**Brooklin Horticultural Society Presentation for May 22, 2013 meeting**

What’s New by Sofie Bigham - A list of plants presented at the Brooklin Horticultural Society meeting Wednesday, May 22, 2013 - a combination of new introductions, some uncommon common plants and other interesting plants you may have never heard of presented by an amateur, plant addicted gardener.

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Here is a description of my garden.

This is a private garden, not a nursery. Free open gardens are scheduled each year.

Located in zone 5b, Whitby, Ontario, about ½ hour drive from Toronto east. This 10 acre property was featured in the Feb. /Mar. 2012 special issue of Canadian Gardening magazine. Some visitors have described it as a virtual mini botanical garden. I am a plant collector with thousands of plants showcased in four main areas. First, a 100’dry stone wall surrounds a garden dedicated to roses & groundcover petunias. It leads to the woodland setting of the 300’ long Austrian Pine Allee, underplanted with hostas and groundcovers. Clematis flourish up the pine trees in the dappled shade. At the end of the Allee is the vegetable garden, enclosed with dry stone walls on three sides and an asparagus “wall” on the fourth side. Within the walls are hedges of Austin roses, lavender, boxwood, and chives. Annual flowers are always included for pollination. The last of is the maze-like circular 84’ diameter perennial garden , planted colour wheel style in 6 separate colours. Additional smaller beds for 2013 include the tropical garden, the hopscotch path, & themed gardens “pink panther” (black & pink), “jelly bean” (assorted colours of one cultivar), & “chocolate mint” (brown grasses with chocolate coleus). June is rose month (450+), July is primetime for daylilies – over 300 in bloom throughout + beautiful spider & UFO daylilies. The tropical & vegetable gardens are best in August. Fall is peak time for mums, asters and grasses, plus many annuals such as cosmos, unique perennial and annual grasses, kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate, love-lies-bleeding, zinnias, petunias, sunflowers, nicotiana, etc.

I also grow blackberries, raspberries (I freeze a lot every year), okra, leeks, potatoes, garlic, onions, beans, cukes, parsnip (difficult), blueberries (also difficult), swiss chard, beets, carrots, peppers, pumpkins, butternut squash, zucchini, parsley, basil, rosemary, lemon verbena, tomatoes, corn, sunflowers and of course tons of flowers. I don't bother with broccoli and cauliflower or cabbage because of the cabbage worms - can't stand them - they also get attacked by flea beetles. Here is a link for a great Canadian website with fast delivery for sunflowers. Lots of seeds per package for cheap prices - the best deal for sunflowers is the tall collection -10 packages for $9.95. I am going to grow a field of assorted sunflowers this year with the package I bought from them. It is not too late as of this date (May 22nd( to order these seeds and start them in your garden or just buy seeds from a nursery.

<http://www.seedsandmorestore.com/catalog.php?ref=seedsandmore&recview=21&dt=394&disp=name&per=10>

**SOME GARDEN PLACES I SHOP AT IN THE DURHAM REGION:**

***Below are websites of garden centres that list all the plants they sell at their nursery or by mail order.* Most allow you to pick up your order if you do not want to pay for shipping. I refer to these websites to see if they carry the plants in my presentations and include them in my “Where to Buy” column. I prefer to shop locally in the Durham region . You may find the plants I feature at many other nurseries as well.**

[www.gardenimport.com](http://www.gardenimport.com) Mail Order Company, Thornhill, Ont. 1-800-339-8314 Pick-up allowed – Bayview Highway 7 area.

[www.goldenbrookhostas.com](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com) Blackstock, Ontario (located just east of Port Perry) Mail order (Canada only) + pick up. Great website listing a huge selection of hostas with photos, prices and latest varieties. Tour their garden to see many varieties for sale.

<http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com> – hostas, roses, some perennials. Varieties & prices listed on website – they have not updated their website since 2012 so don’t know what is happening there – located in Port Perry

[www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) 3520 Durham Road #1(Brock Rd), RR 4 PO Box 886 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4, south of Goodwood Rd.  
905-649-3532 – New introductions, unusual plants, perennials, grasses, vines, shrubs, tropicals, succulents, vegetables + a huge selection of heritage tomatoes. *All varieties listed on their website – this is not a mail order company – a family owned specialty nursery. You can tour the gardens as well.*

<http://pickeringnurseries.com> Mail order company specializing in roses – hundreds of varieties available. Located in Port Hope, you can pick up your order if you wish – call ahead. Bare root spring and fall delivery, plus potted roses once the delivery season is over.

