










# TORONTO MASTER GARDENERS ASK PLANT ID QUESTIONS

	Image	Question	Answer
JULY 2018		<p>Climate zone is 4/5.                      Plant arrived with eggplant or pepper seedlings.                      Size is currently 5 feet, but still increasing. Single stem but shoots growing in crotches like a tomato.                      Leaf is chordate. Flower has 5 petals - circular arrangement. Before flower opens, a small orange "tongue" appears.</p>	<p>Thank you for contacting Toronto Master Gardeners with your question. The guest in your plantation appears to be Velvetleaf (<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>). This annual weed is extremely vigorous and competitive. What you see on the picture is the hairy fruits composed of 12 to 15 seedpods which remain viable in the soil for an incredible 50 to 60 years. For this reason we suggest you to pull the plant out and dispose it.</p> <p>For more information and references:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/velvetleaf.html">http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/velvetleaf.html</a></li> </ul>
JULY 2018		<p>This "weed" has popped up next to our back stairs in Toronto and now seems to be showing some kind of bean/pea pod/pepper or ????. Can anyone tell me what it might be?</p>	<p>emailed homeowner back with plant ID - dog strangling vine and the following information from one of our earlier posts:  <i>Dog strangling vine, also known as Cynanchum rossicum, Vincetoxicum rossicum and swallow-wort, is a nasty invasive that is difficult to get rid of. Fortunately because it is common problem there is lots of information available. Here is a link to the response to a previous Toronto Master Garden enquiry which sets out steps that you can take to get rid of it, including a Toronto Botanical Garden video:</i>  <a href="http://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/?s=dog+strangling+vine">http://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/?s=dog+strangling+vine</a>  <i>Work on different ways of dealing with the plant has been conducted by the Ottawa Field Naturalists in connection with Butterfly Meadow they are building which was invested with the vine. Here is a link to a posting on the plant and how to deal with it, including the results of mowing, mulching and tilling and useful information on what should be done with the roots, stems, seeds etc. of the plant:</i>  <a href="http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/invasives/swallowwort/index_e.php">www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/invasives/swallowwort/index_e.php</a></p>
JULY 2018		<p>Hello,                      This poor plant is dying, I don't know what it is or how to feed it.</p>	<p>Thank you for contacting Toronto Master Gardeners.                      It is difficult to make a definitive ID on your plant from the picture. It may be a <i>Schefflera</i>.                      Your plant looks like you maybe over or under watering it. When you place your finger in the soil (at least an inch deep) it should feel dry before it gets watered. Does your pot have good drainage? When it was potted were small rocks placed in the bottom before the soil? If so it needs to be repotted with only soil. Gravel at the bottom actually impedes drainage rather than helping it. If the roots are too wet the plant will essentially drown.                      I am Attaching one of our garden guides from our library for further information for you.</p>




