

The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine

Please Note: All of our Garden Club meetings will continue to be held online through Zoom until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.

We hope you've been enjoying the People's Choice Photo Contest and the Pop-up Garden videos on our new Facebook page. Thank you so much to all those individuals who sent in their photos and have posted videos for us all to enjoy.

We will continue to publish the EYGC newsletter. It's an opportune time to write that article for the newsletter that you never seemed to have enough time for before. We also want to hear from our members letting us know what sort of things they have been doing to help get them through this very difficult time. If you have any inspiring or comforting words, please send them along for the newsletter. Also, we would love to see your winter photos. So send a couple of photos of your garden in winter for all of us to enjoy. Please rename your photo files with the plant name if relevant. What are your winter gardening activities?

newsletter@eygc.ca



The **East York Garden Club** is a member of:

The Ontario Horticultural Association, District 5.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July, August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue, at 7:30 pm.

Refreshments are available at 7:00 pm. The Clubhouse is wheelchair accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

To inquire about membership, please contact:

Cristina Brown at:
416-755-9077

Visit us on the web:
www.eygc.ca

President:
Diane Dyson

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

Newsletter Editor/Art Director:
Jennifer Smith
and Maureen Ballentine



A Reminder about Advertising

We will accept one advertisement free of charge each calendar year.

- The member advertising must be a current member of EYGC
- The advertisement must be garden-related
- The advertisement will appear in only the March-April newsletter
- The advertisement is subject to executive approval
- A print-ready advert would be required, business card sized
- Submitted as PDF or JPEG or a scanned business card

You may send your advertisement to Diane Dyson at gardenclub@eygc.ca no later than February 1, 2021. All ads to be approved by the EYGC Board.

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:

"This is March/April in East York"?

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the cover of the next Newsletter!
(Landscape format is best)

newsletter@eygc.ca

January February 2021 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits Various Photos:

Maureen Ballentine, Alan Barber, Karen Bell, Mary Lou Burt, Jens Carl, Dianne Cavanaugh, Monique Gauthier, Anna Leggatt, Sonia van Heerden, Betty Meyers, Wendy Plume, Jennifer Smith, Carolyn Smoyer, Michael Woods

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

These long, dark evenings, many of us are lucky enough to sit in a cozy spot while we remember friends visited and places seen. Others will be out where the winter snow blankets the landscape around us. But whether we stay indoors or out, we know the sun will shine again and the frozen earth will warm. These things stay the same, even while new growth will appear in unexpected places, bringing change.

The East York Club has also hunkered down, as we have grown used to this new masked and socially-distanced world. This month we will continue our online lectures. (Those with computers may log in to Zoom, and those who rely on the telephone, may dial in to the meetings.) The Photo team has moved magnificently online. The newsletter is still published, full of news, advice, announcements and beautiful images. Members have even been able to see each other in person at the four pop-up garden tours or at the monthly volunteer gig at Legion Hall garden. Our board of dedicated Directors has shifted membership slightly but still works hard to bring good things to you.

Some things have shifted, too.

We still do not know when it will be safe to meet in-person again, or when we will be able to have our Flower Shows, our annual tea, or bus trips. They all remain on hold.

Our new Facebook page has grown to over 70 members.

The EYGC Executive are considering other changes as well. For instance, this may be the year the Yearbook is distributed mainly electronically to members.

Another item under review is our 2021 membership fees. You may recall, as Covid-19 unfolded, that EYGC chose to extend club memberships into the new year: a two-for-one. But at the end of November the garden clubs which had made a similar decision were told by the Ontario Horticultural Association that the annual fee, as prescribed by our bylaws, must be paid. The Emergency provisions brought in by the provincial government did not give the OHA or its affiliates the power to waive this requirement under the *Agricultural and Horticultural Organizations Act*. A final decision regarding the payment of 2021 fees will be announced soon.

The Board of Directors is discussing an idea from the early days of horticultural societies. The club might decide to provide members with premiums, such as plants and bulbs, as an added incentive to join the EYGC. Stay tuned for more information about this possibility.

As any gardener knows, change will come, both wanted and unwanted! If you would like to let us know what you think about what is occurring in our club, please do get in touch.

Keep well all, and grow on!

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca

416 786-6765

Member Photos...

