



July 2020: Special Edition 17

Dear Members,

Here we are at the end of July, and we would normally be busy distributing the Flower Show Schedule. It is sad that we will not be able to have the Show this year, but with social distancing issues still at the forefront of everyone's minds, it was the right decision.

The early rain, then warm weather has meant that for some crops it will be a bumper year; certainly there would have been many contenders for the tallest sunflower!

As usual, please feel free to share your photos, comments, stories or cartoons and if you have any feedback on the Newsletter do drop me a line to kateawilkinson@hotmail.co.uk.

Enjoy the end of the month!

Kate Anthony Wilkinson (Chair)

MEMBERS GARDENS



Following Mary M's lovely sunflower last week, Julia has sent in some photos of her wonderful large sunflowers, which provide a sunny floral screen to the patio for the alfresco suppers.



More lovely sunny yellow with Mary L's lilies.





PLANT FACTS: SUNFLOWERS

Given the lovely photos received, I felt Plant Facts should include something on Sunflowers this week. And knowing we like lists of facts, here we go with 10 Sunflower Facts!

1. They are native to the Americas – like potatoes, tomatoes and corn, Sunflowers were cultivated in North America as far back as 3000 BC when they were developed for food, medicine, dye and oil. Then they were exported to the rest of the world by the Spanish conquistadors.



2. They were brought to Russia by royalty – Tsar Peter the Great liked the sunny flowers that he saw in The Netherlands so much that he took some back to Russia. They became popular when people discovered that sunflower seed oil was not banned during Lent, unlike the other oils the Russian Orthodox Church banned its patrons from consuming. By the 19th century, the country was planting two million acres of sunflowers every year.



- 3 Their popularity stands the test of time - Russian immigrants to the United States in the 19th century brought back highly developed sunflower seeds that grew bigger blooms and sparked a renewed interest in the native American plant.



Later, American sunflower production exploded when Missouri farmers began producing sunflower oil in 1946, when Canada unveiled a mechanical seed-crushing plant, and in the 1970s, when consumers looked for low-cholesterol alternatives to animal fats.



- 4 They need a lot of sun and room - The flowers not only look like the sun, they need a lot of it. They grow best with about six to eight hours a day but more is



even better. They can grow as tall as 16 feet, although many varieties have been developed to thrive at different heights. Flowers planted too close together will compete and not blossom to their full potential.



5 They track the sun - Sunflowers display a behaviour called heliotropism. The flower buds and young blossoms will face east in the morning and follow the sun as the earth moves during the day. However, as the flowers get heavier during seed production, the stems will stiffen and the mature flower heads will generally remain facing east.

6 The world's tallest sunflower reached 30 feet 1 inch - In the summer of 2014, veteran green-thumb Hans-Peter Schiffer topped the Guinness World Record for third year in a row. The local fire brigade lent its help in measuring the sunflower, which required its own scaffold.

7 They have a history of healing -In Mexico, the flowers were thought to sooth chest pain. A number of Native American tribes agreed with the plant's curing properties. The Cherokee utilized an infusion of sunflower leaves to treat kidneys while the Dakota brought it out to sooth chest pain and pulmonary troubles.

8 They have travelled into space - In 2012, U.S. astronaut Don Pettit brought along a few companions to the International Space Station: sunflower seeds. Petit regularly blogged about his budding friendship and shared photos of the gardening process.

9 They are actually thousands of tiny flowers - Each sunflower's head is made of smaller flowers. The petals we see around the outside are called ray florets, and they cannot reproduce. But the disc florets in the middle, where the seeds develop, have both male and female sex organs, and each produce a seed. They can self-pollinate or take pollen blown by the wind or transported by insects.



10. They can be used as scrubbing pads - Once the flower heads are empty of seeds, they can be converting into disposable scrubbing pads for tough jobs.

NEWS: We send all our best wishes to Chris and Penny Young who have moved to their new home in Winborne, Dorset.



LAST WEEK'S QUIZ:

Answers: Word Wheel

You may have others, but these are the ones we came up with and the 10 letter flower!

Lane Late Lean Lent Lien Lint Loan
Nail Nile Pale Pelt Pile Pill Plan
Plot Pole Tail Tale Tall Tell Tile
Till Toll Panel Penal Plane Plant
Plate Pleat Talon Title Total Entail
Latent Lentil Lintel Little Polite
Pollen Talent Potential Potentilla

THIS WEEKS QUIZ:

FIND THE MISSING TREES

Thirty trees have lost themselves in the grid below.

The tree names can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal and spelt forwards or backwards.
Happy searching!

1	A	O	D	M	H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N	U	M	R
2	I	T	R	F	W	X	U	H	C	R	I	B	H	A	E
3	Y	R	F	H	A	N	D	K	E	R	C	H	I	E	F
5	B	C	R	S	R	Y	R	R	E	B	L	U	M	N	D
6	E	X	E	Y	P	N	R	W	P	O	P	L	A	R	E
7	E	H	D	V	A	K	E	I	J	L	Q	W	P	O	C
8	C	A	W	W	H	D	P	L	B	J	F	L	S	H	U
9	H	W	O	C	L	O	I	L	X	O	B	I	Y	I	R
10	N	R	O	M	A	G	N	O	L	I	A	N	K	T	P
11	C	A	D	B	R	W	U	W	M	C	M	D	B	L	S
12	O	E	F	E	C	O	J	D	V	A	P	E	A	H	H
13	E	Z	D	Y	H	O	S	S	P	T	U	N	L	A	W
14	L	L	M	A	E	D	Z	L	C	G	E	J	Y	M	A
15	A	S	H	G	R	W	E	R	O	M	A	C	Y	S	M

ALDER
ASH
BAY
BEECH
BIRCH
BOX
CEDAR
CHESTNUT
DOGWOOD
ELM

FIR
HANDKERCHIEF
HAWTHORN
HORNBEAM
JUNIPER
LARCH
LINDEN
MAGNOLIA
MAPLE
MULBERRY

PLANE
POPLAR
REDWOOD
ROWAN
SPRUCE
SYCAMORE
WALNUT
WHITEBEAM
WILLOW
YEW