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	Image	Question	Answer
JULY 2018		I have this plant growing from under my fence. Is it invasive if yes how to get rid of this. I am in Mississauga.	Thank you for contacting Toronto Master Gardeners. From your picture it looks like you have a smoke bush, <i>Cotinus sp.</i> It is a large bush and you may find there is one growing in the neighbours yard on the other side of the fence or it may have seeded itself there. The plant does become quite large growing to 15 feet. It is not invasive, so you can decide to keep it or pull it out depending on whether you want it there. I am attaching some links for the plant, so you can read further. <a href="http://extension.illinois.edu/hortanswers/plantdetail.cfm?PlantID=378&amp;PlantTypeID=8">http://extension.illinois.edu/hortanswers/plantdetail.cfm?PlantID=378&amp;PlantTypeID=8</a> <a href="https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2901/2901-1068/2901-1068.html">https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/2901/2901-1068/2901-1068.html</a>
JULY 2018		Hi, I am growing a small kitchen garden. still a novice. Saw this growing outside of my garden box bed. what is it.	Thank you for contacting Toronto Master Gardeners with your question. The plant on your picture looks like a spinach but it could be other things. Without the size of the plant we cannot be sure at 100%. If you haven't planted spinach in your garden, we would recommend to pull it out and dispose it.
JULY 2018		Hello, I am writing because I was hoping you could identify this bush for me. I found it growing in a neglected plot at the back of our yard. It is approx four feet at its tallest point. It has woody stems, small pink and white flowers and thorns. The area gets full sun and we are in downtown Toronto. The soil in our backyard is clay, but we shared this plot with an herbalist for a couple of years who improved the soil for planting. There is St Johns Wort, Sage, Feverfew, Coneflowers, Motherwort and many weeds growing close by. I've searched online and in gardening books but I can't figure out what this particular plant might be. Any insight you might give would be very appreciated. Thanks very much.	Your plant id question was difficult. Several Master Gardeners put there heads together on this one and determined your plant could be <i>Lycium barbarum</i> commonly known as goji berry or wolfberry. The fact that you shared your garden with a herbalist strengthened our decision. This plant is described as a slightly thorny deciduous shrub that typically grows 3-6 feet when cultivated and pruned. It can grow to 10 feet if left to grow wild. It grows well in zones 6-9 and is native to China. This shrub has arching branches and produces lavender coloured blossoms that are either singular or in clusters. The blossoms produce fruit in the form of red-orange oval berries. Goji berries have become known as a superfruit in the world of Health Foods.



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JULY 2018		I have this plant growing among my cucumber plants and I was wondering if you could tell me what it is.	<p>Thanks for your question!            You have taken a lovely photo of a common mallow (<i>Malva neglecta</i>), which grows wild in many gardens. It is related to hollyhocks and hibiscus and is a lovely little plant, although rather invasive. It is self-sowing, so plants may pop up in a number of spots. If you don't want the mallow to return, deadhead the plant after it blooms and before it goes to seed.</p> <p>Here's a useful link from North Carolina State Extension. <i>Malva neglecta</i> -- at <a href="https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/malva-neglecta/">https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/all/malva-neglecta/</a>            All the best with your gardening!            Jackie</p> <p>Toronto Master Gardener Ask a MG team – 4 of them emailed me back with “mallow” as the plant!!</p>
AUGUST 2018		My neighbour says this is a rosemary plant and is eating it. Does not look like any rosemary I have seen. Tried to identify it but having trouble.	<p>Thank you for contacting the Toronto Master Gardeners with your plant identification query. It is always difficult to make a positive plant identification from a photograph without being able to tell leaf texture (thick leafed, fleshy etc.) or a clear image of the flower. That being said, from what we can tell it appears that the plant in question could be savoury. There are two different types of savoury: <b>winter savory</b> which is a hardy dwarf evergreen which can be propagated by cuttings and <b>summer savory</b>, an aromatic seasoning and flavoring herb, which must be raised annually from seed. <a href="#">Winter and Summer Savory</a>, <a href="#">Savory</a> My recommendation is for your neighbour to take a sample of the plant into your local garden center for a positive identification.</p>
AUGUST 2018		This is the only one I have in the garden. Thought it might be something interesting when it started to grow, but now I am not so sure. Thanks.	<p>This looks like hairy loosestrife (<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i> 'Firecracker') -- did it have small yellow flowers earlier in the summer? I have a few in my garden and although not considered invasive, more appear each year. I leave many of them in place, as I find both the leaves and short-lived flowers attractive, but do not feel guilty at all when I pull several out each summer. Here's a link that includes a photo of the plant: <a href="https://www.finegardening.com/plant/hairy-loosestrife-lysimachia-ciliata-firecracker">https://www.finegardening.com/plant/hairy-loosestrife-lysimachia-ciliata-firecracker</a>  <b>Another Master Gardener will review my response, and if she/he feels that your photo is likely another plant, you will receive a further email response.</b></p>





