**Brooklin Horticultural Society Presentation for August 22, 2012 meeting**

Sofie’s Picks - A listing of plants presented at the Brooklin Horticultural Society meeting August 22, 2012 - a combination of new and newer introductions and other interesting plants and/or tips and advice given by an amateur, but plant addicted gardener.

Sofie Bigham e-mail – [bigham@sympatico.ca](mailto:bigham@sympatico.ca) , 905-655-5929 10 acre property in Ontario, Canada, zone 5b, with a vast display of perennials, trees, shrubs, vegetables, and extensive collections which include roses, clematis, hostas, daylilies & more. This is a private garden, not a nursery. Free open gardens are scheduled 3-4 times a year for the public.

[www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) 3520 Durham Road #1(Brock Rd), RR 4 PO Box 886Uxbridge,ON L9P 1R4  
Phone (905) 649-3532 – New introductions, unusual plants, perennials, grasses, vines, shrubs, tropicals, vegetables + a huge selection of heritage tomatoes. All varieties and prices listed on their website

[www.gardenimport.com](http://www.gardenimport.com) Mail Order Company, Thornhill, Ontario Phone 1-800-339-8314 Prices & varieties listed on website

[www.kingswaygreenhouse.com](http://www.kingswaygreenhouse.com) Oshawa, Ontario 905-434-3851 – Plants are not listed on their website

[www.vandermeernursery.com](http://www.vandermeernursery.com) 905-427-2525 588 Lakeridge Rd. S., Ajax, ON (corner of Lakeridge and Bayley). Plants not listed.

[www.goldenbrookhostas.com](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com) Blackstock, Ontario, Mail order (Canada only) + pick up. Huge selection of hostas with photos, including newest varieties and prices listed on their website

<http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com> – hostas, roses, some perennials. Varieties & prices listed on website

John’s Perennials, 905-862-8175, Uxbridge, ON Perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs, trees, rare conifers + more

Peter Keeping, Bowmanville, Ontario – sells unusual & hard to find clematis as well as perennials at very reasonable prices– Peter imports clematis from Europe/England 905-697-7842

[www.richtersherbs.com](http://www.richtersherbs.com) Goodwood, Ontario, Herbs by mail or purchase at greenhouse. They also have many free seminars on Sundays, check events on website

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| --- | --- |
| Impatiens | I haven’t grown impatiens in this garden over the last 10 years. Last year (2011) I planted 100 impatiens seedlings that I started indoors from seed. Around mid-summer, just when the plants were getting to a nice size, one or two of them died overnight. They looked like they had been hit by frost – mushy and gushy. Every day, more and more plants died – good one day, dead the next, until they were all gone. I have since found out it is likely downy mildew. Check out these two websites for more information on what is causing this problem – one on downy mildew <http://www.ballhort.com/Landscapers/Tips.aspx> , the other a virus called necrotic spot virus <http://extension.psu.edu/plant-disease-factsheets/all-fact-sheets/impatiens-necrotic-spot-virus> , related to the Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus. I am not sure about the virus, but it is interesting reading because the plant collapses like it does with downy mildew. |
| Echinacea | What has happened to our beautiful Echinacea’s, the mainstay of our mid-summer garden? Are yours looking bedraggled and ugly? Take a look at the flower cones – are they covered with a black, gritty, residue? This the tell-tale sign of the sunflower moth. This moth lays eggs on the cones (the moths have laid eggs on every single cone on every Echinacea clump in my garden). Cut one open and you will see the larvae, anywhere from one to 3-4 larvae in each cone. There is no solution that I am aware of- we can only reduce the population of moths by cutting off each flower and depositing in the garbage, not in the compost. Some sites suggest using BT – Bacillus thuringiensis. Next year, I am going to cut off the flower buds near the end of June, much like we do with mums and asters to see if it makes a difference. I am not sure this is going to be a solution after reading the information on the sites below.  Here are two sites for more information :  <http://www.ipmnet.umd.edu/greenhouse/grnhsandcutalerts/2010/10Jul16G.pdf>  <http://ipmnet.umd.edu/cutflower/docs/sunflrmoth.pdf> |
| Malva moschata | My beautiful malva moschata alba (white) and the pink variety always give me a spectacular show every June, even though they tend to self-seed all over. Every visitor to the garden wants them when they see them in bloom. Well, this year, the plants were suffering from some type of disease, blackened stems, scrawny, wilted, yellowing leaves, and only a flower or two. I have not been able to determine via internet what has caused the problem, other than perhaps the same thing that affects hollyhocks – rust. I have noticed rusty pustules on the leaves and I think this is the disease that has destroyed my malvas. I cut some of them to the ground to see if they will re-sprout and some were so badly affected that I dug them out entirely and put them in the garbage. I will have to wait until next year to see if I get any new seedlings. |

