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ABOUT THE TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Toronto Botanical Garden connects people, plants and the natural world through education, inspiration and leadership. The TBG encourages, stimulates and teaches countless adults and children with its innovative urban-scale garden plantings, nature-centred educational programs and environmentally friendly practices. We look beyond our borders to create strategic alliances that support our mission, extend our reach and strengthen our influence within the community.



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PHOTOS (FROM TOP): VINELAND RESEARCH CENTRE, TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN (OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP); ANDREW MONTGOMERY, VERONICA SLIVA, KEN SPROULE, SVP MEDIA



HORT HAPPENINGS

—Compiled by Mark Stewart, Weston Family Library

A NATURAL DISINFECTANT?

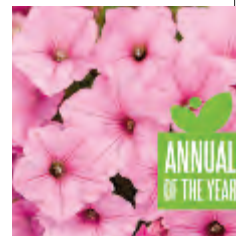
Phytoncides are chemical compounds released by plants to combat microbes, fungi and insects. The word is derived from phyton “plant” + cide “killer”. Phytoncides are well known in non-English parts of the world, particularly Japan and Germany. In the West, they are sometimes referred to as allelochemicals. Among Western researchers, there has been a renewed interest in studying the effects of phytoncides on plants and animals, especially humans. We’re just at the beginning of investigating this rich new area of plant-human health effects. Phytoncides are released by many plants but are particularly noticeable in coniferous forests. In fact, coniferous forests are so full of phytoncides, they are markedly lower in germs. The trees literally disinfect the air around them. This is an area of study to watch for its implications for human health and possible new therapies.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE SPRING PLANT SALES

- April 1 & 2** (two shows in one) Toronto Gesneriad Society and Toronto African Violet Society
- April 30** Toronto Region Rhododendron and Horticultural Society
- May 6** Canadian Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society
- May 7** Ontario Rock Garden and Hardy Plant Society
- May 11 to 14** TBG Plant Sale
- May 27 & 28** Toronto Bonsai Society
- June 4** Ontario Iris Society (Plant Sale) & **August 13** (Rhizome Auction & Sale),



Asclepias tuberosa



Supertunia Vista Bubblegum

2017 PLANTS OF THE YEAR

With all the recent attention being given to the plight of pollinators, it’s no surprise that the Perennial Plant Association has named *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed) as 2017’s Perennial Plant of the Year. This plant is a well-known boon for many pollinators with its abundant bright orange blooms. And, for the first time, Proven Winners has also named a plant of the year: Supertunia Vista Bubblegum (‘Ustuni6001’ (Supertunia Series)—a pink hybrid petunia. Expect to see a lot of this one in annual beds and containers. Canada Blooms (if you haven’t heard already) has chosen the ‘Canadian Shield’ (*Rosa* x AAC576) as its plant for 2017. This rose was produced by Ontario’s Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and is part of its 49th Parallel Collection. ‘Canadian Shield’ has been bred to be hardy across Canada as well as for black spot resistance.

Yours, Mine & Ours VOLUNTEERS



When **Pat Concessi** retired, she was looking for opportunities to give back to the community and to meet new people. As a keen gardener, the TBG was high on her list. For the past three years Pat has worked as a volunteer gardener as well as at Through the Garden Gate and Canada Blooms. She spends winters volunteering at Sunnybrook and as a Toronto Master Gardener. She’s a keen walker and has trekked the Camino de Santiago. We are delighted to have the benefit of this multi-talented individual. Thank you for all that you do for the TBG, Pat!

GREEN COMMUNITY MILNE HOUSE GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Congratulations to Milne House Garden Club on their 50th anniversary in 2017. We acknowledge and appreciate their support of the former Civic Garden Centre, our current botanical garden and the future one. We are indeed fortunate to have such lovers of flowers, gardens and nature-focused education among us as part of the TBG family. Thank you Milne House!

—Harry Jongerden, Executive Director

PHOTOS: (TOP LEFT) ROTARY GARDENS, WISCONSIN. (TOP RIGHT) PROVEN WINNERS OPPOSITE: TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN, TBG