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AUGUST 2018		Hi, I believe that I found a couple of Olive trees growing in Etobicoke, Ontario. Both trees have fruit, can you help in confirming that these are actually Olive trees ? I thought these would not grow in Ontario.	The botanical world is full of migrations – of plants expanding their territories with the help of animals and wind. Humans, of course, are now the most influential force in such migrations. We move plants from one continent to another, far outside their native ranges, sometimes deliberately, sometimes accidentally. This happens to be the case with the Russian Olive, <i>Elaeagnus angustifoli</i> illustrated in your photo. This tree was initially brought to North America in the early 1900s where it quickly gained popularity for its striking silvery foliage. This tree was typically planted in poor sites and along roadways due to its high drought and salt tolerance and rapid growth. It has since escaped beyond cultivated areas and displaces native trees such as cottonwood and willow, on which numerous wildlife species depend.
AUGUST 2018		Is this poison ivy in my garden bed? Is the tall flower in between the Hydrangea a weed?	Looking at your photograph, I am quite certain that what you have growing is not poison ivy but Creeping bellflower, <i>Campanula rapunculoides</i> L. As someone who works in gardens daily, I can tell you I see this plant quite a bit and it is a thug. It is a plant that will grow at the expense of others, so I would highly recommend that you remove this and be thorough. To remove creeping bell flower entirely, you will most likely have to do it several times-  There was more care info- this answer was published
AUGUST 2018		Zone 4, sandy soil. I would appreciate knowing what kind of tree this. I will try to attach three pictures. If I fail, this is the best description I have. Tree is approx. 20 ft tall. The bark is rough and is split in vertical lines, the leaves are opposite each other, shiny on top and dull underneath. *Inquirer provided additional photos upon request, and added the following: "I need to add that the branches have thorns on them. We are zone 4ish near Tweed, Ontario. No fruit or nuts on the tree."	Thank you again for providing the additional photos of your mystery tree, as well as supplying more details. After consulting with my group, I am fairly confident that this tree is a black locust ( <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> ). It is native to the southeastern United States but has been introduced to other parts of North America. In fact, in Ontario it is considered invasive. For more information on black locust, please follow the links below:  <a href="https://treecanada.ca/resources/trees-of-canada/black-locust-robinia-pseudoacacia/">https://treecanada.ca/resources/trees-of-canada/black-locust-robinia-pseudoacacia/</a>  <a href="https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/thingstosee/trees/blacklocust">https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/thingstosee/trees/blacklocust</a>





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	Image	Question	Answer
AUGUST 2018		<p>This native shrub like bush is growing naturally alongside our cottage road in Haliburton. It resembles a lilac with over sized lush leaves and forms a hedge about 5 feet high in a sunny spot on the forested road</p>	<p>. Inquirer provided additional details upon email request: "Only the leaf shape and the growth shape resemble that of a lilac with multiple stems branching out from a low base. Each stem is about a finger width and a smooth light, almost grey colour. The leaves are much bigger than a lilac however and a sold medium green. I have never seen any flower or berries on the bushes. I had been wondering if it could be some kind of wild elderberry or similar. I keep checking for any sign of a berry but none yet. It is odd that a row of them line the edge of the road in just one sunnier spot as if they were a planted hedgerow. After consultation with other Toronto Master Gardeners, I can confirm that the shrub in question is Japanese knotweed (<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> var. <i>japonica</i>) which is not native and is recognized as an invasive species in Ontario. For more details on this aggressive invader, please visit the following site where you can find information on how to prevent its spread and how to report a sighting in the wild - <a href="http://www.invadingspecies.com/japanese-knotweed/#">http://www.invadingspecies.com/japanese-knotweed/#</a></p>
AUGUST 2018		<p>This weed is on our lawn and in some of the beds at our cottage on Lake Rosseau. I started to notice it last year but this summer it is prolific. Someone suggested that it might be knotweed but when I look online the pictures don't seem to match what we have here. It is only growing in sunny conditions. I'd like to include more images but I can't get the form to accept them. Please let me know your thoughts and thank you!</p>	<p>It is always difficult to ID a plant from a photo without a picture of the flowers and fruit. That being said, I believe that the weed in question is Velvet Leaf, <i>Abutilom theophrasti</i>. Leaves of this plant are broadly heart shaped, 2 to 6 inches long and as wide, with a long stalk, arranged alternately along the main stem. All parts of the plants except the petals are covered with short, dense velvety hairs. Stems are sturdy, mostly simple with few short flowering side branches in upper leaf axils. The following websites provide additional information on this plant. <a href="http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/velvetleaf.htm">http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/velvetleaf.htm</a> <a href="http://www.weedinfo.ca/en/weed-index/view/id/ABUTH">http://www.weedinfo.ca/en/weed-index/view/id/ABUTH</a></p>