**Roses for you**

***You’re Beautiful – Rose of the Year 2013***. “You’re Beautiful” is a floribunda rose. (Floribunda roses form multiple buds on the end of a stem and are more like a shrub rose.) This rose is disease resistant, with a slight fragrance. The blooms are pale pink, ruffled and here is what special about this rose, the ruffled edges are slightly tinged in green, as are the buds – beautiful –and aptly named. Another thing I noticed on this rose is the length of time the flowers held on, from the bud stage to fully open stage, the flowers have lingered for 3 weeks or longer, unlike many that shatter after a few days.

***Wingthorn Rose*** (Rosa Sericea) – A rare rose, this rose is normally available by mail order at Pickering roses in Port Hope, ON, ([www.pickeringnurseries.com](http://www.pickeringnurseries.com)) (minimum order is 3 roses) but I have recently found a ½ dozen or so locally at Vandermeer’s (August 2012). If you want something truly different in roses, try growing this shrub rose. This rose is not grown for its flowers, but rather for the thorns, hence the name. The thorns are big - longer than wide all along the stem, translucent and bright red. It flowers once in spring with typical wild rose single flowers. The bright red thorns form on new wood, so you must prune the branches after flowering by ½ or more, or, you can forfeit the flowers and prune like any other rose in April. Use this opportunity to shape the shrub as well. Try to place your rose so that the sun sets behind it – this will make the translucent thorns glow red! One other thing, this rose has beautiful, disease resistant, ferny, delicate foliage – not like your typical rose foliage.

**IT IS AUGUST - HOW TO AVOID A DIFFICULT TIME IN THE GARDEN**

Many people have difficulty with their gardens in August. The roses are waiting for cooler weather, the daylilies and lilies are finished, as are many mid-summer flowers like phlox and daisies. The garden was fresh and beautiful in June with hundreds of roses in bloom, including peonies and delphiniums. In July, the daylilies took over, over 300 of them. Visitors to the garden on July 29th had no idea that such a variety of daylilies existed!! Especially interesting was the bed dedicated to spider and UFO daylilies – flowers with huge drooping petals, extra wide unusual flower shapes and colours and wonderful fragrance. ***So what now in August?*** **Would you believe that I have over 60 varieties of plants currently in bloom? I have listed below what is blooming in late August this year.**

**Annuals for you to try**: Yes, you can have colour in August, September, and October! This is why one should plan to include annuals. The annuals really steal the show right now and continue to bloom until frost. Annuals are like the accessories in your living room – you can change them every year for a fresh new look. Masses of see-through verbena bonariensis – a butterfly magnet, 10 foot tall kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate, love-lies-bleeding, beautiful new double cosmos cranberries and pink bonbon, large cactus zinnias, cannas, nicotiana “whisper shades of pink” and fragrant “only the lonely”, marigolds, calendula, dahlias, annual coreopsis, groundcover type vista petunias, and salvias to name a few.

