



North Shore Horticultural Society

P.O. Box 171, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944

September 2021 Volume XXIII Number 7

www.NSHorticulture.org

Meeting Location

For Zoom meetings, we will email the link to members on the Monday before and again the morning of the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

**Thursday, Sept 23rd
7:30 PM**

*Garden Gate seminar
10 Ways to Boost Your
Garden's Color This Fall*
Kristin Beane Sullivan

**Thursday, Oct 23rd
7:30 PM**

*Troubleshooting Garden
Problems*
Jennifer Howell

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, October 14th
7:00 PM



President's Message

Carol Batdorf

Hi Everyone,
I want to thank all the gardeners who opened their green spaces for the members to come and see what you have been planting and tending in your gardens this summer. I also want to thank the members that took the time to visit these gardens. Lots of ideas, pictures, exchanges of information, and fun times were had by all. Garden visits are the culmination of hard work, planning, dirty hands and knees and gifts from nature that we get to appreciate. Also, thanks to the people that volunteered at the vegetable garden in Beverly that helps feed the hungry in our communities. Gardens are definitely a great place to be, especially when there is a pandemic going on. Much planning for the 2021-2022 season has been going on but we are not sure when we can actually start up the season. It will depend on the safety rules at the church regarding public meetings. Right now, Manchester has a mask wearing mandate for all public indoor spaces. We must keep watching the Covid numbers and the public safety mandates and recommendations. We will continue with Zoom meetings until we can meet in person. I know we want to get back to meeting in person as we did for the June picnic but we must keep safety front and center for all involved. In the meantime, safely enjoy these September days with the late blooming plants putting on a show and think about where to put in bulbs that will put on a show in the spring. Looking forward to enjoying our 2021 - 2022 season when we can get together (at a safe distance).

~ Carol

10 Ways to Boost Your Garden's Color This Fall

Hosted by: Kristin Beane Sullivan,
Garden Gate Magazine editor

If you've been disappointed with your garden's fall display, this seminar can help. Say goodbye to brown and gray and say hello to red, yellow, orange and purple! Meet all the best plants, design ideas, and products to help your garden go out with colors blazing every autumn.

Begonia

Exhibition and Plant Sale

The Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society is hosting their Annual Begonia Exhibition and Plant Sale on Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 10AM to 4PM at Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. Check Tower Hill's website for Entry Tickets/Times and Covid Visitor Guidelines. www.towerhillbg.org

Remember to take photos . . .

. . . of your garden or other places of interest that you visit this summer - for sharing in our annual Virtual Garden Tour that we hope to have in January 2022.



Local Gardens to visit

The Stephen Coolidge house in Andover (with its revamped gardens) and the flower beds along the Gloucester boulevard are worth seeing this fall.

The Plant Box

My next-door neighbor grows pot. He's got three plants going, all green and leafy in that way we easily recognize. He starts them inside and plants them in the Spring, trims them regularly, takes good care of them. They look like happy plants, but why wouldn't they be – they're marijuana after all. Having their own kind of fun, growing in the sun, knowing what they can do to us: all the giggles and the munchies, and what they can do for us, easing the pain and altering our attitudes. But as a plant, what is marijuana really?

It's known by many names including marijuana, weed, reefer, mj and pot, but whatever you call it, the preferred term today is cannabis. This new and approved label is closest to the truth. The primary species is called *Cannabis sativa*.

While we may associate pot with the drug-induced haze of the 1970s, it started way, way before those psychedelic days. Through archeological evidence it's believed that cannabis has been around for 12,000 years and that it originated in India. In its earliest days it was used in steam baths in Greece and as incense in China. Then across the eons, it expanded into a multi-purpose plant, being used for food and for fiber to make clothes and shoes as well as paper and sails and rope. When it's used for fiber or other industrial purposes, it's called hemp. How many of us have hung a plant from a braided rope planter made of hemp and never gave a thought to the drug we were touching? But there it is, everywhere.

When hemp first came to North America, it was such a valuable crop that in 1619 the Virginia legislature mandated their farmers grow it. Other states followed in their own production until the plant fell out of favor after the Civil War when it was replaced with others, like cotton, which were more in demand and lucrative as well.

But cannabis, the drug plant, continued on in full swing in the US, and even more so today now that it's fully legal in 23 states for recreation and/or medical applications. It's the THC in the plant – tetrahydrocannabinol – that provides the effects that people seek. It's very minimal in hemp, so handling that rope is just a square knot and nothing more.

This feel good resource and commercial product turned medical treasure is an annual herb that's wind pollinated. The female plants produce buds and it's the buds that are harvested and turned into products. Plants are bred for higher THC content for drug use – legal and illegal. Cannabis had enjoyed a long, long period where it was considered legal and acceptable, but that changed in the mid-20th century when it was outlawed in most of the world. The first U. S. state to do so was Utah in 1915.

Today, the many licensed growers of cannabis in the United States are led in production by the 20 largest which maintain well over 28 million square feet of growing space (outdoor, greenhouse, warehouse or a combination) with over \$17.5 billion in legal product sold in 2020. They also produce cannabis to extract cannabidiol, or CBD, which is sold as an oil and in other formats, and then used for its attributes to quell symptoms in conditions like epilepsy and multiple sclerosis.

But cannabis isn't alone in its psychoactive properties. While it may be the latest blossom in backyards and growing houses, there are other plants with long histories of providing effects when consumed, some of which are just as well known – coffee and tobacco topping that list, followed by many that are less familiar like passionflower, poppy and morning glory.

So, while you drink a cup of coffee and look out onto a lovely vista of flowers and vines and trees and leaves, remember that you just might be seeing the latest crop of the most fun and helpful plants ever. And if you'd like to do some viewing of another kind, you could travel to Amsterdam to see The Cannabis Museum.

Back at home, we have moved from the illicit smell of smoke to cultural icon to medical intervention. And there's no sign of stopping as cannabis has reached a level of acceptance among many citizens and legislators, with 66% of the population in favor of legalization according to a 2019 Pew Research Center study (up from 52% in 2010). However, federal and some state laws continue to maintain cultivation, possession and use as illegal.

Despite these differences, cannabis has become a staple of the American landscape. My neighbor's pot plants tower over his yard at well over six feet and fill one small corner of his happy place. They serve as one more reminder that times, they are a-changin', for all of us. Peace.

This edition of the Plant Box was submitted by Anne Morin.