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AUGUST 2018		This is growing in a townhome development at Davenport and Lansdowne. The exposure is north and it is in a concrete raised planter box that the developer would have built with the townhomes so I bet the soil is not great. These were growing 4 feet (and higher) and the bees loved them so it seems to be a great at attracting pollinators.	Although it is often difficult to identify a plant with certainty from one single photo, from your description of how this plant is growing leads me to believe that this is Himalayan balsam or <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> . This is a plant that I recall from my childhood growing in ever-increasingly thick clusters in a neighbour's garden. The best part about it for a child was its explosive seed pods that can disperse seeds up to 5 meters away! This is most likely why another name for this plant is "Touch-Me-Not". This plant is listed on Ontario's Invasive Species Awareness Program website.
AUGUST 2018		I have two of these plants growing in my victory garden. They are so neat looking I didn't pull it yet. It has a tap root. Please identify I am so curious.	The plant is <i>Hibiscus trionum</i> or Flower-of-an-Hour, an annual plant in the Malvaceae family. It has a fast growth rate in full sun with medium moisture. The seed heads are showy.
AUGUST 2018		Hi, We were in Toronto to view your beautiful Botanical Gardens yesterday. I was wondering what the name of this flower is. (It's down near one of the bridges that cross the stream. Thanks for your help!	Thank you for contacting Toronto Master Gardeners about the annual plant, <i>Gomphrena globosa</i> also known as Common Globe Amaranth, a low maintenance and showy plant. The true flowers are tiny white to yellow trumpets that are visible only close up, but the show stoppers are the bright magenta bracts which dry well as an 'everlasting'. The mature plant has good drought resistance, extremely good heat tolerance and blooms from June to frost. The Missouri Botanical Garden's Plant Finder details give good cultural information and photographs. <a href="http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a115">http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a115</a> The plant may be grown from seed, or purchased in cell packs.
AUGUST 2018		Our local garden centre had this plant displayed in its group of Hollyhock plants. It was only after planting it that we realized it is not one, but we cannot identify it. It has been attacked all Summer by Japanese beetles, and has not produced a blossom, yet. Pls help us name the plant and some info on it.	Our research suggests that the plant is <i>Helianthus annuus</i> or common sunflower. Missouri Botanical Garden has an excellent plant profile which provides a description, culture, and noteworthy characteristics as well as colourful photos with which you can compare your plant.

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AUGUST 2018		I have this plant growing in my garden. 8ft.high and has grown from the ground up this year. It is on the west side of the house and gets a lot of sun. I Live in London.Ontario.	Could be American Pokeweed ( <i>Phytolacca americana</i> ). This plant grows in open areas, in damp woods and on roadsides. It is found in Ontario. It is a perennial plant that can grow to 10 feet. Stems are tinged with red. It has flowers that grow in upright clusters. The fruits turn into dark purple berries by the Fall. Pokeweed has a disagreeable odour and is described as being toxic. For more information visit websites listed below.
AUGUST 2018		Found this near Peterborough Ontario. Three leaves. Serrated edges. Found in a drainage ditch on a golf course.	After further perusal, we have determined that the plant is more likely to be Wild strawberry ( <i>Fragaria vesca</i> ). When the photo is enlarged, the plant appears to have serrations rather than coarse teeth and this has led us to conclude that it could be Wild strawberry. It is often very difficult to identify a plant from a photo and we apologize for the error.
AUGUST 2018		Can someone help me identify this plant please. I have been told it is a coreopsis but it also resembles a rudbeckia. The stems are dark - a purply shade - and the plant is about 3 feet tall. thank you for your help. It is growing in zone 4 in a sunny location	Thank you for contacting Toronto Master Gardeners. The plant is a <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> which is a species of flowering plant in the family Asteraceae. It is known by common names such as oxeye daisy or false sunflower. The cultivar is "Summer Nights".
AUGUST 2018		I purchased this flower at our local market. Please identify and provide any information for culture and longevity.	I believe the plant you have is a Lisianthus, <i>Eustoma grandiflorum</i> . Another name for it is Texas Bluebells.