[www.richters.com](http://www.richters.com) Goodwood, Ontario Located on Highway 47, west of Brock Road. Mail order & pick-up. For all things to do with herbs in a greenhouse setting – plants, seeds, books, & a huge selection of dried herbs & teas. Sample for free various tea mixes. Check under events on the website for free seminars presented by guest speakers in the greenhouse. All lectures are now taped & available on the website if you cannot attend. You can also order or pick up a printed catalogue.

***The following websites are generic – they do not list their plants so I don’t know what varieties they have for sale.* Therefore, you won’t see them listed on my “where to buy” column even though they may stock the plants.**

Century Home & Garden Greenhouses at 1431 Hwy 7a, Port Perry ON L9L 1B5, 905-985-2672.

**Country Market Garden Centre**, 2535 Taunton Rd. E., Bowmanville, L1C 3K2, 905-263-2090 – has a good selection of perennials, roses, trees, shrubs, conifers, annuals and tropical plants at very reasonable prices. Also local produce, baked items and giftware. He always has something unique every year. No website.

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

John’s Perennials, <http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com> 905-862-8175, Uxbridge, ON Perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs, trees, rare conifers + more. Open weekends only

<http://www.ottergreenhouses.com> 315 Medd Road, Port Perry, Ontario, L9L 1B2 | (905) 852-4187 Annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, - a family owned business

Peter Keeping, Bowmanville, Ontario – sells unusual & hard to find **clematis** as well as perennials at very reasonable prices– Peter imports clematis from Europe/England. Phone 905-697-7842, e-mail peterkeeping@hotmail.com. Call or e-mail for his list of current clematis for sale. Peter and Sheila grow over 250 clematis on their property. They also have assorted perennials and other plants for sale. Does not have a website.

Pineridge Garden Centre 2215 Brock Rd, Pickering, ON L1V 2P8 905-683-5952 No website

[www.rekkers.com](http://www.rekkers.com) Rekker's Garden Centre, 2258 Regional Highway 2, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K7 905-623-2300

[www.sheridannurseries.com](http://www.sheridannurseries.com) Whitby location, 410 Taunton Road West, Whitby, ON L1P 2A9 905 686-0844

[www.vandermeernursery.com](http://www.vandermeernursery.com) 905-427-2525 588 Lakeridge Rd. S., Ajax, ON (corner of Lakeridge and Bayley). Plants not listed. They carry a huge selection of various plants – trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, seeds, etc.

It is May 22, 2013

***Quote for May: “In his own garden, every man may be his own artist, without apology or explanation “. Louise Beebe Wilder***

**HERE ARE SOME ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Richter’s offers free seminars throughout the winter months*. All of their seminars are now taped and available on-line*. Check the website under events [www.richters.com](http://www.richters.com) for more details. Richter’s greenhouse is looking spectacular right now, just filled with a huge assortment of herbs – lavender, mint, rosemary, basil, sages, and so many other unusual plants and herbs. They also sell a huge assortment of various dried herbs and teas, as well as seeds – that is where I get my okra seeds. Richter’s is located in Goodwood, on Highway 47, a couple of kilometres west of Brock Road.

A couple of interesting recent seminars that I attended at Richter’s:

Sea Buckthorn – a shrub that produces what is called a “miracle berry” – the growers on this website can’t keep up with the demand for the berries <http://www.thehealingarc.com/seabuckthorn.php> . Another interesting article on Sea Buckthorn is here <http://www.alive.com/articles/view/22622/guess_whats_coming_to_dinner> . The other seminar was on growing figs, presented by Steven Biggs, <http://www.grow-figs.com/> where I learned many things I did not know about figs. I am growing a variety called Chicago from Richter’s – price $6.25. Four are growing in my vegetable garden, having survived 4 winters with nothing but a 2 gallon black pot with the bottom cut out for protection. I also have three in pots. Check my April 2013 blog for more information if you are interested. The 8 figs I got from my wee one year old potted plant last year sure tasted good!

On your way to Richter’s, why not drop in to Mason House Gardens, located on Brock Road north, (see address above) just south of Goodwood Rd. Mason House will carry over 35 varieties of vegetables this year, including 35 varieties of peppers, 37 varieties of lettuce, 8 varieties of potatoes, dinosaur kale, wasabi arugula and over 100 varieties of tomatoes - most of them heirloom, plus the new grafted tomatoes called Mighty Matos. Mighty Mato’s are heirloom tomatoes grafted onto hardy rootstock, apparently producing more tomatoes with less disease. I believe they will also carry grafted Eggplants and grafted Peppers. Super sweet golden yellow Sungold cherry tomato, usually only available as seed, will be offered this year along with Ilde, another tasty and heavy producer of yellow pear shaped cherry tomatoes. Besides vegetables, Mason House carries unusual shrubs & trees and perennials, plus a huge assortment of annuals and tropicals not sold at most nurseries. Please keep in mind that all these little plants growing in pots will go from ugly duckling to white swan in a matter of days and weeks, providing you with spectacular displays all summer. They also carry the popular Fairy garden accessories, plants and fairies.