Send us some photos of what helped you cope and get through this situation and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

Please send photos to: newsletter@eygc.ca

Jennifer's autumn Stonecrop decorated with Christmas snow. This plant in full bloom can be seen on the first page of the Sept-October 2020 Issue.



Mary Lou Burt's Garden Visitor



Sonia van Heerden's Roses refusing to die—late November



Member Photos

Karen Bell's photos of Allan Gardens Conservatory from December 2015



Barb Fairbank's Roses—*Helleborus niger* "Christmas Rose" given by Betty Meyers



*What a desolate place would be a
world without a flower!
It would be a face without a
smile, a feast without a welcome.*

A.J. Balfour

Forcing Bulbs



A first attempt by Jennifer Smith

In early October, I decided to force bulbs so that they would provide some cheerful colour in mid-January to early February 2021. I purchased a number of narcissus bulbs at Sheridan Nurseries.

When I arrived home, I sorted through my collection of pretty pots and decided which bulbs to plant in each. An odd number of bulbs is



recommended for aesthetic reasons. After figuring out which plastic pot would fit in which attractive planter, and carefully labelling everything for when I actually needed to assemble the pots, I planted the bulbs. I placed the pots in plastic dish pans and stored them in the garage where they would be cool enough.

I watered them approximately every 3 days. In late November, when the garage became too cold, I transferred the pots to a large blue bin.

I stood them on Styrofoam chips to provide some insulation. I put the bin in a little brick-lined storage area in the basement. It isn't really cool enough here, but it was the best spot available.

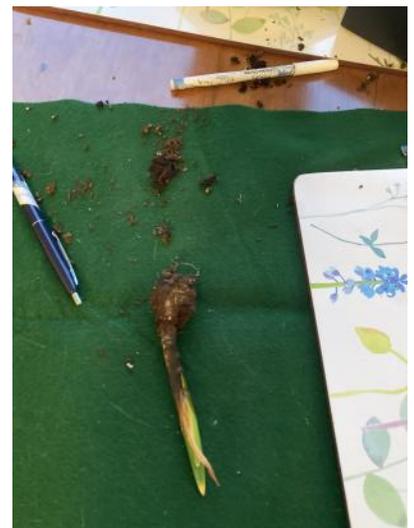
As you can see from the photographs, the bulbs are sending up shoots, so I guess the conditions I provided were suitable. It will be interesting to see how they fare over the next few weeks.



Stay tuned for more photographs and updates.

P.S. One of my cats pulled out this Velocity narcissus bulb from the four that I kept for myself.

Do you have pets that like to "assist" with your gardening or house plant projects? Send us photos/anedotes!



Photos by: Jennifer Smith

Selection of members' winning photos



Dianne Cavanaugh



Wendy Plume



Michael Woods



Anna Leggatt



Jens Carl



Carolyn Smoyer

Facebook News!

Our East York Garden Club Facebook group has grown to **72** members. If you haven't had a chance to join, come and check us out. We are a private group open to anyone who wants to join, EYGC member or non-member. Everyone must answer the three questions and agree to our rules before joining. Invite your fellow gardener friends to join. We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

Cheers, Kim
Kim Hewitt

Twas the Night Before Christmas (Gardener's Edition)

*"Twas the Night before Christmas and All Through the Yard,
Not a plant was left standing, the ground it was hard.
The tools were all hung in the garage with care
A well-deserved rest now that the garden was bare.*

*The bulbs were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of springtime danced in their heads,
I in my Snuggie, my husband with our cat
Had just settled in for a long winter's chat.*

*When out in the hydrangeas there arose such a clatter,
I dropped my seed catalogs to see what was the matter.
Away to the front door I quickly dashed,
Half expecting to find my yard had been trashed.*

*When I opened the door, it was suddenly clear,
Here was a sleigh and eight tiny reindeer
With a little old gardener so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!*

*More quickly than crabgrass his coursers they came
And he whistled and shouted and called them by name.
"Now Holly, Now Ivy, Now Daisy and Rue!
On Rose, On Petunia, Fern, and Lily, too!*

*To the top of the trellis! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"
So up to the housetop the reindeer they flew
With a sleighful of gifts and St. Nicholas, too.*

*I closed the front door and was turning around
When he slid down the chimney, hitting the ground.
He was dressed all in red, with wellies on his feet,
And a poinsettia on his cap made him look really neat.*

*He stood up quite quickly and went straight to his work
With a composter for Cathy, a Dutch weeder for Dirk.*

Group Rules from the Admins

- 1 Be Kind and Courteous** ...
We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- 2 No Hate Speech or Bullying** ...
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
- 3 No Promotions or Spam** ...
Give more than you take to this group. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.
- 4 Respect Everyone's Privacy** ...
Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the group should stay in the group.

