



SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN LILY SOCIETY INC.

Affiliate of the North American Lily Society, Inc.

Our website: <http://www.sasklilysociety.org>

NEWSLETTER Vol. XXVI / No.2 June 2017



President's message

Well my people we are going to try something different this time. I am not in my chair again. I am lying down on the floor, and I would like you to join me. First you need to go get an onion and a knife, as we are going to lay on the floor together and cry. Had a bad day on Wednesday. So busy saying that I was not taking any plants back home from the plant sale that I left all my new babies there. Had them on the shelf, back around the corner and went away without them. Went to my girlfriends for coffee, and then on my way home. I was thinking where all of the new plants were going to go, when I realized that I did not remember putting them in the car. Pulled over to the side of the road on Victoria Avenue and checked the trunk. **NO PLANTS !!!!!!!** No use going home and coming back the next day. Back to my girlfriends. Get her out of bed to say that I am spending the night. Try to phone the conservatory the next morning. They do not answer the phone. Phone Shirley. She says that they are there. So drive over. Plants are nowhere to be seen. Ask. They try to tell me that there was nothing at the conservatory last night and that they know nothing about plants. Suddenly I see my box with a few plants in it. They had divided them up amongst the workers. Hunted down the rest. The only thing that I did not find was the monkshood from Dolores. Do not know where it went. Guess it did not want to move to the country. Allan I am going to send you an e-mail about that allium. Could not find any information on it. Now, get ready, here comes the lying on the floor and crying part as if that was not bad enough. When I got home, was walking around the yard and noticed that a few of the plants had a touch of frost. Some of the ones that I figured were tough and the frost would not affect. My turtlehead, and some of the perennial geraniums. Froze the blooms on my baby iris and the pink Lily of the Valley that I have yet to see bloom. Now for the really sad part. If you remember, I was saying my OT's were more advanced than my asiatics this year. Well that isn't so anymore. Anything that had trumpet in it froze. Lost about $\frac{1}{4}$ of my lilies. The trumpets, the aurelians, the OT's, and even froze my henry's. So lets slice those onions and cry along with me.

On to funnier, (at least it turned out funny). I am looking after my niece's cat for the summer, and he has decided that my yard is his territory, and he will defend it against all comers. All of the other cats run which is good, as the last time he got in a fight it cost her \$300.00 at the vet. We

were outside, in late afternoon, when he started growling. He is in his teenage years and figures he can take anyone. When I looked across the road, saw something moving in the grass that looked funny. Could not decide what it was, so decided to hang on to the cat. He definitely did not like that, had his honor to defend. Well it was catlike A big black kitty with a white stripe down his back and a big fluffy tail up over his back. So Koda and I had a talk and he stayed in his yard and his friend stayed across the road. Koda is also a city cat, and an indoor cat, but has decided that he is a country boy at heart, and wants to be an outdoor boy. He does not understand that he things that go bump in the night will eat him for a snack, and his mom would be upset with me. Don't know what she is going to do about the country boy when she goes back to university, because he lets it be known that he wants outside.

On to other business. We need volunteer to work at the lily show. It will be Thursday, July 20th for setup, Friday, July 21st we need people for clerks and to man the booth, Saturday, July 22nd we need people to man the booth and to dismantle. If you can do anything to help, please contact me at susanparks@imagewireless.ca or phone me at [306-771-2700](tel:306-771-2700). Early morning or later in the evening is best. Otherwise I am out chasing weeds. Dandelions seem to be the choice of weed this year, and lots of thistles. Never seem to get a day that I can use roundup as the wind seems to be blowing a gale everyday. Also in the worm hunting mode. Put on my berry picking gear. Took the clippers and cut off about a two gallon pail of leaf tips full of worms. Then got ready for a good protein supper. Put them in boiling water. Yum yum. Well time to get motivated. In to Regina to help my girlfriend plant her garden, she never seems to make it out here to help me. Oh well. Talk to you later. Dolores, I will phone you, can I give my bulbs something to nourish them, to get them through the year.

Bye for now
Happy gardening
Susan

 ***Please be sure your membership is up to date.***



Apricot Fudge

70th Annual International Lily Show and Symposium



"St Louis: An Historic French Town"

Show Date

July 2, 2017

June 28 through

Show Location

Sheraton Lakeside Chalet
191 Westport Plaza
St Louis, MO
[314-878-1500](tel:314-878-1500)

[Hotel Reservation](#)

Attention Lily Fans,

We invite lily enthusiasts from around the world to St Louis Missouri for the 70th Annual Lily Show and Symposium. In addition to a one of a kind show, and behind the scene tours of Missouri Botanical Gardens, you can expand your knowledge with our expert speakers from across North America!