Here are the annuals blooming now in my garden (August 22/12, zone 5b,)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a | Ageratum | Blue Horizon is a superior variety that is taller – 18” and blooms ‘til frost. Will self-seed. Lilac/blue | 18 inches |
| a | Begonias | Dragon Wing – and excellent variety for full sun or shade in red or pink, wax begonias- a neat plant (for you neatniks) for full sun or shade |  |
| a | Browalia Americana | Looks like blue lobelia only a much taller plant, blooms ‘til frost | 12-18 “ |
| a | Brugmunsia | Angel’s Trumpets, huge very fragrant trumpets. A cream and white variegated variety is particularly nice. Overwinter inside or take cuttings. Cuttings can be kept in water all winter. Poisonous plant |  |
| a | Calendula | Deadhead regularly for blooms until frost. | 1 ½ ft. |
| a | Cannas | Grow them for the foliage. The red flowered ones are a magnet for hummingbirds. Excellent in wet areas as well. Overwinter tubers in a cardboard box. |  |
| a | Centratherum Intermedium | Pineapple sangria or Brazilian Button. Button like flowers resemble tiny purple Canadian thistles and bloom all summer. Rub the leaves to release pineapple fragrance | 1 ½ ft. |
| a | Coleus | Grow it in full sun or shade. Instead of waning like a lot annuals/perennials, it gets better and better as the summer progresses. Take cuttings in August or, what I did was to grow them in water all winter on my kitchen windowsill and I took cuttings in late winter/early spring. |  |
| a | Coreopsis coloropsis | Coloropsis is a new series of annual coreopsis that bloom ‘til frost if deadheaded (easy with small scissors). Three colours in the series, white, pink, cream/bronze. They are blooming profusely end of August. | 1 ft. tall |
| a | Cosmos | Pink, white, fuchsia, doubles (double click cranberries and bonbon), fluted (pied piper), semi-double, huge flowers (sonata series), shorter (antiquity). Deadhead with scissors for bloom ‘til frost. | From 1 ½ ft. to 4 ft. tall. |
| a | Cuphea | Brilliant red, purple-throated tubular flowers (which resemble baby bat faces). Also in purple. Mine self-seeded to my surprise & I had several seedlings in spring in the vegetable garden. | 10-12 inches |
| a | Dahlia | Too many to mention. There is a whole series of dahlias with black leaves in many colours at [www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) . If you don’t want to bring them in for the winter, then don’t. Treat them as an annual – they are not expensive. |  |
| a | Four O’clock | Mirabilis Jalapa – blooms open late afternoon. The plants form black carrot like tubers which can be overwintered like dahlias. Excellent in pots which can be wintered right in the pot in your furnace room or cold cellar. You will see new growth in the dried up pot in spring. Neat colours – some streaked & striped. | 2’ |
| a | Fuchsia | Does well in part shade. Can be overwintered indoors or take cuttings. Flowers all summer. |  |
| a | Geranium | We all know geranium – in many colours, drought resistant. Take cuttings in August or bring in the whole plant late summer, prune stems to 2-3 inches as well as the roots fit your pot. |  |
| a | Hibiscus trionum | Flower-of-the-hour. Seldom seen. Easy from seed. Cream petals, deep burgundy centres. Will self-seed readily. | 1 – 1 ½ feet |
| a | Hibiscus tropical | Overwinter inside. I have removed all leaves before bringing in as whiteflies like them. |  |
| a | Kiss-Me-Over-the-Garden-Gate | Persicaria Orientalis – up to 12 feet tall! Pink drooping flowers bamboo like stems. Removing the lower leaves and planted enmasse, looks like a grove of blooming bamboo. Blooms ‘til frost. Will self-seed for next year. | Anywhere from 3 feet to 12 feet depending on soil |
| a | Love Lies Bleeding | Amaranthus Caudatus– hate or love it! Long drooping reddish ropes that look like dreadlocks. Self-seeds readily. If you don’t transplant the spring seedlings, you will get much taller, sturdier plants. | 3-5 feet |
| A | Malva Sylvestris | A cousin to hollyhocks with smaller flowers, can be striped, shades of purple/rose. Will self-seed. | 3-4 feet |
| a | Marigold | Lots of choice. I have Vanilla (creamy), Moonsong (Puffs of deep orange), Tangerine Gem (tiny orange flowers the size of a dime, forms large mound in good soil) |  |
| a | Nicandra Physoloides | (Shoo-Fly-Plant) Another self -seeder. Thick, fleshy stems which can grow to 5-6 feet, much taller in rich soil. Lavender flowers. Forms brown husks loaded with seeds – self seeder. Remove all the lower leaves to make a standard. |  |
| a | Nicotiana | New hybrid Whisper Shades of Pink (2 ½ ft.), Only the Lonely (white flowers 5-6” long, evening fragrance 3-4 ft.) both bloom ‘til frost. |  |
| a | Petunias vista series | Not just for pots. I grow them as groundcovers – grow 3 feet wide all around the base. Colours include fuchsia, bubblegum and silverberry. Self-grooming, bloom until frost. |  |
| a | Petunias other – more ground cover types | White Russian (white with a very dark eye, Raspberry Blast (two toned shades of pink), Pretty Much Picasso (purple/rose edged in green). Excellent in hanging baskets, tall pots to spill over, raised areas as well as ground covers as they all grow quite wide. |  |
| a | Salvia coccinea | Lady in Red, Coral Nymph (apricot), also in white. Attracts hummingbirds. Blooms into frost if deadheaded. |  |
| a | Salvia splendens | Blooms 'til frost – this one comes in several colours – white, purple, red, orange, |  |
| a | Sunflowers | Too many to mention. Try the pollenless types for longer bloom. Or save and dry the flower heads of the seeded types to feed the birds in winter. |  |
| a | Verbena bonariensis | Rose lavender, tall see through stems, best planted en-masse. Attract monarch butterflies. Will self-seed readily. | 2 ½ ft. |
| a | Zinnia cactus | Order seeds in separate colours – orange, pink, white, yellow, red. Beautiful shaggy flowers – 4-5 inches wide until frost. | 2 ½ ft. |
| Vine | Morning Glory | Many colours. Heavenly Blue is sky blue – beautiful. Try it on a chain link fence for privacy. Flowers close for the afternoon. Train the stems counter clockwise. You only need one plant per pole or arbour as they can grow over 20 feet in one season. More flowers in poor, lean soil. |  |