*There were asters for Ann, a pine tree for Paul
And a garden design book for use by us all.*

*Next came a rain barrel. This was for Rob.
And finally, for me, a ginkgo key fob.
Then laying a trowel aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.*

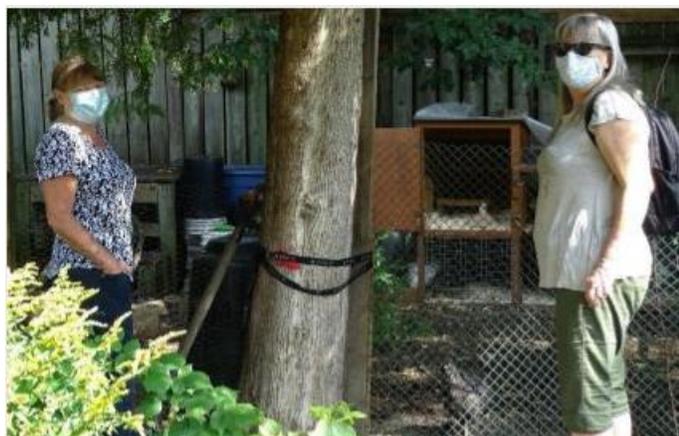
*He ran to his sleigh and gave a quick whistle
And away they all flew like the seeds of globe thistle.
But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,*

*"Merry Christmas to all gardeners and to all a good
night."*

*Karen Geisler of Hortilithic
Based on the poem by Clement Clark Moore*

POP-UP GARDENS—YEAR IN REVIEW

Due to COVID-19 restrictions our pop up garden tours and plant sales took a back seat this past summer. With some practice setting up protocols we were able to present four pop up gardens and a plant sale. We look forward to bringing you many 2021 garden tours and plant sales.



EYGC Climate C.H.A.N.G.E. Ideas

What can we as **gardeners** do to help mitigate climate change? There are lots of things we can do, from small to large, to help. To assist with developing our idea list we have put together the **EYGC CHANGE Concept**:

C - Creative
H - Horticultural
A - Activities
N - Now, for
G - Gardeners
E - Everywhere

Climate Change is very real, and we should all do everything we can to assist in mitigating this global concern. Sometimes it can be very overwhelming to think about what needs to be done to change this situation, but what we as **gardeners** can be concentrating on is what we

can do everyday, however small, to assist in changing the course of events.

We know that some of you are already taking steps to make a difference, and we would like all our members to think about how we as **individual gardeners**, and as a **garden club**, can effect change.

We anticipate this will be an on-going feature in the newsletter where we share ideas that we can all consider adopting to help make a difference.

Please tell us what you are doing already. Send to: newsletter@eygc.ca

Tips to help your garden thrive in a changing climate

Choose wind and drought tolerant plants such as geranium, lavender, thymes, sages, sedums, buddleia, cistus, rosemary, agapanthus, grasses.

Letting your plants have a good soak every couple of days will be of more benefit than little and often watering as this does not encourage the plants to form strong roots to go down and search for water.

Install a water butt and water diverter to collect rain water from your roof, and remember to fit water butts to any sheds or greenhouses as well.

Mix water retaining gel into compost for free-standing pots and avoid containers that need regular watering such as hanging baskets.

Apply a mulch to moist ground to conserve water during autumn and spring to a depth of 3 to 4 inches (chipped bark, mushroom compost or home made compost are good). *N.B. Mulch makes life difficult for some insects—Jennifer Smith*

Try puddling new plants which means filling the hole with water several times before planting to lock in moisture.

Ensure plants are protected from wind which contributes greatly to drying out.

Cover the tops of containers with pebbles to conserve moisture.

Hide plants and pots that are not drought tolerant from mid-day sun.

Avoid mowing lawns too often and too short as they survive better in drought if the blades shade each other.

Never water or plant in full sun.

Grey water is re-usable on your garden from your kitchen sink, washing machine and bath providing that it does not contain much soap or detergent.