**REALLY, REALLY NEW PLANTS!** Did you know there are some new plant crosses out there. Last year I told you about Petchoas, a cross between petunias and calibrachoas – see below for more information.\* I have also discovered a new tomato in grocery stores called Kumato. This is a really great tasting tomato during winter months when tomatoes are not at their best. The colour is brown and deep burgundy red – my husband thought it was weird because of the colour but the taste sure beats those pasty winter things they call tomatoes. I have purchased this tomato at the Superstore – usually 5-6 pre-packaged tomatoes for $2.99. <http://sunsetgrown.com/product/speciality/kumato-tomato>

There is a new fruit called a Plumcot, a cross between a plum and an apricot. I tried one of these recently and found it tasted more like a plum than an apricot. Try one and see what you think. I think I got mine at the Superstore. <http://plumcots.com/>

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| **ANNUALS & TROPICALS** | | |
| Tropical  Banana  Ensete Maurelii | Why not try growing a banana plant this year, in particular one called Ensete maurelii. This variety is easy to grow, either in the ground or in a very large pot on your patio. Pair it with a tall palm or other large tropical plant(s) like cannas. In my garden, it gets about 6 feet tall but could get much taller with rich soil and regular fertilizing. I grow mine in my tropical garden – it looks particularly nice with 3 very tall (5-6 feet) annual grasses called Pennisetum Prince which echo the burgundy and green in the banana.  If you want to save it in the fall (before frost hits), cut it with a serrated knife to a stump about one foot tall, trim the roots if necessary (does not have a large root system) and store it in your furnace room. This seems like a very drastic method of pruning, but it works! Mine starts to put forth new leaves in the furnace room. I water about once a month when the soil gets really dry. Do not overwater as it could rot. Bring it out again in May after frost, gradually get it used to the light and start over again!! This banana reaches its most magnificent point a few weeks before frost.  Did you know that the trunk of a banana is made up of layers of leaves. This is called a pseudo or false trunk. Therefore, do not peel back dead leaves, rather cut them off with a knife to the live area. Here is a link for a photo and a very extensive description. Just do what I do above in the fall if you want to save it. Don’t forget we *are in a colder zone, so the banana won’t get as tall as this article states.*  <http://www.louistheplantgeek.com/a-gardening-journal/561-ensete-maurelii> or  <http://www.plantdelights.com/Ensete-maurelii-Red-Abyssinian-Banana/productinfo/4790#.UZ0tP5RzZ9A> for a great picture. | Mason House Gardens for the banana.  Grass Prince – Mason House and Pineridge Garden Gallery  Try other nurseries for the grasses – becoming more readily available. |
| Petchoa\* | **Last year I told you about a new plant called Petchoa. It is a cross between petunias and calibrachoas. You can now get a plant that look like petunias but with some of the calibrachoa colours and characteristics. I planted 3 of each in a large 16 inch diameter pot last year and they bloomed well ‘til frost and filled the pot nicely. Here is information of this plant:**  <http://hsornamentals.blogspot.ca/2012/10/the-value-of-growing-petchoa-supercal.html> | Mason House |
| Annual Verbena Lanai Twister Pink | I love the arrangement of colours on this verbena. It performed very well in my pink garden last year, blooming until the fall. Cut off dead blooms. <http://www.mischelsgreenhouses.com/Verbena_c_626.html> | Mason House  Superstore  Otter |
| Annual Verbena Lanai Twister Purple | This year we have a new colour - the same pattern of colours as Twister Pink but with purple and white. See the Superstore garden flyer currently available at any of their garden centres. They claim it is exclusive to their stores. | Superstore |
| Annual  Petunia Raspberry Blast | A new, breakthrough color in Petunias with pink blooms edged in deep cerise. Its trailing habit and low maintenance makes it a winner for both baskets and beds. The colour of this petunia in my garden is more subtle than the photo shown in this link. It is a very pretty petunia. <http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/petunia/supertunia-raspberry-blast-petunia-hybrid> | Mason House  Hotner Greenhouses  Pineridge |
| Annual  Strobilanthes dyerianus  Persian Shield | The most striking feature is its colorful leaves, which have an iridescence that gives them an almost metallic look. It can become quite large if fertilized and in good soil. Try it in a morning sun location or lightly shaded area to bring out the beautiful colours. <http://www.cooltropicalplants.com/Persian-shield.html> | Mason House  Pineridge |
| Annual  Chocolate Cosmos | The next two plants will give you a low cal chocolate fix. Chocolate cosmos does best planted direct in my garden – it did not do as well in a pot. It has chocolate maroon flowers that smell like chocolate. It also forms a tuber like dahlias and can be overwintered indoors like dahlias. <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/homehort/plant/cosmos.htm> | Mason House  Pineridge |
| Annual  Chocolate daisy Berlandiera lyrata | This drought tolerant annual blooms in the morning only and fills the air with a chocolate fragrance. Try it in a pot or hanging pot and place in a location where you have your morning coffee. It overwinters well in the house or save seeds and grow several the following year. Best to plant at least 3 but one will do. Of 20 or so plants I planted in the summer of 2012, one has actually survived the winter!! Will see how it fairs this year as it will be a more mature plant. <http://www.mountainvalleygrowers.com/berlyrata.htm> | Mason House |

