



Fall Garden Cleanup

10 Fall Garden Tasks for a Better Spring Garden

By Marie Iannotti

This article is from an excellent gardening website: about.com/gardening. There is a ton of information out there on virtually every aspect of gardening, from the practical tasks (like this article) to a very clear series of articles which comprise a tutorial on garden design. This is always a good time of the year to take some photos if you are planning design changes.

Gardening in the fall is a great time to look back on your garden success, but there's still time left for most of us to do some last minute garden maintenance. Fall gardening takes advantage of cooler temperatures and fewer bugs. Putting the garden to bed isn't nearly as

hectic as waking it up in the spring. Here are some tasks to do now, to make next year's garden even better.

1. Enrich garden beds with compost or manure.
2. Collect dried seed from open pollinated flowers & veggies.
3. Clean bird feeders to get them ready for use.
4. Gather herbs, seed heads and flowers for drying.
5. Clean out cold frames for winter use.
6. Cover water gardens with netting to keep the falling leaves out.
7. Keep trees and shrubs well watered until the ground freezes.
8. Cut back diseased perennials and remove all foliage. Don't compost.
9. Clean, sand and oil garden tools before storing them for the winter.
10. Take cuttings.

October 2 Aliens!!

Peter Alden is a very popular lecturer and author of 15 books on wildlife, and, boy, does he have some wild life to tell us about tonight! He will discuss the threat posed by invasive alien plants, and the most likely consequences of our actions or inaction. We will learn about the offending trees, shrubs, vines, and herbs, as well as various ways of controlling their spread. Check out his website at www.peteraldenwildlife.com for more information on this fascinating topic.



Hospitality will be provided by chairs **Donna Greene** and **Pollyann Statom** with Dianne Faulkner, Gloria Kuran, and Deb Zoltai (a fun bunch if ever there was one!)

Inside this issue:

Conservation	Viburnum Leaf Beetle	2
Conservation	Asian Longhorn Beetle	2
Member News	Board's-Eye View	3
Events		3
Ask Peony	October	4

Who loves a garden still his Eden keeps,
Perennial pleasures plants, and wholesome harvest reaps.

-Amos Bronson Alcott

Conservation **Viburnum Leaf Beetle**

Viburnum leaf beetle (*Pyrrhalta viburni*), a pest of Viburnum species including arrowwood and European cranberry bush, has been confirmed in three new counties in Massachusetts.

The Viburnum leaf beetle was first discovered in Massachusetts in 2004, in Berkshire County. In July 2008, new sightings of this introduced pest were reported in Bristol, Franklin, and Middlesex County, and were recently confirmed by Robert Childs, an entomologist at UMass Extension. Eradication efforts at these sites are currently underway.

Prof Childs has been an Instructor for GCFMA Gardening Study School on the topic of IMP (Integrated Pest Management)

Viburnum leaf beetle attacks only viburnum plants. The most susceptible species are arrowwood viburnums (*V. dentatum* complex), European and American cranberry bush (*V. opulus*, including var. *americana*), Possum-haw (*V. nudum*), Rafinesque viburnum (*V. rafinesquianum*), and Chinese or Taiwanese viburnum (*V. propinquum*). Many other species are also known to be susceptible, including: Black haw (*V. prunifolium*), Mapleleaf viburnum (*V. acerifolium*), Nannyberry (*V. lentago*), Sargent viburnum (*V. sargentii*), Wayfaringtree (*V. lantana*), and Wright viburnum (*V. wrightii*).

In late summer and fall it is the adult stage of the Viburnum leaf beetle that is active. Adult feeding damage can be seen on viburnum leaves as irregular circular to elliptical holes. The beetles are approximately 5mm long (less

than ¼ of an inch) and are brown, with dark markings on and behind the head. Adults feed from July through the fall, until leaf drop occurs, and will be laying eggs for the remainder of the growing season. Egg-laying sites are small, brownish-black bumps, about 1-2mm in diameter, that can be found in rows along the terminal twigs of the plant.

With the distribution of this beetle continuing to expand throughout the state, ornamental plantings and nursery stock as well as native Viburnums could be at risk. It is important to learn to recognize the symptoms of Viburnum leaf beetle damage so that infestations can be detected and dealt with as early as possible. Heavy infestations by Viburnum leaf beetle can defoliate shrubs, cause dieback, and eventually kill plants. Shrubs repeatedly defoliated over a period of two to three years are likely to die.

If you think you have seen the Viburnum leaf beetle, you can report it online at <http://www.massnrc.org/pests/report.aspx>.

Printable pest alert and fact sheet for Viburnum growers, from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (<http://www.massnrc.org/pests/linkedddocuments/ViburnumLeafBeetlePestAlertFactSheet.pdf>)



Conservation **Asian Long Horned Beetle**



The Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*, "ALB"), a pest of hardwood trees including maple, birch and horse chestnut, was recently discovered in Worcester, Massachusetts. An astute resident of the Greendale section of Worcester reported the sighting, and it was confirmed by entomologists from USDA

APHIS-PPQ earlier this week.

The Asian Longhorn Beetle is an invasive species native to China. It was first discovered in the U.S. in New York in 1996, and has also been found in Chicago and New Jersey. The beetles cause damage by tunneling within the trunks and branches of trees, disrupting the sap flow and weakening and eventually killing them.