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	Image	Question	Answer
AUGUST 2018		<p>I'm hoping you can identify this weed that has taken over my lawn in the back yard. It is choking out the grass but we are planning to resod or over-seed the lawn next year. Before we do do, I would like to get rid of this weed. I wanted to send more than one picture but your form ( or my iPhone ) won't allow it. If you need more, please let me know and I will send another form.</p>	<p>It looks very like Creeping Charlie and if so, is somewhat of a menace in a lawn. I have attached a link below, so that you can check this identification.</p>
AUGUST 2018		<p>Can you help me identify this shrub</p>	<p>It is challenging to identify plants from a single photo. However, this appears to be a boxwood (genus <i>Buxus</i>). For more information about the shrub, see the American Boxwood Society website (<a href="http://www.boxwoodsociety.org/abs_about.html">http://www.boxwoodsociety.org/abs_about.html</a> ).</p>





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	Image	Question	Answer
AUGUST 2018		<p>This (attached) has suddenly shown up in my garden... I assume its a weed? But I can't be sure. Would someone be able to tell me what it is?</p>	<p>Your question illustrates how challenging it can be to identify a plant from a single photograph. You'll see that the leaves seem to have more than one shape, which adds to the difficulty in figuring out what your plant might be. I contacted a number of other Master Gardeners, and here are the results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few responded that the plant is likely velvetleaf, <i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>. See OMAFRA's <a href="#">Ontario weeds: Velvetleaf</a> and the University of Missouri Integrated pest management. <a href="#">Weed of the month: Velvetleaf</a></li> <li>• Others suggested it might be a vegetable, e.g., self-germinated squash or pumpkin or cucumber</li> <li>• Another felt it looks a lot like morning glory, which would be a vine (you did not mention if it's a vine)</li> <li>• And another suggested it might be upright wild ginger, <i>Saruma henryi</i>, which grows well in the shade and has small yellow flowers in the spring. It likely would have a few flowers now. See Missouri Botanical Garden's <a href="#">Saruma henryi</a></li> </ul> <p>I've reviewed photos and articles about each of the above plants, and I tend to agree that it's likely velvetleaf. But as a curious gardener, I suggest that you keep the plant in your garden and watch as it matures -- wouldn't it be great if you ended up with a squash or other vegetable?</p>
AUGUST 2018		<p>My sister just moved into a house with this tree on the front lawn. We can't figure out what it is. It is full sun, in Peterborough's south end. It has been very dry this year. This is a big tree so it's probably been here a long time.</p>	<p><b>BP-</b>Based on the leaves in the photo my first guess would be hackberry however I'm not sure. I emailed the homeowner for additional information and photos re: bark, simple or compound leaves, fruit?</p>