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| **PERENNIALS** | | |
| Sedum Dazzleberry and Cherry Tart | Last year I told you about a sedum called Dazzleberry boasting flowers as much as 6 inches wide. Here is another ground cover type sedum with cherry red foliage that holds its colour throughout the season.  <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/2261_SedumDazzleberryPP22457.aspx>  <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/2260_SedumCherry-TartPPAF.aspx> | Mason House  Kingsway |
| Sedum Lime Zinger | 4 inches tall, groundcover type. It has succulent green leaves edged in red. Blooms in fall. <http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/General-Perennial/2262_SedumLime-ZingerPPAF.aspx> | Mason House  Kingsway |
| Hosta Dancing Queen | Large-sized.   Vigorous growth.  Large yellow hosta with an exceptional rippled pie-crusted edge. It starts out a bright yellow and maintains good color and then turns a very pale yellow late in the season. Lavender flowers. <http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com/index.php/catalog/hosta-descriptions-d> | Goldenbrook Hostas |
| Hosta Dancing Mouse | One of my favourite mini hostas is one called Mouse. Dancing Mouse is one of several “mouse” varieties with thick leaves. This one has very wavy leaves that “dance” about. Lavender flowers. <http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com/index.php/catalog/hosta-descriptions-d> | Goldenbrook Hostas |
| Geranium Rozanne and Azure Rush | How many perennials bloom all summer? One of my favourites is geranium Rozanne. Rozanne can become quite large but can be cut back in mid-summer when you see new growth in the centre. I grow Rozanne between my daylilies to give me colour when they are not blooming. Azure Rush is not as rambling as Rozanne, so will be a neater plant. Both will bloom from mid-June until frost. Wonderful! See this website for more info. <http://www.bloomsofbressinghamplants.com/us/Gardeners/Variety/Geranium_Azure_Rush.html&s=1&genus=&common=&variety>= | Mason House |

