**Brooklin Horticultural Society Presentation for June 27, 2012 meeting**

Sofie’s Picks - A listing of plants presented at the Brooklin Horticultural Society meeting June 27, 2012, a combination of new and newer introductions and other interesting plants. If you have a question, e-mail me at [bigham@sympatico.ca](mailto:bigham@sympatico.ca), indicate garden question or it will go to junk.

[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 + 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)

[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

<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, They also have many free seminars on Sundays, check events on website

***All the opinions, suggestions and observations expressed in Sofie’s Picks are based on my experience in my garden. You will notice that most of the varieties listed are from Mason House Gardens as Jeff Mason, the owner, lists his plants on his website so I know what is available. I have grown them all. Many nurseries in our area do not list their plants on-line. I visit all the nurseries in this area to see what they offer. If I know a plant is available at another nursery, I have included their name as well. Check with your local nursery for availability or ask them to order for you. Sofie Bigham***

**June 27, 2012 meeting presentation:**

**Just a note that my garden will be open again on Sunday, July 29th and Sunday August 26th, 2012, from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. Free admission, rain or shine. Address 7425 Country Lane, located north of Columbus Rd.**

***Jeff Mason from Mason House Gardens has indicated that there will be a Canada Day Sale this week-end only on Saturday, June 30, Sunday, July 1st and Monday, July 2nd, 2012, for all shrubs and woody vines such as wisteria and clematis, fruit trees and ornamental trees – 40% discount. Your chance to get some great hydrangeas – some newer ones called Bombshell, Fire and Ice, Vanilla Strawberry and some very new ones not listed on his website - Sweet Autumn, Magic Candle, Magical Fire - Time 10:00 to 5:00 (***[***www.masonhousegardens.com***](http://www.masonhousegardens.com)***)***

***I have some samples of plants not listed in my presentation for you to view at my table this evening:***

* ***Weigela Florida “Ghost”*** *(try to locate it with the sun behind for a ghostly, glowing, effect). The leaves become an iridescent, buttery colour as the season progresses. Ruby flowers in spring & some re-bloom. Beautiful!*
* ***Petunia “White Russian****” (fabulous with black potato vine),* ***petunia “raspberry blast****” (bicoloured pale and hot pink colours). These are both called Supertunias – spreaders to 48”. Not just for pots, they make great annual groundcovers, blooming to frost*
* ***Clematis “tie die”*** *(tie-died pattern in shades of purple, looks like velvet, try Mason House),* ***clematis “Odoriba****” (similar to Betty Corning with tiny pink/white bells),* ***clematis “Betty Corning****” (dainty, lavender bells). Try Mason House, Peter Keeping and Garden Import for availability*
* ***Heuchera “Rave on****” (extended bloom with pretty, rose pink flowers, grey foliage – has been flowering since mid-May).*
* ***Hydrangea Arborescens “Invincibelle Spirit”*** *Much admired at this meeting. Smaller, daintier, clusters of flowers than Annabelle but in pink. Blooms from early summer to frost. Also Hydrangea paniculata “Quick Fire” – lacy white blooms turning shades of pink but starting one month earlier than other paniculata varieties. Both of these hydrangeas are blooming profusely in my garden at the moment.*

***I would like to present a few plants that will do well in shade and part shade – morning shade is great for many plants, including hostas and roses.***