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	Image	Question	Answer
AUGUST 2018		I have seen this tree growing in the East York hydro right-of-way paths near Stan Wadlow park. This picture was taken late last Fall. It has beautiful bright fuschia pink and orange "berries". Someone told me it might be a type of euonymous. Can you please identify this plant for me and give advice on how to grow it?	The tree would appear to be a <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> 'Red Cascade'. It is a hardy deciduous shrub that is popular in gardens and parks due to its bright-coloured fruits and its resistance to frost and wind. However, the fruit is considered poisonous due to the alkaloids it contains and is extremely bitter.
SEPTEMBER 2018		Found this near Peterborough Ontario. Three leaves. Serrated edges. Found in a drainage ditch on a golf course.	This is to follow up on the plant identification response sent to you last week.  After further perusal, we have determined that the plant is more likely to be Wild strawberry ( <i>Fragaria vesca</i> ). When the photo is enlarged, the plant appears to have serrations rather than coarse teeth and this has led us to conclude that it could be Wild strawberry. It is often very difficult to identify a plant from a photo and we apologize for the error.
SEPTEMBER 2018		This plant emerged this year in a "wildflower" part of my garden. 2 years ago I planted a small 2' by 6' part of our garden with a package of seeds from a cereal box. There is no flower on the plant but it seems healthy. It is about 2 feet tall. Thank you.	It is very difficult to ID a plant from this picture with any blooms. The only cereal box that I know of that had seeds was Cheerios. I believe it was to help bees. The following seeds were included in the packets that were given out: The mix includes Baby Blue Eyes, Bergamot, Blue Flax, California Poppy, China Aster, Chinese Forget Me Not, Corn Poppy, Fleabane Daisy, Globe Gilia, Indian Blanket, Lance Leafed Coreopsis, Lavender Hyssop, New England Asters, Plains Coreopsis, Purple Cone Flower, Siberian Wallflower and Sweet Alyssum. If this plant is indeed from this mix then the most likely choice is Lavender (anise) Hyssop. I am including a link below that has information about this plant. It may help you decide if this is indeed the plant you have. If you watch for buds and blooms it will make it much easier to get a definitive ID. You may need to wait for next summer for it to bloom. If it does not match then please send us another picture showing blooms and leaves so we can take another look



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OCTOBER 2018		Kindly assist me in identifying this plant. I saw it in a planter in Sept 2018. When does it normally bloom?	The plant in your photo certainly resembles <i>Plectranthus "Mona lavender"</i> . In Toronto this plant would definitely be classed as a summer annual. It would not be winter hardy as the plant originates from South Africa. It was developed at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. There are many <i>Plectranthus</i> species that are used as ornamental herbaceous plants for the garden, in hot climates, all around the world. Apparently they are easy to propagate from cuttings. They grow well in shade. 'Mona Lavender' is quick-growing, forming a lovely, rounded, dense plant. It has dark green, glossy leaves with intensely purple undersides and sprays of lavender flowers dashed with purple markings. It is very attractive. For more information please visit: <a href="http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j560">http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j560</a>
OCTOBER 2018		This showed up in my yard late this summer. I've seen it in a neighbour's carefully landscaped yard, so I'm pretty sure it isn't a weed. but what is it? It's about 16" tall, bushy and has long twiggly bits with tiny red buds.	This was a tricky one to id. After consulting several Master Gardeners we've decided that your mystery plant is a variety of <i>Persicaria</i> . There are upwards of 50 species grown of this plant worldwide. Unfortunately, there is not a lot written up about <i>Persicaria</i> other than it is a genus of the Polygonaceae family (knotweed), which originated in east Asia. Many weedy species exist and the plant has a somewhat bad reputation, as in "invasive" and "fast growing". However, there are some varieties that are worth growing. Mostly these plants are grown for their flowers that display in the form of spikes. Leaves can be pointed, lance shaped, heart shaped and oval (as is the case in your photo). <i>Persicaria virginiana</i> is described as mound forming, with oval to elliptical leaves that are mid green and banded with an unusual v-shaped chocolate brown marking. (Similar to your photo). <i>P. capitata</i> and <i>P. virginiana</i> 'Lance Corporal' also display a chevron shaped mark on each leaf. These plants thrive in sun to partial shade. They like moist but well drained soil. You state that you believe you have seen this plant in your neighbour's garden. Apparently these plants have a self seeding habit so that may be how a plant ended up in your garden. It might be a good idea to consult your neighbour or the landscape gardener to corroborate the name of your plant.