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| **ANNUAL GRASSES**  Here is a list of grasses that are in the Royalty Collection that I have found for sale at Mason House Gardens. I have never seen them for sale anywhere else – perhaps this year?? Check this website for a summary of the Royalty Collection of Pennisetum grasses. <http://www.gpnmag.com/crop-culture-report-pennisetum-first-knight> I have grown all of them except Princess and Princess Caroline. They start green and get darker and darker as the season progresses. Prince grew 6-7 feet tall last year. Vertigo (Vertigo is not part of the series but is very similar) was very dark, as was Princess Molly, both shorter versions of Prince. First Knight is the latest addition. You can plant these in large pots but do not mix them with other plants; they will take over the pot. They will not survive our winters, but worth every penny as an annual.  I am very excited about Pennisetum Fireworks and Cherry Sparkler. Unlike any grass I have seen before, the grass comes in shades of red/pink/rose/green/white, with Fireworks being more intense. I will be planting these in the tropical garden this year. | | |
| Pennisetum “First Knight” | **New this year, part of the Royal Collection. Deepest, darkest, blackest, purple foliage, it grows 48-54” tall. A beauty!**  [**http://www.ecgrowers.com/Pennisetum-First-Knight-38-p/2458.htm**](http://www.ecgrowers.com/Pennisetum-First-Knight-38-p/2458.htm) | Mason House |
| Pennisetum “Jade Princess” | One of the most unique and eye catching plants in the garden due to the large, fuzzy seed head. As the flower inflorescence emerges the color begins with a rich maroon and chartreuse coloring and matures into a solid dark maroon plume. The large fluffy panicle flower emerging from the foliage brings to mind the image of a fox sneaking through tall grass. Foliage is a wide chartreuse leaf blade. Scroll to the very end of this website for photos of Jade Princess. I will be trialing this grass for the first time this year.  <http://www.flowertrials.colostate.edu/trial_winners.php?year=2012&category=Annual> | Mason House |
| Pennisetum Vertigo | **Height 38-48”, it did not grow anywhere that tall in my garden last year – about 2 ½ feet. Very dark broad leaves, I grew it with hibiscus manihot – a tall plant with 6” pale yellow flowers with a black eye. Nice combo!**  [**http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/pennisetum/graceful-grasses-vertigo-pearl-millet-pennisetum-purpureum**](http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/pennisetum/graceful-grasses-vertigo-pearl-millet-pennisetum-purpureum) | Mason House |
| Pennisetum “Fireworks” | Foliage colors are an amazing blend of red, pink, burgundy, green and a little white, deepening to burgundy flanked by hot pink margins. Purplish-pink plumes top the plant beginning midsummer. Foliage height is 24 inches with plumes up to 36 inches.  <https://www.jungseed.com/dp.asp?pID=09186> | Mason House  Other nurseries? |
| Pennisetum “Cherry Sparkler” | Stripes of pink, burgundy, green and white explode in graceful arching foliage, topped by midsummer with a mix of reddish-purple seed plumes. Forms mounds of foliage 18 to 24 inches tall, up to 36 inches with the plumes.  <https://www.jungseed.com/dp.asp?pID=09185> | Mason House  Other nurseries? |
| Pennisetum Villosum | **Not part of the royal collection**, but a grass worth trying, especially if you have a white garden. Villosum has white, rabbit-tail spikes produced on clump-forming deciduous plants – grows 16 inches tall. Annual – will not survive our winters. I am trying this plant for the first time this year. <http://www.thompson-morgan.com/flowers/all-other-seeds-and-plants/bamboo-and-grasses/pennisetum-villosum-cream-falls/5442TM> | Mason House |

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| **SHRUBS** | | |
| Viburnum Kilimanjaro | 6 – 8 feet tall, about 3 feet wide, this is a more upright viburnum for smaller gardens. It has white flowers followed by red berries. I love the beautiful “pleated” foliage. <http://www.waitrosegarden.com/plants/_/viburnum-plicatum-kilimanjaro/classid.2000018908/> | Mason House |
| Hydrangea paniculata Bobo | Finally available in this area, this hydrangea is good for smaller gardens, getting about 3 feet tall, and loaded with white flowers turning pink later in the season. Easy because it blooms on new wood, so prune in spring. Here is a great photo: [http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63157-product.html#](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/63157-product.html) | Superstore |
| Shrub Sambucus nigra “Black Tower” | This new Sambucus has a columnar growth. Suitable for full sun or semi shade. **Black Tower** can be pruned in early spring to make it compact and bushy but you may lose that columnar growth pattern. The flowers are big and have a magnificent colour. After 4 years **Black Tower** can reach 2 meters in height.  <http://mygarden.rhs.org.uk/blogs/graham_rice/archive/2011/07/28/sambucus-black-tower-new-for-2011.aspx> | Mason House |
| Tree Malus “Dream Weaver” | This crabtree is very columnar in habit – growing only 3 feet wide by 10 feet in height – great for smaller gardens, beautiful flowers. <http://www.cheyennetree.ca/listings/view/flowering-crab-malus/Dreamweaver-Columnar-Flowering-Crabapple/> | Mason House |
| Tree  Betula nigra Heritage or River Birch Heritage | A great large tree for damp, wet locations, hence the name river birch. This tree for larger lots has beautiful shaggy, exfoliating bark in shades of cream, brown, black, gray and salmon. The tree is also more disease resistant than other varieties. For some reason, I have never seen this tree for sale at any nursery in this area. I got mine about 5 years ago at Wal-Mart for $20.00. It is fast growing and quite graceful in appearance, along with that wonderful bark. <http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/239> This site indicates it will tolerate drought conditions once established, other web sites say the edges of the leaves may scorch if not given enough moisture. I have seen it growing in the front lawn in a sub-division home in Brooklin, facing east. I believe it will do well in regular soil in an east facing location. | Mason House |
| Buttonbush sugar shack | This is a great shrub for wet areas in full sun. The flowers look like little golf balls suspended over the foliage. I have one called sputnik which is a larger shrub than sugar shack. Sugar shack differs from sputnik in that it is shorter at 4 feet and the spent flower pods turn red instead of brown. Rarely available so get it while you can. <http://www.gardenimport.com/spblvl3.php?lvl=Cephalanthus&nm=Cephalanthus&ref=CE3450> | Garden Import |