**Perennials for you to try**: Besides our usual late-flowering asters and sedums and chrysanthemums, try perennials like geranium Rozanne (see me for tips on this plant), Russian sage, shrubs Rose of Sharon (the double flowered types do not seed all over), hydrangeas (favourites are strawberry vanilla and limelight), buddleias, perennial hibiscus with dinner plate flowers (they love “wettish” or moist areas), Echinacea’s – try the new double pom pom types (see me about tips on these plants), misty red-tinged grasses like panicum Shenandoah (see tip on grasses), tall Rudbeckia triloba (dainty sprays of small black-eyed Susan’s), gaillardias, heuchera’s, stately, grey, ornamental thistle (a love it or hate it plant), Japanese anemone, shaggy and extremely tall helianthus salicifolius, to name a few. Phlox, grown in a morning sun location, blooms later than ones in full sun and are in full bloom right now.

These are the perennials and shrubs blooming in the garden now (Aug. 22/12, zone 5b).

|  |  |  |  |
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| p | Achillia filipendula | Fernleaf leaf yarrow, 4 ft. flat yellow flowers, ferny foliage |  |
| p | Agastache | Make sure you don’t purchase a tender perennial type |  |
| p | Aster frikartii monch | Lavender daisy like blooms with yellow centres – start blooming much earlier than other asters (usually mid-July) and bloom into late fall |  |
| p | Callirhoe Involucrata | Bright magenta poppy like flowers for a long time. Sends out long stems 3- 6 ft. Tolerates drought |  |
| p | Chrysanthemum | Hard prune these in spring when they are about 8” for shorter, stockier plants that won’t flop. Wonderful fall colours |  |
| p | Coreopsis redshift | Yellow with a wine-red eye. Good in poor soil. Shear in July if it flops. Long bloomer. | 2 ft. |
| p | Coreopsis Route 66 | A ring of burgundy surrounding the flower center bleeds out to the very tips of the yellow petals. Very long bloomer |  |
| P | Coreopsis Star Cluster | A perennial that flowers all summer – white | 18-20” tall |
| p | Echinacea Coconut lime | White/pale lime green |  |
| p | Echinacea Hot papaya | Brilliant orange pompoms |  |
| p | Echinacea Milk Shake | White pompoms |  |
| p | Echinacea Pink delight | Pink pompoms – a bit shorter than razzmatazz | 2-2 ½ ft. |
| p | Echinacea Razzmatazz | Pink pompoms | 3 ft. tall |
| p | Geranium Rozanne | Purple with a white eye, blooms from early June ‘til frost. Excellent for raised areas, between daylilies, under shrubs, etc., as it sends long stems. May be trimmed back when you see new growth in the centre. | Sends out long stems – 3’, so place carefully |
| p | Grass Pennisetum Red Head | Green arching grass with burgundy bottlebrush flowers | 2 ½ ‘ tall |
| p | Grasses Panicums | Switch Grass. Many varieties available. Shenandoah is especially beautiful with partly red foliage and misty red seed sprays. Most admired in my garden. | Shenandoah is 4-5 ft. tall. Cloud 9 is 7-9 ft. tall |
| p | Guara Lindheimeri | Tender perennial. Butterfly plant – white or pink blooms all summer on arching stems – will self-seed if it likes you |  |