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	Image	Question	Answer
OCTOBER 2018		<p>3 of us having been trying to figure out the name of this lovely flowering plant. Thank you!!</p>	<p>The plant in your photo certainly resembles Plectranthus "Mona lavender". In Toronto this plant would definitely be classed as a summer annual. It would not be winter hardy as the plant originates from South Africa. It was developed at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. There are many Plectranthus species that are used as ornamental herbaceous plants for the garden, in hot climates, all around the world. Apparently they are easy to propagate from cuttings. They grow well in shade. 'Mona Lavender' is quick-growing, forming a lovely, rounded, dense plant. It has dark green, glossy leaves with intensely purple undersides and sprays of lavender flowers dashed with purple markings. It is very attractive. For more information please visit: <a href="http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j560">http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j560</a></p>
OCTOBER 2018		<p>I am hoping to receive some help in identifying the evergreen in the attached images. It is an apparently slow growing plant. This specimen is at least 10 yrs old. I am guessing that it is a juniper. However I am not sure if that is true and if so, what kind of juniper. I have been thinking for sometime to get another of this plant to put in the back garden. Thank you very much for whatever help that can be provided.</p>	<p>Your evergreen is not a juniper but a yew (Latin name: <i>Taxus</i>). It isn't possible to tell with certainty from your photo, but your specimen could be a Hick's or a Hill's yew, both commonly sold by Toronto area nurseries. <a href="#">Here</a> is a previous Toronto Master Gardeners post that describes the differences between these two varieties, and also points you to some advice on planting and pruning. Most yews are dioecious, which means there are separate male and female plants. Female plants produce red, berry-like fruits instead of cones, as we see in your photo. Each fruit has a single seed almost completely surrounded by a fleshy red aril. All parts of yews are poisonous if ingested. As you've noted, the yew is a slow grower, but it is a very attractive landscape evergreen and is tolerant of a wide range of growing conditions, although soil with good drainage is important for this plant. As well, unlike many other evergreen shrubs it can be pruned and shaped, which should be done in the early spring before new growth begins. For more complete information about <i>Taxus x media</i> "Hicksii" or Hick's Yew, please see: <a href="http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=f870">http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=f870</a></p>





# TORONTO MASTER GARDENERS ASK PLANT ID QUESTIONS

	Image	Question	Answer
OCTOBER 2018		I attach a picture of a plant which started growing in July/August. I did not plant it. I have searched through your answers already given for purple leafed plants but do not see any which have these fuzzy pipe cleaner type growths. I need to know what it is so I can decide if I should replant it somewhere else for its future growth.	<p>From your photo the plant in question appears to be <i>Amaranthus cruentus</i> 'Velevt Curtains'. This plant is a frost tender annual which can grow up to 3-4' tall. The plant flowers from July-September and is wind pollinated. It is more than likely that the seed of this plant was deposited by a bird where it happily germinated and grew in your garden.</p> <p>The following link gives additional information on this beautiful annual:</p> <p><a href="#">Amaranthus cruentus</a>,</p>
OCTOBER 2018		I have some plants growing very tall in my backyard. They have narrow leaves, white, hair like flowers. I have been searching on the internet but failed to identify them. Thank you very much and I look forward to your reply!	<p>It is always difficult to identify a plant from a photo without all the information such as growing habit, close up of the leaves, etc.. From your picture the plant in question can be either <i>Persicaria polymorpha</i> ,(Giant Fleece Flower) or <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> -(Goatsbeard)</p> <p><i>Persicaria polymorpha</i>: This herbaceous rhizomatous perennial possesses dark green, alternate pointed leaves with slightly serrated edges on thick hollow bamboolike stems and astilbe-like white plumes. It does best when grown in full sun 5-6hrs/day however it will tolerate partial shade. This perennial can reach 4-6' in height as 4-8' in width. The following links provide additional information: <a href="#">Growing Giant Fleece Flower</a>, <a href="#">Growing Giant Fleece Flower</a></p> <p><i>Aruncus dioicus</i>: This herbaceous perennial possesses dark green alternate compound ( each leaf is made up of a number of leaflets) leaves, each leaflet has serrated edges. Goatsbeard prefer woodland like conditions- partial shade with moist, rich soil. and some varieties can grow up to 8' tall. They also possess astilbe-like plumes . The following links provide additional information: <a href="#">Goatsbeard</a>, <a href="#">Goat's beard</a></p>

