurpassed for fall colour. It is best not to grow them on small city lots - for your own sake AND your neighbour's.



Forsythia
'Northern Gold'

Tall hedges are those that you can't peer over. European high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*) grows in full sun to partial shade in moist well-drained soil. It has attractive flat clusters of white flowers, produces fruit and has interesting fall foliage. For a hedge that blooms early in the spring, choose 'Northern Gold' forsythia. Its sprays of yellow blossoms, out before its leaves, are a welcome sight after a long hard winter.

Instead of traditional hedging plants, why not try one of these hedges to enhance your landscape? Decide whether you want a deciduous or evergreen hedge, select the appropriate height for your setting, and a hedge for privacy and beauty can soon be yours.

April TO DO List

- Check for winter damage to shrubs and trees and prune out damaged branches.
- Spray fruit trees and shrubs with dormant oil to kill overwintering pests. This must be done before the buds break dormancy – follow the instructions on the package.
- Start your yard clean-up but don't be too diligent. Pick up garbage, large branches and any gifts from your dog, but leave the leaves and small twigs for nature's decomposers (worms, beetles, millipedes, etc.) to turn into humus for your soil. You'll be surprised how quickly they will disappear into the earth.
- Have a gardening question or need to identify a plant or pest, ask a Master Gardener (contact information to the right).

Tip of the Month:

Starting a new garden bed? The tried and true method of double-digging – digging two spades deep and turning the sod of the next row over into the bottom of the first trench – is back-breaking work.



A less labour intensive way is to put 5-6 sheets of wet newspaper down on top of the sod in the shape of the new bed. Then add at least 10-15cm of soil on top of the newspapers and plant in the new soil. The newspaper and soil will smother the lawn and weeds. The newspaper will act as a weed barrier to stop weed seeds from

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton



Where to find us this month for free gardening advice!

ONGOING:

Telephone Help Line: 613-236-0034

- Wednesday and Thursday 1-3 pm
- Saturdays 7-8 pm – April through September ONLY

E-mail Help Line: mgoc_helpline@yahoo.ca

- monitored daily
- send photos of garden pests, diseases or plants for ID

CLINICS:

Rare & Unusual Plant Sale: Sunday, May 8, 9am-1pm,

Tropical Greenhouses on Maple Street, parking lot, Central Experimental Farm

Red Trillium Studio & Garden Tour, May 7-8, 10am-5pm

MGOC advice clinic & plant sale at 112 Terraview Drive, Kinburn.

Byward Market: Saturdays, May through June (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Parkdale Market: Saturdays, May through June (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Carp Market: Saturdays, May through June (8 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

SPEAKING EVENTS:

LECTURE SERIES: Presented jointly by Friends of the Farm & Master Gardeners

Tuesdays in April Non FoF Members – \$15 for one talk, \$50 for four talks

FoF Members – \$12 for one talk, \$40 for four talks

7:00 p.m. – Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Reservations: www.friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm#lectures (613-230-3276)

Organic Gardening – April 19, 2011 – Rebecca Last

Roses – April 26, 2011 – Edythe Falconer

Solutions to Some Common Garden Problems – April 18, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Mary Ann Van Berlo, Master Gardener

4373 Generation Court, Ramsayville, Ontario

Hosted by the Gloucester Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Growing Vegetables in the Ottawa Climate – April 19, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: David Hinks, Master Gardener

Pretty Street Community Centre, Stittsville, Ontario

Hosted by the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Renovate – What to do with a Mature Garden – April 21, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Mary Shearman-Reid, Master Gardener

Cityview United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario

Hosted by the Nepean Horticultural Society (guests welcome)

Roses – May 4, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener

Greely Community Centre, 1448 Meadow Drive, Greely, Ontario

Hosted by the Greely Garden Club (guests welcome)

Autumn Colour – May 10, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener

Champlain Park Field House, Cowley Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario

Hosted by the Champlain Park Garden Club (guests welcome)

Culinary Herbs – May 17, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Rebecca Last, Master Gardener & Richard Guenette, Foodie

Pretty Street Community Centre, Stittsville, Ontario

Hosted by the Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society (guests welcome)



For information on arranging a lecture for your group: 613-836-1491

For more information on Master Gardeners, visit our website:

<http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca>

germinating and will eventually decompose allowing the roots of your newly planted bed to reach down for moisture.

This technique can also be used to create pathways with bark mulch or pea gravel used on top of the newspaper instead of soil.

LOCAL AREA PLANT SALES – 2011 (hosted by some of our MG partners)

Organization	Date & Time	Place
Ottawa Horticultural Society Indoor Plants for sale	April 26 7:30 pm	Tom Brown Arena 141 Bayview Drive, Ottawa
Master Gardeners of Ottawa- Carleton	May 7 & 8 10 am – 5 pm	Red Trillium Studio Tour 112 Terraview Drive, Kinburn
Friends of the Farm	May 8 9 am – noon	Rare & Unusual Plant Sale Tropical Greenhouses on Maple Street, parking lot Central Experimental Farm
Almonte & District Horticultural Society	May 14 9 am – noon	Almonte Public Library parking lot, Almonte
Gloucester Horticultural Society	May 14 10 am – 2 pm	North Gloucester Branch of the City of Ottawa Library, 2036 Ogilvie Road, Ottawa
Kemptville Horticultural Society	May 14 8:30 am – noon	Ferguson Forestry Centre Highway 44, Kemptville
Manotick Horticultural Society Plant & Bake Sale	May 14 9 am – noon	Watson's Mill Dickinson Square, Manotick
Petawawa Horticultural Society	May 14 8:00 am	6 Violet Street, Petawawa
Nepean Horticultural Society	May 19 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Cityview United Church 6 Epworth Ave., Nepean
Pakenham Horticultural Society	May 21 8 am – 11 am	Beside 5 Span Feed & Seed County Rd 29, Pakenham
Smiths Falls & District Horticultural Society	May 21 9 am – noon	Royal Canadian Legion 7 Main Street East, Smiths Falls
Beachburg Horticultural Society	May 21 9 am – noon	Beachburg Inn 1793 Beachburg Road, Beachburg
Perth Horticultural Society	May 21 8 am – 11 am	Stewart School Sunset Blvd., Perth
Madawaska Valley Horticultural Society	May 21 8 am	Craft Cabin, Highway 62 Combermere
Ottawa Horticultural Society	May 24 7:30 pm	Tom Brown Arena 141 Bayview Drive, Ottawa
Carleton Place Horticultural Society	May 28 8:30 am – 10:30 am	Victoria School Museum Gardens 267 Edmund Street, Carleton Place
Stittsville-Goulbourn Horticultural Society	May 28 9 am – 1 pm	Bradley Insurance Parking Lot Main Street, Stittsville
Ottawa Horticultural Society	May 28	Great Glebe Garage Sale (Bank St & First Ave) St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Ottawa
Fletcher Wildlife Garden Native Plant Sale	June 4 9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Fletcher Wildlife Garden Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa
Manotick Horticultural Society Sue Slade Daylily Sale	July 11 9 am – noon	Carriage House Dickinson Square, Manotick
Ottawa Horticultural Society	September 10	Old Ottawa South Plant Sale Old Firehall, 260 Sunnyside Avenue, Ottawa