| P | Helenium Autumnale | Comes in yellows and reds and combos of both colours. | 3-4 feet tall |
| P | Heuchera’s | Some flowers are nicer than others. The foliage makes up for the flowers. Rave-on has been blooming since mid-May. Grow as an alternative to hostas. Morning sun is the best or filtered light. |  |
| p | Hibiscus dinner plate type | Huge flowers in shades of red (Lord Baltimore), clear white (Blue River 11), and many in shades of pink – pink Elephant, Peppermint Schnapps, Plum |  |
| p | Japanese anemone | Beautiful but invasive groundcover. |  |
| p | Lythrum Salicaria | Purple loosestrife – long spires of bright pink flowers. Stems can twist about. Deadhead immediately after flowering. You may not be able to buy it anymore. Loves damp, I have it in regular soil, perhaps that is why it twists about. | 3-4 ft. |
| p | Monarda Bee Balm | Shaggy flowers, spreads less in dryer soil |  |
| p | Oreganum laevigatum herrenhausen | Drought tolerant, mauve pink flowers, trailing, blooms late summer – fall. Would be nice in a pot or a raised bed. |  |
| p | Perovskia atriplicifolia | Russian Sage – long purple spires for hot, dry locations | 2-3 feet |
| p | Persicaria amplexicaulis | Variety “firetail” blooms all summer until frost. Red flower spikes, groundcover. | Up to 4 ft. – much lower in poor soil |
| p | Phlox Paniculata | Favourites include Watermelon Punch, Franz Schubert, Grenadine Dream, Blushing Shortwood, Sherbert Cocktail, Blue Paradise, Peppermint Twist, Starfire |  |
| p | Rudbeckia henry eilers | Quilled golden flower sprays. A neat tall plant. | 4-6 ft. tall |
| p | Rudbeckia triloba | Tall, sprays of small black eyed Susan’s – long bloomer, may be short lived but self-seeds. |  |
| p | Sedum | A new taller one that does not flop over is called T-Rex if you can find it. Another new one is Dazzleberry – low growing spreading type but with very large flowers clusters– mine is only in its first year so will wait for next year for better performance |  |
| p | Silene Regia | Bright flowers, reminds me of Lychnis Chalcedonica (Maltese Cross) but blooms much longer. Full sun. Currently only 2 ½ ft. tall in my garden on a one year old plant grown from seed. | 3-6 feet tall |
| p | Vernonia Gigantea | Giant Ironweed. Beware of anything with the name “weed” in it. 4-7 ft. tall, usually single stem - purple flowers. Very pretty but make sure to deadhead when finished flowering. |  |
| Shrub | Hydrangeas | So many to choose from. Strawberry Vanilla particularly attractive in shades of pink and white. Limelight (up to 10 ‘ tall) has tight cone-type flowers tipped in lime, turn pink later than strawberry vanilla as the weather gets cooler. Others to consider Little Lime (3-5 ‘), Bombshell (3-5’), Quickfire (blooms one month earlier than other varieties). Lacy types include Pinky Winky, Unique, Kyushu, |  |
| Shrub | Rose of Sharon | The double flowered ones will not seed about. Easily trained into standard form by choosing one stem and cutting out all others. Prune branches in spring by 1/3 just below a node. |  |