# TORONTO MASTER GARDENERS ASK PLANT ID QUESTIONS

	Image	Question	Answer
OCTOBER 2018		<p>Can you please help me in identifying this bush I have on my property. It is located in Etobicoke, Toronto.</p> <p>Is this a good time to be trimming the bush to give it some shape.</p>	<p>"The bush is about 1.6m tall and 2.5m wide. It blooms with small white flowers in the spring."Based on this additional information and the photos, I believe this is a Bridalwreath spirea (<i>Spirea x vanhouttei</i>). This spirea has been popular in southern Ontario for many years. It is a hybrid cross between <i>S. trilobata</i> x <i>S. cantoniensis</i>. It typically grows 5-8' tall with a spread to 7-10' wide. It is particularly noted for its showy spring bloom. Tiny white flowers (each to 1/3" diameter) appear in late April to May in clusters.They are easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. They do tolerate light shade, a wide range of soils and some drought.</p>
November 2018		<p>I was wondering if someone can help me identify a tree from Edwards Gardens. The photo was taken back in May. The location of the tree is near the top of a set of stairs towards The Bridle Path.</p>	<p>Although the photo is a bit blurry, this looks like a lovely Saucer Magnolia (<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>) in full bloom.</p>
May 2019		<p>This is a plant I saw for the first time in a marshy part of Edwards Gardens. Can you tell me what it is? Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your excellent photo and information about the growing conditions for the plant. Your plant is a Western Skunk Cabbage (<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>)- far from its native home of Alaska though to Santa Cruz California. The Eastern Skunk Cabbage (<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>) is our native relative. Both share many similar characteristics but the Eastern native has mottled purple spathes (let's call them petals). The plants are ephemeral. That is, their leaves die by late summer and the plants go dormant until the following spring. The plant apparently has a noxious smell. It is not advisable to eat any part of the plant. The roots are toxic and the leaves burn the mouth. But knowledgeable First Nation peoples used the plant for several medicinal applications. I don't know how widely the Western species has invaded the east.</p>

# TORONTO MASTER GARDENERS ASK PLANT ID QUESTIONS

	Image	Question	Answer
May 2019		This beautiful plant has come up in my yard. Because spring is late this year I'm getting to enjoy it. I spend winters in Florida and usually it's dying back when we get home in late April. Honestly thought it was an Easter Lily, but now not sure! It's absolutely stunning. Any help would be appreciated! Thank you	Thank you for your question for Toronto Master Gardeners, Julie!  You are right; it's not a lily. Your gorgeous <i>Fritillaria imperialis</i> was planted as a bulb once upon a time and keeps giving pleasure year after year. It almost makes leaving Florida worth the trip in April!
May 2019		Could you tell me if this a weed or something I should keep? Thank you very much.	Thank you for contacting the Toronto Master gardeners with your plant ID question. The plant in your photograph is a herbaceous peony. These lovely perennials prefer to be located in full sun, in neutral to slightly alkaline soil with good drainage. Peonies are relatively drought tolerant once established though flowering may be impaired during particularly dry spells at the time of flower bud development. The flower stems may not be strong enough to keep the often heavy flamboyant flowers upright especially after a rain storm and staking or the placement of a peony ring around the plant is often required. It is generally best to cut the foliage to ground level as it dies back in the fall.
May 2019		Please help in identifying this tree. I saw it this week at Edward's Garden near the cherry tree blossoms located at the Bridle Path entrance.	Its difficult to tell from this photo, however this could be a photo of flowering almond.
May 2019		I received some stunning flowers from a neighbour. Photo attached. Unfortunately, she does not know the name of the bush. Kindly assist in identifying this flowering bush	Your lovely flowers are likely <i>Chaenomeles</i> (flowering quince), which blooms in early spring. I initially considered that they might be from a <i>Prunus serrulata</i> (Japanese cherry) tree, but you mentioned that the flowers came from a bush – and the Japanese cherry is a tree. Another possibility is flowering dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> 'Cherokee Chief') – but this is also a tree. I suggest that you google each of the above plants and click on "images" – you will see many photos of the flowers of each. I get the best results using the Latin name (e.g., enter <i>Chaenomeles quince</i> into google as your search terms).