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| **VEGETABLES - GARDEN OF EATIN’ Highlighting a vegetable or herb each month (I saw the “eatin” part on a sign I saw on Brock Rd. – I thought it was neat phrase)** | | |
| Tomato – Mighty Mato  Eggplant & peppers | Mighty Mato’s are heirloom tomatoes grafted onto hardy rootstock, apparently producing more tomatoes with less disease. They can become massive plants, producing copious amounts of tomatoes. Perhaps we will only need one tomato from now on!! Superstore also has Mighty Mato cages for 14.99 – huge tomato cages to handle this huge plant. This cage would also be excellent for clematis durandii, a clematis that does not climb but can grow to 8 feet so needs something to drape over. Mason house will have over 100 varieties of regular tomatoes as well this year, along with a slew of unusual vegetables, including okra and male asparagus. Try growing asparagus as a very tall, ferny ornamental – wonderful!  Mason House will also carry grafted Eggplants and grafted Peppers. | Mason House  Superstore  Many Nurseries  Mason House |
| Okra Jing Orange and Burgundy | Why not try growing okra this year. This is a tropical plant which grows 4-6 feet tall in my garden. I start it from direct sown seed in mid to end of May. The flowers are like hibiscus and the okra pods are great roasted in the oven. Toss with olive oil, sea salt and roast about 15-20 minutes at 400 deg, especially good in a convection oven. | Mason House |

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| **GROWING UP! Try these annual vines while you wait for your clematis to establish. You only need one. If planting morning glories, plant only one per trellis – they are very aggressive and will self-seed for next year – perhaps too much**! | | | |
| Annual Vine | Asarina Joan Lorraine | Will grow 8 ft. in one season. Delicate foliage, purple trumpets all summer. Try it as a ground cover also. Will not overwhelm its position. Sprinkle the seeds in fall where you want it to grow, you may get lucky and get seedlings next year. | Mason House,  Maybe John’s perennials |
| Annual Vine | Eccremecarpus – Chilean glory flower | Fern like foliage, fast growing, delicate tubular orange flowers with a hint of fuchsia at the base. I planted one with a deep rose climbing rose on the same trellis – made a nice tropical duo. | Mason House |
| Annual | Mina Lobata | This gorgeous, fast growing, annual vine quickly reaches 10’ or more, it **solidly blankets a trellis or ugly fence** with appealing large fleur-de-lis shaped leaves. Next come the dainty blooms, 5” spikes of scarlet, orange, yellow and cream. Held upright on reddish stems & displayed in great numbers, the blooms go on for months. Love this vine! You only need one to cover an arbour completely. <http://www.anniesannuals.com/plt_lst/lists/general/lst.gen.asp?prodid=685> | Mason House |

**I am including this segment on Clematis again as Peter Keeping will be our guest speaker on June 26th/13, and many are available from Peter – you can make arrangements to have him bring some to the meeting – see his phone no. listed below**

**Clematis** is a must for a lush tropical look. So how does one choose from such a huge assortment of clematis? Here is my list of unusual clematis, in my opinion. These are some of my favourites and include some new ones being offered this year. I look for clematis that are unusual and/or bloom a long time. My aim is to have clematis growing up every Austrian Pine in the front allee garden (there are 55 pines in the allee). I have room for about 15-19 more clematis. Yikes!!! Most of the ones I have I purchased two and three years ago. It takes about 3 years for clematis to take off and it looks like I am going to have a nice show this year, as some are going into their 3rd year. I have indicated where I have seen them for sale this year in the Durham region.

Mason House [www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) is offering 83 varieties this year.

Peter Keeping is offering a huge selection as well – call him and he will e-mail you his extensive list - phone 905-697-7842, or e-mail peterkeeping@hotmail.com.

Garden Import [www.gardenimport.com](http://www.gardenimport.com) is a mail order company located in the Toronto area (Markham) and arrangements can be made for pick up if you want.

All the nurseries have clematis on their benches, but you will have to visit them in person to see what they are selling this year.

To access the links below to see a photograph, place your curser on the website, hold down the control button then click again on the website, or just copy it to your address bar.

It is important to keep your plant tags next to your newly planted clematis so you know how to prune. Use a permanent marker or HB pencil to indicate on the tag how to prune so you are not guessing in the spring and keep it with your clematis. The problem now is that many growers are not indicating group 1, 2 or 3 on their tags, but keep in mind the descriptions I have given to determine the pruning requirements.