- **Peter Zale** will present the keynote address, "Lily Species Around the World and in Cultivation".
- **Judith Freeman**, will present a tissue culture demonstration and "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed - Something Blue?"
- **Wilbert Ronald** will present "A Passion for Lilies - My Goals in Wide Species Crosses"
- **Kathy Anderson and Warren Summers** will present a Judges Symposium.
- **Jan Riggensch** will present "Landscaping with Lilies: Complementary Companions"

Registration deadline is May 31st. We hope to see you there!

Paint Night

Anyone interested in a paint night graciously hosted by Gladys Ning our Artist in residence please contact me at 306-569-0804 or by email at smtut1@sasktel.net If enough interest is shown the class would be in the fall. The cost would be \$25.00 including material and refreshments/dainties with any proceeds going to the society. We would be painting a Lily. We would need a minimum of 10 people to make it feasible. Other information to follow.

Lily Show

Our Lily Show for 2017 is being held on July 21st and 22nd at the Northgate Mall Remember everyone not just member of the Society are welcome to enter Lilies in to the Show so tell your neighbours and friends and enjoy a little friendly competition. Don't forget this is Canada's 150th so think red and white.

Email

beryl.wait@gov.sk.ca

Comment or Question

Just to let you know iMapInvasives has had its first report of Red Lily Leaf Beetles for the year. From Emerald Park on May 5, 2017 about 20 adults.
Beryl Wait - Invasive Species Co-ordinator SKCDC
[306-933-6436](tel:306-933-6436)

BEETLE TRACKING

The 2015 specimen that was sent in and positively identified has been added to our provincial non-native species tracking list. Is there any chance that you have locational information on the beetle so we can begin mapping it on our provincial data management system (iMapInvasives) and tracking its spread?

Thanks again, Ahdia.

Ahdia Hassan, MSc
Invasive Species Coordinator
Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
112 Research Drive
Saskatoon, SK, S7N 3R3
[306-933-6436](tel:306-933-6436)

<http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca/Invasives.htm>

<http://lilybeetletracker.weebly.com/>



How are you celebrating Canada's 150th?

Our secretary and past president Gladys Ning has found a unique way of celebrating. She has checked off an item on her Bucket List – providing 150 whole blood donations to Canadian Blood Services.

There are approximately 450 people marking the 150th milestone in Canada this year and a special 150th anniversary photo was taken. Canadian Blood Services holds a special evening and annually recognizes people who have donated 50, 75, 100, 125, 150 and more blood product donations.

How much blood is 150th donations - 1 pint or 450 mls per donation = 67,500 mls or 67.5 litres = approximately 17 gals or more than 5 - 5 gallon pails full.

How long did this take? Currently women can only donate once every 84 days or 4 times a year. That must make her 100!

It's in you to give and Gladys encourages those who can to donate and save a life



Peat Moss, Compost and Lilies. Teuan Evans

At the present time there seems to be considerable mis-information circulating amongst conservationists, gardeners, and the Horticultural industry in regards to peat moss.

In the United Kingdom (England, Scotland and Wales) and Ireland, the long term harvesting of peat moss has drastically reduced available peat supplies. As a consequence, there seems to be a "war" ongoing between the users and the conservationists who want to preserve the remaining peat bogs for their unique flora and fauna. The British Isles initially had only 1% of the world's peat reserves. These reserves in Ireland were mainly used for Hydro-Fuel and in Britain for horticulture, mushroom growing and landscaping. On a global basis, 80% of the world's reserves are located in Canada, Russia, and the United States. This Equates to in acres to 371 million in Russia, 272 in Canada, and 124 million in The United States, primarily in Alaska but with sizable acreages occurring in Florida, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Using Canada as a prime example where we have 272 million acres of peat land, only 40,000 acres, mostly in Eastern Canada, or less than 0.02% of the land used for harvesting moss (called mining in some areas). Harvesting a particular bog can take 15 to 30 years or more. The methodology of harvesting is to run a cultivator over the bog surface and after the disturbed peat dried it is picked up by large vacuum machines that place the dried peat in stockpiles for processing into bales. These machines typically only operate between April and October in Canada. Most Canadian harvested peat is packaged in a multitude of labels and is exported to the United States. The rate at which this peat is harvested in Canada is estimated at 60 times less than which the peat accumulates nationally on the nation's 270 million acres. If that is not considered to sustainable utilization then nothing on earth is sustainable.

In the UK and even in Canada there have been suggestions that the horticultural industry switch to coir (coconut fibre). Can you imagine how many coconuts would have to be grown and the resulting giant carbon footprint? Wiser heads in Britain are now importing peat moss from Russia and likely Canada in the near future. None-the-less, so called conservationists keep coming up with more cockamamie suggestions.