**OPEN GARDEN:**  I would like to invite you all to visit my garden this Sunday, to see all these plants in bloom, Aug. 26/12 from 10:00 to 4:00. There is no charge – just come and enjoy. What else will you see? All of the above, plus the tropical garden, the black garden with its Halloween theme, the mature vegetable garden which includes an okra bed – (wonderful ornamental plants), four Chicago figs that have survived the winter without burying them, tomatoes grown as a single stem on curly metal stakes, and lots of cosmos for colour and a stand of love it or hate it Love-Lies-Bleeding. The colour wheel is overgrown but wild and wonderful. Some of the paths, especially in the south end, are either very narrow or are inaccessible – looks like I have some work to do this fall. I call it the wild thing!

**SOFIE’S TIPS**

**Timely tips for saving your herbs**

**Basil – A convection oven is an easy way to dry leafy herbs. (I don’t think this will work with a little toaster convection oven). Remove the leaves from the stems. Wash and dry the basil (a salad spinner dries it very well), place individual leaves in one layer on a non-stick cookie sheet, and place in the oven on the middle rack. Experiment with your oven for temperature and time, as the leaves turn crispy fast. I store the dried leaves in plastic zip-lock bags in a cool place. Do not crush the leaves until you are ready to use them in a recipe. (See below for a recipe for an amazing, refreshing lemon basil pesto that uses very little oil.)**

**Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme – remember that beautiful song?**

**Parsley and Sage– best way to keep these herbs is to freeze them. Wash, dry and freeze in freezer bags. Almost as good as fresh.**

**Rosemary and Thyme – wash whole stems with leaves attached and place on a towel to dry. Freeze whole stems without removing the leaves. The tiny leaves will pop off after they have been frozen, saving you a lot work.**

Rose tip – Brooklin is considered to be in zone 5b. I have over 450 roses, none of which are pampered or hilled for the winter. The secret in cold climates is to plant the rose so that the bud union is 4-6 inches below ground level (the bud union is the swollen part at the base of the plant where the rose is grafted to a hardy root stock). Another tip: In the spring, the dead branches are mowed down indiscriminately with a battery-powered hedge trimmer – this method has not affected the plants adversely. A little more fine tuning can be done later. Can you imagine cutting each branch, looking for an outward facing bud – not here!

Tip – Japanese anemone: Flowering in late summer and well into the fall depending on the variety, be wary of Japanese anemone – it is very invasive, but beautiful.

Tip: Bee stings – On this very large property, we have every type of bee & wasp imaginable. I get stung every year, sometimes multiple times, especially when I accidently come across or step on a ground nest. I get severe swelling, itching and redness, but no allergic reactions that affect my breathing. Someone sent me this tip via e-mail so I had nothing to lose when I got stung again this year. Immediately place a copper penny over the affected part with scotch tape to hold it in place. It does not matter whether it is shiny new or old, leave the penny in place for at least ½ hour or more. To my amazement, I did not get any swelling, or redness. The area still itched slightly, but nothing like before I found out about the penny treatment. (If you have trouble breathing after a bee-sting, please see a doctor immediately and do not try this treatment.)

Tip: Grasses – be very careful where you place perennial grasses. Do some research about cool grasses and warm grasses and their root systems, especially miscanthus and panicums. Once established (within 3-4 years), they can become extremely difficult to move them or remove them if they outgrow their spot. You will need a back-hoe!!

**Hostas**: A hosta in a pot looks very deceiving, in most cases uninteresting, but wait ‘til they get in the garden. Hostas, like most perennials, roses and clematis, follow the old adage, “the first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap”. Be patient.