**Group “1” or “A”:** usually alpine type – do not prune in spring as they begin blooming in April. Pruning can then be done when they have finished blooming. Prune after blooming or not at all.

**Group “2” or “B”**: if the tag says blooms May, June, then Sept. it is a Group “2” or “B”. ***Do not prune these in spring or you will cut off the blooms – like lilacs.*** This group blooms on buds formed on last year’s wood in early spring, then again, if you are lucky, in late summer. The doubles seem to fall into this category. My recommendation is to establish these on an arbour to take advantage of that early bloom which formed on last year’s growth. Then grow an annual vine beside it for the rest of the summer – i.e. Asarina “Joan Lorraine”, Eccremecarpus***). Do not mix Group 2 & 3 together on the same trellis/arbour as both have totally different pruning requirements.***

**Group “3” or “C”**: easiest by far – hard prune in early spring close to the ground, above new shoots. (The viticella types are group 3 & seem to be resistant to clematis wilt. They usually bloom for several weeks in mid-summer with smaller flowers but in such profusion there could be hundreds of blooms.)

Integrifolias: generally Group 3 – hard prune in spring. They are non-climbing types that require support – obelisk or very tall tomato cages – let them drape over the edge – my favourite in this category is Durandii. Superstore now sells Mighty tomato cages for their Mighty Mato tomatoes – they are huge and tall and cost $14.99.

This is an amazing website where pretty well every clematis that exists is listed, along with photos.

<http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemalphasearch.cfm>

**Clematis 911** Gr. 2 <http://www.hollandbulbfarms.com/items.asp?cat=Clematis-Vines&Cc=clematis> This clematis has huge sky blue 6-8 inch blooms with long tepals – looks spectacular in the photos and I will be ordering one for sure. *MasonHouse2013*

**Avant Garde** Gr. 3 Viticella type <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2983> This is the cutest little clematis. The flowers are really different. It is still a baby in my garden. Get it while you can. *MasonHouse2013*

**Cassis** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2977> So unusual and the flowers can be quite variable – doubles and singles. Still a baby in my garden. **This may be classed as a tender clematis**. So far mine looks dead so if I try it again, I will grow it in a pot and overwinter in the garage. *MasonHouse2013*

**Crystal Fountain** Gr. 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1843> This one has a shaggy central boss which remains after the tepals have fallen off extending the season. I actually like it better when this happens. They look like little sputniks! *MasonHouse2013*

**Betty Corning** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=562> – a viticella type– puckered little lavender skirts – vigorous – cut back to 6-8” in spring. It blooms a very long time. Some say it is fragrant, mine is not. *Mason House 2013*

**Blue Angel** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=88> Also called BIekitny Angel. I love the colour of this one. A pale blue/lavender and I also love the texture of the tepals. The small flowers in profusion in summer remind me of an old-fashioned fabric called seersucker, wrinkly and puckered. *MasonHouse2013*

**Durandii** Gr. 3 <http://www.gardenimport.com/spblvl3.php?lvl=Clematis&nm=DURANDII&ref=CL5530> Most admired by visitors. I have about 18 of these in my garden. I love the colour as it goes from dark purple to sky blue, with both colours at the same time. The flowers are so perfect they look like plastic. I grow them in double tomato cages – they can get 6-8 feet tall and are not the climbing type. The stems drape over the edge of the cage and bloom most of the summer. I trim them when they get scraggly and they re-bloom. I use a heavy wire 4’ tall cage from Home Depot and then place another 5-6’ tomato cage over the heavy duty one which I get at Lowe’s for about $5.99. I find the really tall cages a bit flimsy but found these fairly sturdy extra tall ones at Lowe’s. *Peter Keeping and Garden Import and Mason House*

**Gillian Blades** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=185> This is an old one but it is so beautiful. The edges of the white tepals are extremely ruffled. I love this clematis. *MasonHouse2013*

**Mrs. Harvey** Gr. 3 <http://www.gardenimport.com/spblvl3.php?lvl=Clematis&nm=MRS._HARVEY&ref=CL4025> This is hard to find also so get it while you can. Little pale blue/purple twirling dancing skirts all summer. It blooms a very long time. One of my favourites as the drooping flowers are such an unusual shape. I have two – one each in my two asparagus beds. *Garden Import 2013, Peter Keeping*

**Omoshiro** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1545> This one is exquisite. It is the palest pink verging on white, edged in raspberry. I got mine at Garden Import – not carrying it this year. Keep an eye out for this beauty, perhaps next year.