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| Shady Perennial Average to moist – bright shade to part sun | Aruncus Guina Fowl – common name goatsbeard | This short Goatsbeard has outstanding ferny foliage and MASSES of plume-shaped creamy white flowers on red stems in summer. This one looks AWESOME all season. | Mason House  Vandermeer |
| Shady Perennial, Average to moist soil  Morning sun, filtered light | Heuchera Miracle | A more subtle chartreuse than Lime Rickey. Leaves the colour of lemons and limes with pale pink flowers – very pretty enmasse. | Mason House  Sheridan |
| Shady Perennial, Average to moist soil  Morning sun, filtered light | Heuchera Cherry Cola | Smaller rusty red brown leaves and matching the leaf colour are rusty cherry red flowers. One of three in the Soda Series with 'Root Beer' and 'Ginger Ale'. | John’s Perennials |
| Shady Perennial, Average to dry soil  Part sun, light/bright shade, part shade, shade | Actea Simplex “Chocoholic”  Actea formerly called Cimicifuga | Rich velvet black/brown foliage and fragrant white flowers in late summer. Plant near golden leaved plants to set off the dark foliage. This dwarf cultivar measures in at two to three feet tall when in bloom. | Vandermeer |
| Shady Perennial, Average to dry soil  Part sun, light/bright shade, part shade, shade | Actea Simplex “Carbonella”  Actea formerly called Cimicifuga | For the smaller garden reaching about 4 – 4 ½’, Carbonella has You have loved our simplex Brunette over the last few years, well here is a new Actaea for the smaller garden. The dramatic clumps of very dark foliage is accentuated by the beautifully scented white and pink bottle brush like flowers from August to October. A feast for every butterfly and bee in the neighbourhood. Deer resistant. Easy to grow, prefers moist soil in part shade. Height 125cm (50”). Spread 60cm (12”). Hardy perennial.very dark foliage below pink to white bottlebrush-like flowers that point straight up. Probably the darkest Cimicifuga available. Flowers late summer to autumn. Very attractive with gold hostas or variegated foliage in the shade garden. | Mason House |
| Shady Perennial Grass  Full to Part Shade, Shade, Part Shade, Part Sun | Hakenoclea Macro  “All Gold” | Glowing chartreuse-gold leaves. It has cascading foliage that resembles falling water which makes it marvelous beside a pond or tumbling out of shade borders. Try combining with darker foliage like burgundy heucheras or the acteas in your shade garden. 12-24 inches tall | Mason House  Pineridge  Most nurseries |
| Shady Perennial Groundcover  Shady Average to dry | Galium Odoratum  Common name -Sweet woodruff – grows to 6-8” tall | Excellent ground cover for shady dry areas under pine trees. No deadheading, no dead stems in spring to remove, no need to remove pine needles. Some people call this groundcover a thug, but unlike invasive groundcovers like goutweed, some lamiums and periwinkle, it is not deep rooted so easy to scoop out with a shovel if you want to remove it. Always fresh looking, white flowers in May, **spreads rapidly** | Most nurseries |
| Shady Perennial, Average to moist  Part Shade, filtered shade, morning sun | Hosta “Pineapple Upsidedown Cake” | The long wavy leaves emerge pure green, then the center quickly brightens to a brilliant white-gold while the edge develops a narrow, black-green border. A beautiful low growing (15”) hosta that takes quite a bit of sun or does well in bright shade or filtered shade. Lavender flowers. See [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com) for a great pic. | Goldenbrookhostas.com |
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| Perennial  Alpines & Rock Gardens | Allium Thunbergii “Ozawa” | Unique allium, about one foot high, with arching foliage that stays fresh all season, and the bonus is the rose/pink blooms in October, when little else is blooming, sometimes peeking through the snow well into November/December. Makes a great edging plant – separate each “bulblet”, plant 6 inches apart and you will have a lovely, arching edger for your garden within a year. I use it in the rose garden to define the beds and rarely get aphids. | Difficult to find – Mason House carries it, as well as Sofie |
| Perennial  Alpines & Rock Gardens | Ephedra minuta | A bizarre slow growing creeper, about 3 to 4 inches tall, with narrow, blue green leafless stems - reminiscent of a brush cut – most unusual. Produces red berries. Prefers hot, dry sunny sites with excellent drainage, drought tolerant, excellent in rock gardens. | Mason House  Richter’s Herbs |
| Perennial Grass | -Molinia Arundinacea “Karl Foerster”  -Molinia Arundinacea “Skyracer”  Karl Foerster is slighter shorter with 6-7 foot plumes | Don’t confuse Molinia “Karl Foerster” with Calamagrostis x acutiflora “Karl Foerster”. Molinia “Karl Foerster” and Molinia “Skyracer” are very similar. Both form an arching gray/green basal clump 2 ½’ tall, but then explode with plumes that can grow to 8 feet tall starting mid-summer. Very strong stems sway gracefully in the breeze. Plant it so the flowers stalks have room to show off without hitting tree branches, etc. I call this a see-through grass. Will be very difficult to remove or move once established! | Mason House |
| Shrub –  full sun to part shade | Hydrangea paniculata  “Bomb Shell” | Great for smaller gardens as it grows 2 ½’ -3’ tall by 3-4’ wide, less pruning required to keep its shape. Flowers profusely-white flowers -Much earlier to bloom and more flowers than any other *paniculata* variety | Mason House |
| Shrub – full sun to part shade | Hydrangea Paniculata “Fire and Ice” | Early blooming, blooms open creamy white, turn pink in mid-summer, becoming deep red in fall. A large shrub, 6- 10” tall | Mason House  Pineridge |
| Vine –  sun to part sun | Clematis Crystal Fountain  -Group 2  -Flowers on last year’s growth in early spring and again later in summer. Prune only dead stems in spring | **Sepals are a violet-blue with a large central boss of petaloid staminodes. The outer sepals (petals) gradually fall off and the central boss remains for a few weeks looking like little 2” lavender sputniks, extending the flowering much more than regular early flowering clematis** | Mason House  Most nurseries |
| Vine –  sun to part sun | Clematis “Alba Luxurians”  -viticella type  -Group 3 – prune right to 2 or 3 buds from the ground in spring, flowers on new growth during the summer | Profuse, summer flowering. Small bell-shaped white flowers with bright green tips, black centres. Unusual. Resistant to clematis wilt | Mason House  – if you find this clematis, buy it, as it is not always available |

***Shade: It is always difficult for gardeners to find plants that do well in shade. There are different degrees of shade so you may have to experiment and see what works for you. I find generally that heucheras (a great alternative to hostas) do well in morning sun with afternoon shade or filtered light. Many plants will do well if they get morning sun and shade in the afternoon, including hostas, even roses. Plants that require full sun will do well if they get afternoon sun. Dry shade and moist shade conditions can be problematic also, so do some research – it is so easy now to do it on-line.***

***Groundcovers: I find that with groundcovers, there is “invasive, easy to remove” (the plant will not come back once removed) and “invasive, impossible to remove” (the plant will return no matter how many times you dig it out and will likely require chemical intervention). If you require a groundcover, be careful what you choose and do some research and ask others what their experience has been with groundcovers. I will not ever recommend groundcovers that are “impossible to remove” as I have many bad experiences with these groundcovers and I take issue with nurseries that sell them without fair warning other than “aggressive”.***

***Grasses: Be very careful with placement of grasses, especially miscanthus and panicum varieties, and the molinia variety listed in this month’s presentation. They are very beautiful and graceful and generally slow spreading, clumping grasses, but if you want to remove them or if they have outgrown their spot in the garden, you will need a back-hoe after 4-5 years in the garden. Once again, do your research, check the height and spread and growth habit of each grass.***

**Red Lily Beetle**: I discovered by accident a spray 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 amber coloured Listerine would be the most powerful.