Experiment with new planting ideas and seek the advice of specialist nurseries to help you adapt your garden to an uncertain future. <http://www.myclimatechangeagarden.com/blog/buy-climate-garden-plants>

By Debbie, blog writer at **Climate Gardens seed the change**

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY LUCIE!

On behalf of my mother Lucie Simons, I would like to thank the East York Garden Club for the cards and flowers she received from you. In particular, Mum loved the wild flowers and the mushrooms which are still on display in her apartment! It was so thoughtful of you to remember her this way on her 100th birthday. Thanks again and all the best. Gillian James (Lucie's daughter)



Success in a long campaign to protect a 250-year-old red oak in Toronto

On the same day the EYGC voted to make a donation to save the Toronto red oak at its AGM, Toronto City Council also voted to save the historic tree. Member Steve Smith was quoted recently in the Globe & Mail, saying, "I would chain myself to this tree ... This is the perfect tree."

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-this-is-the-perfect-tree-success-in-a-long-campaign-to-protect-a-250/>

"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."

- Hal Borland

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR SEEDS

Members of the OHA qualify for 10% discount. To get your discount simply use OHA code 4633 on your order form. See the catalogue here: www.dominion-seed-house.com/en

Other seed sources:

www.oscseeds.com/request-catalogue/

www.stokeseeds.com/ca/

www.damseeds.com (organic)

www.veseys.com

www.richters.com

www.seed-bank.ca

Club News

A warm welcome to our new members joining the club in 2020:

Sheila Cary-Meagher, Joan Spears, Leely Chong, Ann Da Mota, Karen Worrall, Michelle Barraclough, Joan Weed, June McNamee, Mark Robertson, Bob and Kathi Davies, Mary Tierney, Rachel Jones, Janet Nanos and Jan Sommerfeld.

Speaker Schedule for 2021

Date	Speaker	Subject
January 21	Anna Leggatt	Nairobi
February 18	Todd Irvine, MFC, MA arborist	Helping your tree thrive the natural way
March 18	Master Gardener—Dawn Scott	Spring Awakening
April 15	M. Erdman	Summer Bulbs
May 20	Betty McCulloch	Monarch Butterflies
June 17	TBA	
September 16	Susan Walmer	Oak Ridges Moraine
October 21	Emma Biggs	Fun and Unusual Crops

EYGC Annual General Meeting

As members gathered online, a slide show of the winners of the monthly 2019 Photo Contests was shown.

District 5 Director Cindy Scythes joined the meeting as well as many EYGC members and special guest, Connie Weir, sister of the late Michael Woods.

The meeting began with the posthumous presentation of the President's Award for Michael Woods to his partner and EYGC member, Alan Barber. Vice-President Roz Regnier read a tribute to Michael, written by Past-President Barbara Fairbanks. Earlier in the day, three Board members delivered a planter, designed by Carol Bouley and Jean Quinn, to Alan at his home. The commemorative plaque reads "Michael Woods A true gentleman in every way."

The President's Report and Financial Reports were presented and accepted.

Outgoing Board members Nola McConnan and Anita Millar were thanked for their many contributions during their tenure on the Board.

Karen MacDougall was welcomed as a new member of the Board. Cristina Brown, Jacqueline Tanner, and Lynda Tanner were also welcomed back to the Board for new two-year terms. All other members are continuing.

Members also voted to donate \$250 to the city's fundraising effort for the Toronto's Historic Red Oak. (Note member Stephen Smith is quoted in the January 2nd *Globe and Mail* story about the preservation of the great tree.)

The winner, by secret ballot, of the cover photo for the Annual Yearbook was also announced: Alan Barber.

When the AGM portion was concluded, Dr.Mhairi McFarlane of the Nature Conservancy of Canada presented her keynote speech.

Scavenger Hunt prizes were also awarded to a number of members.

Hello Mhairi,

Thank you for the wonderful talk on behalf of the nature conservancy, highlighting the importance of continuing to ensure there is an abundance of plants and habitat for our wildlife. Your talk was very well received by the members of the East York Garden Club. We appreciate you taking time out of your evening to talk to us.

I for one will be making a big effort to walk the trails of the Carden Alvar before the next mosquito season. A donation to NCC is in the mail.

*Yours truly
Barbara Foster.*

Hi Barbara,

Thank you for your kind words. It was a pleasure speaking with the group - thank you for the opportunity!

