

Out in the Garden



Rockport Garden Club, July 2019



Horticultural Classroom: Got Pests?

Frequent rains this year have made it hard to keep up with the weeds. But while you focus on the weeds, the pests are in stealth mode ramping up to do serious damage. Rabbits nibble growing shoots, deer chew on shrubs and perennials, aphids swarm on the roses, powdery mildew spreads, and suddenly gypsy moths are stripping the trees. What to do?



Rule number one is to be constantly on the lookout for pests. This is a case of “a stitch in time save nine.” The objective is to avoid serious damage by controlling outbreaks and preventing infestations. As the global insect



population diminishes, our challenge is to control destructive insects, reducing their numbers to a manageable level without harming other insects.

That said, many of our destructive insects are non-native, and, like foreign invasive plants, may not be naturally controlled. The Japanese beetle, European cabbageworm, winter moth (Europe), gypsy moth and whitefly (Europe & Asia) and spotted wing fruit fly (Asia) are just a few examples. These are the villains to be aggressively targeted. But beware that some organic, naturally occurring pesticides, such as pyrethrum and Spinosad, are highly toxic to beneficial insects and therefore should be used sparingly as a last resort.

Keeping your plants healthy by feeding and pruning goes a long way toward fighting pests, which tend to attack weaker specimens. Trapping and picking off the larger insects and washing off others (e.g., aphids) does the

least harm. For information on specific pest control see the new how-to article on the RGC website.

July Garden Reminders

- Continue deadheading annuals, perennials, and roses; cut off daylily flower stalks after blooming; pinch back mums and other fall bloomers no later than July 4th
- Continue to plant container plants
- Sow biennials for next season (foxglove, pansies, sweet William)
- Fertilize heavily flowering evergreens after blooming; continue fertilizing annuals and containers (5-10-5)
- Mulch plants and stake tall plants
- Prune climbing or rambling roses after blooming



Butterfly Garden Design Workshop

Kim Smith will lead a free workshop for RGC members on “Butterfly Garden Design,” Tuesday, July 16th, 9–11. This is a beautiful example of an established garden that includes many native wildflowers and pollinator plants. To sign up, email: moorbymary@gmail.com by July 12th.



Happenings

• Butterfly Garden Design
Workshop, July 16th, 9–11, 8
Graystone Road, Gloucester.

• Rockport in Bloom Garden
Tour, July 26th & July 27th,
10–4. Rain or Shine. See RGC
website for tickets.

Questions? Contact your Home Gardening Committee:

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