What does peat moss do for garden soils?

Peat moss should always be worked into the soil and can provide the following benefits:

- Gives excellent air and water exchange capacity
- Helps roots grow and nutrient exchange
- Provides buffering for soil
- Retains moisture especially in dry or sandy soil
- Reduces fertilizer leaching
- Keeps soil from hardening and crusting
- Aerates dry soil and binds sandy soil
- Provides some nutrients
- Peat comes in convenient packages, easy handling
- Lightens up and aerates heavy clay soil

Your typical brown sphagnum peat moss surprisingly has roughly the same nutrient value of nitrogen (N) phosphate (P) potassium (K) as most cow, sheep and horse manure, each at around 0.7% by dry matter weight.

The darker or black peat moss may have nitrogen levels comparable to poultry manure. Peat moss nutrients are much slower to release than those of most composts.

Sphagnum peat moss generally has a pH of around 3 or 4, whereas some of the more decomposed black peat like those in Florida or the muck soils of Ontario have a pH range of 5 to 7.5.

Sphagnum peat moss is a natural, organic soil conditioner that helps acidify alkaline soil. Peat will hold up to 20 times its weight in water, important in sandy soil and an excellent aerator for heavy clay soils. Peat reduces nutrient leaching, and improves air and water change capacities in all soils.

Composts vary much more than peat mosses in weight, moisture content and nutrient capability. Most compost, manures and peat have very high carbon (C) to nitrogen (N) ratios. The C:N ratio of carbon in lawn clippings is 19:1; straw 80:1; farm(cattle, sheep and horse) manure 80:1; sawdust 142:1 and peat moss 60:1. The ideal ratio for healthy plants to grow is 10:1, the same ratio as the humus content of good soil. The higher the C:N ratio of materials added to your garden soil, ie: sawdust or pine needles the more nitrogen and other macro and micro nutrients are tied up by the soils bacteria and fungi as they feed on and breakdown this high carbon source. If for example you add 50 lbs. (22kgs.) of peat moss, cow, sheep or horses manure to your vegetable garden soil you should also add up to 10 lbs. (4.5kgs.) of ammonium phosphate 16-20-13 (N,P,K,S) to compensate for the tie-up by the manures or peat. If you are using sawdust you could double the amount of fertilizer. Soil amendments least likely to tie up soil nutrients are alfalfa pellets (18:1), grass clippings (19:1) and well rotted garden compost (20:1). Composts, while excellent soil conditioners for established flower beds and shrubbery is an inadequate nutrient supplier for vegetable gardens or growing lily bulbs. If you want bountiful results you must supplement your soil, particularly when using manure and peats, with organic or ordinary fertilizer.

Poultry manure (chicken, turkey) compared to cattle, sheep, and horses manure or standard sphagnum peat moss, is much higher in plant available nutrients. In cattle, sheep and horse manure much of the available nutrients are lost in the animal's urine. This does not happen with poultry as since all the excreted nutrients are in the manure. The C:N ratio of poultry manure often ranges from 3-5 :1. Macro and micro nutrients are readily released following application. Even so, to provide the equivalent of 100 lbs (100kgs) of nitrogen per acre (hectare) to garden soil something around 400-800 lbs. (400-800kgs) of dried manure need be applied to the typical 1/6th acre garden to get these bountiful yields or big vigorous lily bulbs. For example 400 lbs of poultry manure at 3.5 % nitrogen to the 1/6th acre garden will give you a rate of 17 lbs. of actual nitrogen that translates into around 100 lbs. of nitrogen per acre. That's the rate that most commercial growers would apply to grow crops whether floral or vegetable except for nitrogen fixers such as peas and beans.

In summary, peat, manures and composts are all excellent soil amendments. None the less it must be remembered that they are, except for poultry manures, low in nutrients that are necessary to grow bountiful crops. On the other hand, in well established gardens regular top dressing with peat, manure or compost maybe the only amendments needed to maintain a vibrant and ostentatious landscape.



SSLS EXECUTIVE FOR 2016-17

PRESIDENT - SUSAN PARKS -
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The South Saskatchewan Lily Society Membership

Make payments to SSLS-c/o Louise Narine
759 Queen St. Regina, SK S4T 4A4 306-552-7100

Name _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____
Phone# _____
E-mail _____

Individual- \$10 for one year () \$25 for three years ()
Family- \$12 for one year () \$31 for three years ()

***** PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE UP-TO-DATE*****

Or apply on line at www.sasklilysociety.org

Our web site is now fully functioning and we need input from the members with articles, stories, photos, or anything you would like to share with others.

Please include your name in your correspondence.

If you have a question or comment please use the web email to contact Issy.
ssls2013@gmail.com