Reach out any time if you or the members have any follow up questions or comments.

*Best wishes,
Mhairi.*

*Dr Mhairi McFarlane
Director of Science and Stewardship, Ontario Region Nature
Conservancy of Canada | Ontario Region*

Yearbook 2021 Cover Photo

**by Alan Barber with
Michael Woods
2019**

Entrance to the
walled garden

Taken at Holehird
Gardens in England.

Maintained entirely
by volunteers



Winter Interest...



Gardens in Winter

By Anna Leggatt



My next door neighbour's front yard

Evergreens, 2 species of spruce, 2 species of pine and creeping juniper, basswood, birch, yellow and red stemmed dogwood, 2 species of dried grass, large rocks, background fence and Japanese maple leaves



Front Yard

Berberis 'Red Tears'. Attracts Robins, sometimes mockingbirds and waxwings, *Miscanthus 'Little Dot'*



Our Crevis Garden

Pinus contorta 'Chief Joseph'. Wonderful yellow in winter but green in summer. It has to be pruned as it will be too big for the space but we need to see it.

Also pictured here. 2 evergreen daphnes, dwarf Alberta Spruce, Boxwood and weeping redbud twig.

Winter Interest...



Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Snow' and it looks good when snow covered. Note the bird feeders.



Blue spruce cultivar which grew too fast and is being changed into a lollipop.



And of course, statues. We have over a dozen of differing sizes which stay out all winter.



Semi-circle of variegated boxwood. Will get clipped next year.

Winter Interest



Picea pungens 'Stilton Cheese'



Rhododendron 'PJM' with lovely dark aromatic leaves in winter



Arum italicum 'Pictum' with large leaves from October to May. Recovered after being covered with a snow bank.



Mahonia photographed Dec 19.

Got a Question? Got an Answer?

STILL LOOKING FOR ANSWERS:

If you have an answer to questions posted, please copy the question and submit with your answer for our next newsletter to newsletter@eygc.ca subject line Got an Answer. If you've got a question, send to same email.
Subject: Got a question

Q1. What is this vine? It starts in the spring and resembles tiny violets without flowers. It doesn't do too much at first. Then in the late summer it takes off, two to three feet in the shade. About every 10 cm it makes another little cluster. Then keeps going. It likes to be in toad-friendly dark moist areas. What is it?



Q2. This is hepatica in October at Thanksgiving. Does anyone else have hepatica? A toad can hide in here very easily.



Q3. I have a patch of what I think is gallardia or blanket flower. It produces copious amounts of foliage but few flowers. (The flower is about 32 cm tall.) Is something amiss for this plant? The patch is in full sun and the photos were taken on Oct. 9, 2020.



Q4. Each autumn a vast amount of spring bulb foliage grows in my garden. (It is probably muscari or chionodoxa.) No flowers appear in the autumn; many grow in the spring. So this fall foliage is not a problem, but I don't understand why it grows.



Notices to Members

People's Choice Online Photo Contests for 2021

January	Tranquility
February	Love
March	Windy
April	First Booms
May	Rebirth
June	The Colours of June
July	My Canada
August	Summer Garden
September	September Skies
October	Harvest
November	Yearbook Cover for 2022

*Please note, if we are able to resume regular in-person club activities, we will return to our regular format for photo contests including a judged show in November 2021.

gardenclub@eygc.ca or

416-469-5593

EYGC Code of Conduct

In keeping with the City of Toronto's Anti-harassment policy when using any City of Toronto properties, East York Garden Club, with the kind assistance of the Leaside Garden Club, has designed an **EYGC Code of Conduct** to adhere to the City's regulations.

In short it says: ***A guiding principle of the East York Garden Club is that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Although EYGC promotes freedom of expression and open communication, we expect all members to adhere to this principle as outlined in the full "Code of Conduct".*** The full document will be published in an up-coming newsletter.

EYGC MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

"CANNABIS, IN ANY FORM, IS NOT TO BE AT ANY EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB MEETING, ACTIVITY OR EVENT, SUCH AS, BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO, OUR REFRESHMENTS, FLOWER SHOWS, PLANT SALES, SEED EXCHANGE."

Starting Feb. 1 we plan to switch to a Garden Club email address for both photo contest submission and voting. We're still trying to set it up, and a formal announcement will be made once it goes live.

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.