**Perle d’Azure** Group 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=365> A real beauty and an award winner. It is growing up my weeping cypress. *Mason House 2013*

**Picardy** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2950> The photo here does not do it justice – it is very pretty and everyone loved it when I took one in to one of our hort. meetings. It is a beauty with the most unusual colour of purple red with a subtle red bar. *Peter Keeping*

**Piilu Group 2** [**http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/Vine/2195\_ClematisPiilu.aspx**](http://www.waltersgardens.com/plants/Vine/2195_ClematisPiilu.aspx)Pink double blooms in spring and then again in late summer. A cute one. Just put it in 2012.. *Mason House, Peter Keeping*

**Purpura Plena Elegans** Gr. 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=580> The flowers on this clematis last a long time. They are small and cute. Many visitors asked about this clematis in my garden. It had a lot of blooms last year even though it is still very young. *Peter Keeping*

**Rebecca** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=3442> This one is a true red – not cherry red but real red with large beautiful flowers. This is also a new one for me in 2012 but I have seen the flowers and if you like red, this is the one to get. *Mason House 2013*

**Sprinkles** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=1857> A new one for me and I will definitely be getting one as it quite unusual. *MasonHouse2013*

**Suzanne** Group 2 <http://hummingbirdfarm.net/suzanne.htm> Just bought this one last year so haven’t seen the blooms yet. Another one with an unusual flower. Looks beautiful and can’t wait to see it in bloom. *MasonHouse2013*

**Tie Die**  Group 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=3205> This is a hard one to find so if you like it , buy it. This vine was loaded with flowers last year. The flowers are so unusual – the name aptly describes it – just like the 60’s tie dye T-shirts, but, it looks like velvet. People went crazy for it when they saw it at our meeting. It is growing nicely up one of the pine trees. *Mason House 2013*

**Tracy Lee** <http://www.springvalleygreenhouse.com/Documents/SPRING_VALLEY-2012.pdf> Can’t find much about this one other than it is a pale pink double. Looks interesting. This is the only website I could find – hope you can open it. *Mason House 2013*

**Vienetta** Group 3 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=2979> Another must have this year. The flowers are so unusual, however, **this is a tender clematis & will not survive our winters. Grow it in a pot and try overwintering in the garage or grow as an annual.** I have overwintered clematis in pots successfully in an unheated garage. *MasonHouse2013*

**Violet Elizabeth** Group 2 <http://www.clematis.hull.ac.uk/new-clemdetail.cfm?dbkey=554> Another one I bought last year and have not seen it in bloom yet. Look at the number of tepals on each flower in the photo, outstanding! I can’t wait to see it in bloom. *MasonHouse2013, Peter Keeping*

**SOFIE’S TIPS**

**Red Lily Beetle Spray**: This spray is good for those who don’t like to crush bugs with their fingers, or go through the tedious task of picking them off and crushing. I just crush them when I see them. 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 when I encountered several beetles on one lily (counted 20) on a walk-about in my garden. I sprayed the beetles several times, and low and behold, all of them succumbed within 1 -2 minutes. 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 every day or they will ruin your lilies. At this point in time, as there is no natural enemy, we can only control the numbers. The beetle larvae – covered in their own black excrement – look like black blobs usually hidden under the leaves. Brush them off with a brush – a long handled barbecue basting brush or paintbrush from the dollar store 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 every day. I found that this spray also worked on slimy pear slugs that were skeletonizing the leaves on my young pear tree, on asparagus beetles and aphids. Asparagus beetles are difficult to catch as they drop to the ground as soon as you approach. I hold a container underneath & try to catch them on the way down. Try the spray on the tiny black eggs attached to the asparagus fronds***. Always test on a small area before using any home-made spray to make sure there is no damage to the leaves.***

**Here is the formula** –

1 teaspoon (5 ml.) dish soap, (I used Palmolive – I think any brand will be fine)

1 Tablespoon mouthwash (15 ml.) I used Scope

1 quart or 1 litre of water in a spray bottle. I purchased this at the dollar store.

Mix gently to avoid excessive bubbles. Hit the beetles several times with the spray. If the beetle drops to the ground, try spraying around the base of the stems. They will turn upside down so are hard to see once they drop. Try spraying the black blob larvae also.

**Mulching around trees:** Mulching around trees is recommended, but this practice can be extremely devastating if not done right. Mulching materials that come into contact with the tree trunk will severely weaken or even kill the tree. The constant moist conditions created by the mulch will rot the bark layer and damage the cambium (growth) layer of the tree. It is recommended that mulch about four inches deep be spread around the tree but kept a few inches away from the tree trunk. The rule of thumb is to build donuts, not pyramids, around trees. Here is the link about mulching, about ½ way down the article. <http://www.johnson.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=134>