



Pumpkin Brook Organic Gardening, Inc.

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In This Issue

[Compost Tea for Lawns](#)

[Deer Resistant Alternatives](#)

[Pest Alert! Roseslug sawfly](#)

[Pest Alert! Winter moth](#)

[May Is the Time for....](#)

Greetings,

I am looking forward to the Perennial Plant Association's (PPA) Annual Meeting which will be held this year in Boston from July 4-10. You may be interested in the Gardener's Day on Thursday, July 5 when they will present a series of lectures targeted to the Master Gardener and serious gardener. Pumpkin Brook will also be submitting an entry in their container contest. All entries will be on display in the lobby of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. PPA's [website](#) provides complete information on the Gardener's Day.

Compost Tea for Lawns

Many of you are aware of our compost tea program and its many benefits, but did you know that we are now offering this service for your lawn as well?

It's similar to the tea that we use on shrubs and trees, but the "recipe" is a little bit different. Our lawn teas are more bacterial dominant. Without going into too much science, the reason for this is that grasses prefer to receive their nitrogen in nitrate form and bacterial dominant teas are able to provide this better than the fungal dominant teas that we use on trees and shrubs.



Healthy soil creates a healthy lawn.

Compost tea is a great addition to your organic lawn care program. It can supplement an organic lawn care maintenance program that should also include good cultural practices such as increasing organic matter percentage in the soil, fertilizing organically, supplying microbial food resources, core aerating and over seeding as a strategy in outcompeting weeds.

If you are interested in receiving compost tea applications for your lawn or garden, e-mail [Carmin](#) or [Priscilla](#) to find out more. For the complete article describing the benefits of compost tea for lawns, please click [here](#).

Deer Resistant Alternatives to Commonly Eaten Landscape Plants

Deer Resistant Plants



Growing plants deer don't like and adopting specific management strategies can go a long way in reducing deer damage. As a general rule of thumb, deer dislike aromatic or pungent plants and thorny, prickly or fuzzy plants. Spacing these intermittently throughout the garden can serve as protection for more vulnerable plants. Strongly scented herbs such as garlic, mint, rosemary, catmint, oregano and lavender are some good candidates for this kind of interplanting. Other management strategies include deer fencing.



Deer avoid the coarse needles but birds are attracted to the berries of the Red Cedar



Lungwort is early to flower in the Spring and makes a good substitute for hosta.



Weigela 'Wine and Roses' attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.



Joe Pye Weed is a great substitute for phlox and blooms late summer into fall

deer repellent sprays, and multi-leveled gardens. According to Rhonda Massingham Hart, author of *Deerproofing Your Yard and Garden*, deer dislike climbing in and out of confined garden areas. Adding raised beds, terraces or sunken areas to the garden can be another way to discourage them.

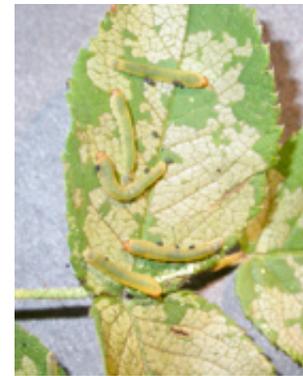
Here are some plants to try:

- *Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) as an alternative to Yew (*Taxus* sp.)
- *Lungwort (*Pulmonaria* sp.) as an alternative to Hosta (*Hosta* sp.)
- *Old Fashioned Weigela (*Weigela florida*) as an alternative to Azaleas (*Rhododendron* sp.)
- *Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum* subsp. *maculatum* 'Gateway') as an alternative to Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)

To read the complete article (with plant descriptions), please click [here](#).

Pest to Watch out for: Roseslug sawfly

Roseslug sawfly (*Endelomyia aethiops*) larvae can be a nasty pest of roses in late May/early June. The pest gets its name from its ability to lay eggs in plant leaves or stems with a saw-like egg laying mechanism. The wormlike larvae are greenish yellow with orange heads, reach a half inch in size and have a similar appearance to caterpillars. They will skeletonize the upper surface of rose leaves, sucking out the soft tissue and creating translucent patches in between the veins that will eventually turn brown. Regular inspection of roses is crucial because feeding typically progresses quickly, and extensive leaf damage can occur if infestations are not noticed.



Roseslug sawfly on rose leaf

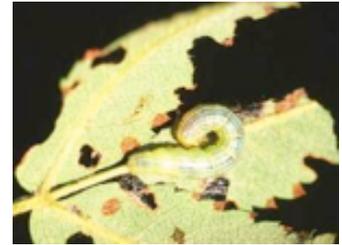
What can be done if damage is seen? Hand removal can be effective if caught at the right time. Insecticidal soap can be used for low populations of young larvae. More severe infestations can be controlled with neem oil. If you know that your roses are prone to this pest, we can spray a preventative application of neem, before any damage has been done. Soil amending is critical in rose gardens, as soil microorganisms can then thrive in a healthy balanced soil and attack eggs of this pest before the larvae have a chance to emerge. Typically, the roses will re-leaf. Only one generation per year emerges from the soil. If leaf damage is seen, [e-mail](#) us right away to arrange spot spraying.

Pest to Watch out for: Winter Moth

Many of us have been plagued by winter moth damage these past few springs. This new pest has been slowly moving north from its established locale on the Cape and South Shore. The adults congregate to mate some-time between Halloween and Thanksgiving. Larvae emerge at the time maples leaf out to feed on the new leaves, leaving them full of holes or defoliating them in some cases. The larvae then drop down to damage ornamental dogwoods, cherries, apples, crabapples, Japanese maples, azaleas and the like. We can spray

Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) to deter larval activity on the understory plants we can reach from the ground with our spray equipment.

A better strategy is to plan for us to band your trees in late October to deter the egg laying females or to spray horticultural oil to smother eggs. There is no true organic solution for this pest, although researchers are working to solve this problem. In the meantime, we encourage those of you with large maples, beeches and other specimen trees to contract with a [tree company](#) with certified arborists for care of your trees that may be vulnerable to this pest.



Winter moth damage on maple leaf

May Is the Time for....

- Dividing and transplanting established perennials - last call until fall
- Planting trees, shrubs and perennials
- Planting annuals, tropicals and warm season vegetables
- Keeping up with weeding, ferreting out the weeds that hide under larger plants
- Edging and mulching garden beds
- Staking peonies before they bloom
- Training climbing roses and clematis to trellises
- Watching for aphids to emerge and feed on tender new shoots when temperatures warm up after rain - give them a blast of water with a garden hose or spray insecticidal soap
- Pruning shrubs that are late to leaf out such as Clethra, Itea, Rose of Sharon and Smokebush
- Controlling slugs with copper mesh barriers or sprinkling Sluggo (TM), a bait with iron phosphate that breaks down naturally in soils but deters slug activity
- Scouting for late spring pests such as scale, rose slug sawfly, boxwood psyllid and hydrangea leaf tier

Quick Links

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I hope everyone will take time to stop and enjoy the spectacular season of bloom this month! It's always a pleasure to walk into a garden where I haven't worked in a while to see the new growth and astounding color. In some cases, it truly takes my breath away!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
Priscilla

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