Barbara Winkler

The Back Page Garden

Show us your backyard! (or front yard, or balcony...)

Send a photo of your garden at its best, or at your favourite time of year. Show your whole yard, a cozy corner, or any “vignette” that you love & want to share with EYGC members.

Be selective and send only one or two photos, preferably in jpeg format - fairly high resolution is best for clarity. Send to the newsletter at:

newsletter@eygc.ca

*Shown to the right—My backyard garden cocooned for the winter
By Monique Gauthier*



Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Potential New Members are Social Distancing...



If you would like to make a submission to be included in the next issue of “The East York Garden” newsletter, the next deadline is:

February 22, 2021

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to

newsletter@eygc.ca

We're on the Web! Find out more information and get back issues of this newsletter at our website:

www.eygc.ca

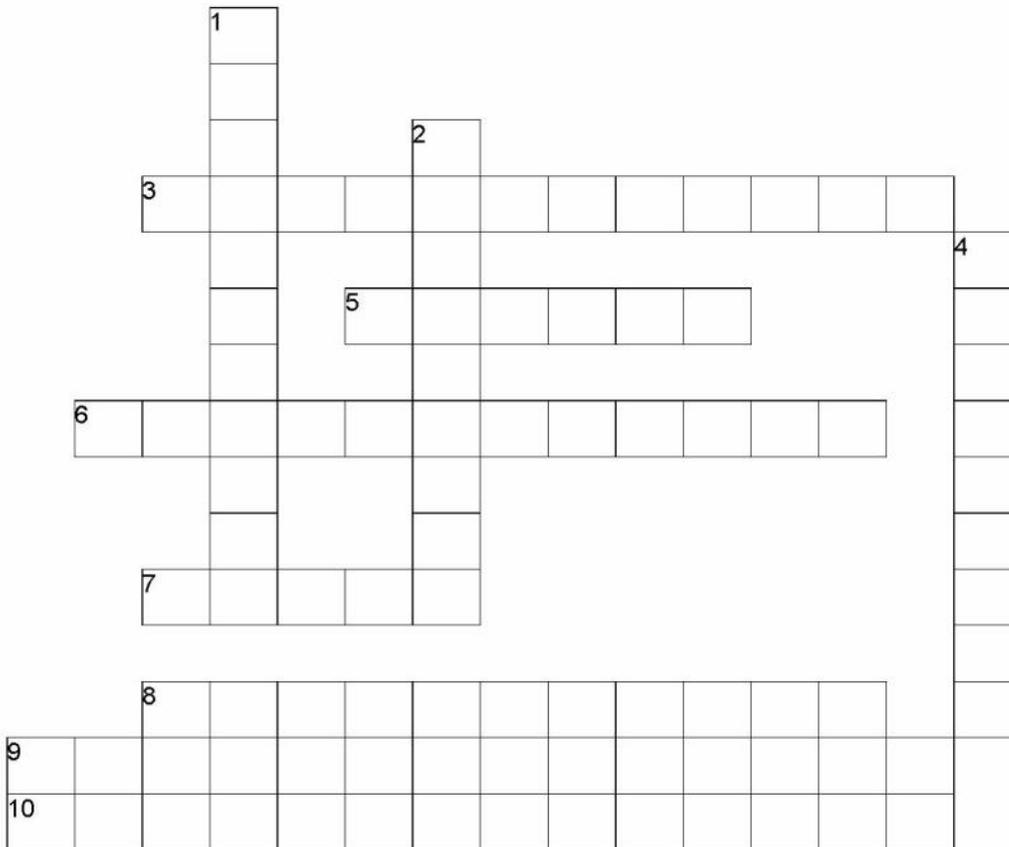


“The East York Garden” is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

Puzzle Page

The newsletter committee is calling on members to create/submit puzzles for future issues because puzzles are fun to create and fun to complete. Send your submissions to newsletter@eygc.ca

Invasive Plants Crossword



Across

3. the amount of species living together
5. spreads seeds by wind and water
6. plants that have grown in nature for a long period of time
7. unwanted plant
8. vegetation composed of a single species
9. Plants that take over other plants and spread rapidly
10. a yellow invasive plant that has a partner that is orange

Down

1. spreads invasive plants that can hide in hay, feed or seed mixture
2. bugs used to control invasive plants
4. many invasive plants are beautiful so people take them and plant them in their own gardens