This pest attacks a wide variety of hardwood trees, particularly maples, and is considered a serious threat to the nursery, lumber, wood products, maple syrup, and tourism in-

dustries in our state. If it became established over a large area, it could also significantly disrupt the forest ecosystem.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and the City of Worcester are partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and USDA APHIS-PPQ to coordinate a management plan to eradicate this species in Massachusetts. First steps include a survey of the area to determine the extent of the infestation, and regulatory management to prevent movement of host trees and wood out of the infested area. Infested trees will need to be removed and destroyed, and susceptible host trees may need treatment to prevent further infestations.

To learn more about the Asian longhorned beetle, see our fact sheet at

<http://www.massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/asianlonghorned.html>

Events

Newburyport Horticultural Society

Second Tuesday **7pm** (6:30: bus. mtg)
\$5 Newburyport Library, State Street
Info: Floreen Maroncelli 978 463-9923

Tower Hill Botanic Gardens

“Bewitched by Orchids”

Annual Orchid Show & Sale

Friday, October 31, 1pm-5pm

Sat & Sun, November 1-2, 10am-5pm

Visit www.massorchid.org for details

11 French Drive, Boylston MA

Info: 508 869-6111



Federation Events of Interest

October 7 **Design Workshop**, Espousal Center, 10:00 AM

October 29 **Awards Workshop**, Espousal Center (Guild room), 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

Merrimac Garden Club

Channel 5 Meteorologist Dave Epstein
Tuesday, October 7, 2008 - 7:00 PM.

Owner of Bloomsapes This will be a big event you won't want to miss!

All meetings are held at the **Merrimac Senior Center, 100 East Main St, Rte 110, Merrimac, MA** \$5 Guest Fee

Topsfield Fair

October 3-14 10 am to 10 pm every day
(except the first day: 4 pm to 10 pm)

Weekdays: \$10 Weekends: \$12 Kids under 8 Free **Seniors Day Monday Oct 6: \$7.**

Parking: \$8

Club News and Member News

The Board's-Eye View

Freddy Sforza, Friend of the WNGC

As many of you know, Freddy Sforza of Sforza's Farm on Crane Neck Road passed away recently. He was well known to many of the Garden Club members, and will be remembered fondly by those of us who knew him. At the Board of Directors' September meeting, the Board discussed how best to commemorate people like Freddy who have been connected to our club informally, and have helped us in ways large and small. They are people whom we wish to honor, and our desire is to express our thanks for their contributions over the years and also send the Club's condolences to their families. In the case of the death of a Club Member, the club sends flowers and a card to the family, and donates a gardening book to the West Newbury Library. Since there is a lot of variability in the contributions made by our "informal friends" however, the right response is not the same in all cases, and that makes it difficult to set one policy. After much thought and discussion, the Board determined that each situation should be reviewed individually rather than setting specific guidelines, and that the President will let our Sunshine Committee know how to proceed. And as always, every member's opinion is valued and welcome.

Ask Peony **October**, cont. from p.4



bump that appear on the stem. The plant will rebloom from this point with smaller yet equally chic flowers.

2. What is the most common mistake when growing orchids?

Overwatering. Even when following our guidelines, always check the planting medium before watering. It should be dry; if you're unsure, wait. Orchids tolerate under-watering considerably better than over-watering.

3. How often should I repot my orchid?

Repot every two years, generally in spring or summer or whenever the blooming period has ended. Many orchids are planted in bark, which decomposes quickly. Once it breaks down, it acts like a sponge holding moisture.

4. Why didn't my orchid rebloom?

If your plant is healthy but not reblooming, it probably needs more light. Few orchids can tolerate really direct light or really low light. If your orchid fails to rebloom, try moving it to a different window.

p.s.

Local grocery stores are a great place to find inexpensive orchids, and they are specially bred for the home. Look for glossy, spot-free leaves, and a flower spike that is mostly buds, rather than blooms. Bring it home when the outdoor temp is over 40, and bring it right into the house.



WNGC



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*Gardens for beauty,
learning, and sharing*

The West Newbury Garden Club was founded in 1936 to encourage and cultivate an interest in gardening, to aid in protecting and conserving our natural resources, to further the study of horticulture and flower arranging, and to promote civic beauty. For more information, please contact President Linda Schaeffer at 978 363-5251 or at linda-schaeffer@verizon.net

**Board Meeting at Town Offices
October 9, 2008 at 7:00pm**



Ask Peony **October**

Dear Peony,

Is there an easy houseplant that I can get now to keep me going through the winter months?

In Need of Bloomies- SOON!

Dear Flower Child,

As a matter of fact, an article from HGTV recommends the Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis). Check out different varieties and their needs. Have fun!

The Uncommonly Lovely,

Peony

Here is something from their site:

Winter-blooming orchids, once the pricey hobby of only the most dedicated plant lover, may seem like the last houseplant you'd be able to grow with ease. Not true, for while they have a diva reputation, many winter-blooming orchid varieties are no trouble to grow at home.

Light: bright, indirect light all day, or direct afternoon sun only

Temperature: 70-80 degrees (day), 55-65 degrees (night)

Humidity: High. Place potted plant on a saucer filled with pebbles and water.

Watering: Let the potting mix dry out between watering during growing and bloom season.

Feeding: Fertilize with high-nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-10) once a month for the first six months after bloom. Apply half-strength fertilizer every third watering in growing season.

Quick Answers to Common Orchid Questions

1. How do I make my moth orchid rebloom?

No other orchid is as easy to coax into a second bloom. After the flowers have dropped off the stem, find the third node from the bottom of the plant, and clip above that point with clean, sharp pruners. The node is the knuckle-like