Hostas can become huge plants and take over an allotted space. Late August is a great time to move or split your hostas. Dig out, gently tug apart each crown or slice into sections with a knife like I do (I don’t always dig out, I just slice out what I want to remove with a long, serrated knife), and replant and/or give/donate them away. You can do this in the spring as well, but there are so many other things to do in the spring. Have you noticed that those lovely hosta clumps just emerging in the spring don’t look that big? Then look out - as soon as the leaves unfurl – huge monsters!!! Who said hostas are no maintenance*??!! Try heuchera’s as alternatives to hostas – the slugs don’t bother them and they come in so many exciting colours and sizes*.

**Red Lily Beetle**: Shown below is a formula which I discovered by accident which was recommended for aphids, but which I ended up using on the red lily beetle as I had the spray bottle in my hand, and low and behold, all the beetles I sprayed succumbed within 1 minute. This spray is great as you can leave it in the garden – it won’t go bad but you must be persistent and hunt down the beetles regularly or they will get out of hand. The beetle larvae – covered in their own black excrement – look like black blobs and are usually hidden under the leaves. Brush them off with a brush – a long handled barbecue basting brush works well. Look for tiny orange eggs under the leaves and brush off or crush. The eggs will hatch in a few days, hence the need to be on the lookout. This spray is good for those who don’t like to crush with their fingers, or go through the tedious task of picking them off and crushing.

**Here is the formula** – 1 teaspoon (5 ml.) dish soap, 1 Tablespoon (15 ml.) mouthwash like Listerine or Scope, 1 quart or 1 litre of water in a spray bottle. Mix gently or you will get a bottleful of bubbles. Hit the beetles with the spray. Try spraying the black blob larvae also. I think the original amber coloured Listerine would be the most powerful.

**Toenail fungus**: Speaking about mouthwash (you will get the drift of this later as to what it has to do with gardening). This is a gross thing, but I heard this on a radio talk show from callers about **Original Amber Listerine** being an excellent remedy for **toenail fungus**. You must use the bottle that indicates original amber Listerine formula, not all the ones with the new flavours. Many people have successfully cleared their nail fungus but it takes a long time. The Listerine must be dabbed (I would spray it on) on the affected toenail every day for 3-4 months. This remedy has actually been recommended by podiatrists. Now I wonder if this brand of Listerine is good for toe fungus, would it be a good remedy to use as a fungicide on roses??? I just might experiment next year but I have to figure out the ratio of original Listerine to water, plus dish soap! Always test a small section of the plant to see if there are any adverse reactions before proceeding with any homemade recipes, especially when using soap or alcohol.

**LEMON-BASIL PESTO**

This recipe is delicious, refreshing and uses very little oil compared to regular pesto. I found the recipe on a website called [www.thefithousewife.com](http://www.thefithousewife.com) . I made some changes to the recipe – walnuts instead of the much too expensive pine nuts, and a neutral Pureoliva oil rather than extra virgin olive oil which I don’t like. Try it also with almonds, pecans, hazelnuts and parsley instead of basil.

Ingredients:

3 cloves garlic

¼ cup walnuts

3 cups packed fresh basil leaves

Juice and zest of one lemon

½ tsp. sea salt

1/8 tsp. ground pepper

2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil (I use PureOliva – a light tasting combination of olive oil and canola oil)

¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Instructions:

In a food processor or good blender, pulse garlic and nuts until chopped. Add basil, lemon zest, lemon juice and salt and pepper. Blend.

While food processor is running, slowly stream the oil until pesto is blended and fairly smooth. Stop blender and scrape down the sides if necessary.

Add Parmesan cheese and blend until all ingredients are combined. Cover and refrigerate for up to one week.

It tastes good even without the parmesan cheese – saving you even more calories! I would suggest if not using the pesto right away, leave out the parmesan and add it when you are ready to serve. You can freeze it but I wouldn’t add the parmesan if freezing, instead add the cheese after it has thawed and then blend in.)