






TORONTO MASTER GARDENERS ASK PLANT ID QUESTIONS

	Image	Question	Answer
July 2019		Can you please identify the planta in the attached Photos.	<p>Your plant appears to be <i>Impatiens balsamina</i>, also known by its common name garden balsam. This plant is originally native to India and southeast Asia, but has been a garden favourite since Victorian times. In our climate it is an annual. If you didn't plant it yourself, its possible it spread from seed from a nearby source.</p> <p>It does well in full sun to part shade, and prefers moist, well-drained soil. It can be used in beds or borders, and makes an excellent container specimen.</p>
July 2019		Can you please identify the planta in the attached Photos	<p>The plant in your photograph appears to be <i>Lysimachia punctata</i>, Yellow Loosestrife. Yellow loosestrife(<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>) plants form a bushy, fast-spreading clump of green leaves, with loose spikes of bright-yellow starry flowers appearing in early to mid-summer. The flowers rise above whorls of light green serrated leaves. Yellow loosestrife is native to central Europe and Turkey, and this perennial has vigorous rhizomes that reach 36" in height and 12-18" across. It also self-seeds to form large colonies. Contact may cause skin irritation or an allergic reaction. Dry conditions are recommended to control the spread.</p> <p>.http://www.pnwplants.wsu.edu/PlantDisplay.aspx?PlantID=137</p>


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July 2019		<p>Is this some form of bluebell? It is a perennial and I would like to get more. Do you know whether it is available in seeds or bulbs? Thank you for any information.</p>	<p>The plant in your photograph is “Creeping Bellflower” (<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>) that is considered a weed in Ontario. Creeping bellflower has basal leaves that are heart-shaped and attach to the stalk by a stem, while the upper leaves are lance shaped and alternate, connecting directly to the stem. It grows in most soils, in sun or shade, doesn’t care if conditions are wet or dry, reseeds and spreads via root fragments and rhizomes. The roots are taproots – long and slim - and can extend quite deeply into the soil. This plant is also a self seeder. Some gardeners enjoy the plant and rather than removing it, let it thrive in areas where other plants might not grow - while being careful to keep it from spreading too much. This perennial is sometimes called “European” because it was introduced from Europe as an ornamental plant. This website has some good photos that will help you to determine whether the plant you have been offered is <i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>. Various descriptions as a weed or a wildflower, and considered to be an invasive in nearly every province in Canada, this is a plant that is almost impossible to eradicate once it takes hold in the garden, as it spreads by both a system of underground rhizomes and by seed. It seems unkind to reject an offering from a neighbour, but unless you are absolutely certain that what you have been given is a different variety of bellflower or harebell (and most other varieties have very different foliage), it makes sense not to introduce it into your garden. Further reading: http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/creeping_bellflower.htm http://lizprimeau.com/creeping-bellflower-beautiful-but-evil/ Here are two excellent descriptions of creeping bellflower with good pictures Campanula rapunculoides page , Campanula rapunculoides (Creeping Bellflower): Minnesota ...</p>


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	Image	Question	Answer
July 2019		<p>Can you possibly identify the plant in the attached pic..thanks in advance.</p>	<p>The picture you sent is a bit out of focus. I can not be absolutely sure of the ID but I can give you two possibilities to look up. If you look at the flower structure and leaves in the pictures hopefully you can match it to your plant.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Lysimachia punctate</i>, Yellow Loosestrife: This plant can be aggressive and spread. It spreads under the soil by rhizomes so can be difficult to control. Dry conditions are recommended to control the spread. http://www.pnwplants.wsu.edu/PlantDisplay.aspx?PlantID=137 2. St John's wort, <i>Hypericaceae sp.</i>: There are several different varieties to look through for this plant. This is another plant that can be aggressive and spread easily. It is considered invasive in warmer climates. This link may help you positively ID the plant https://bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/st-johns-wort If neither of these plants fit the picture you sent in please do not hesitate to send a new picture. If you can have a close up picture which shows the flower and leaf structures it will help us find a positive ID.
July 2019		<p>I have two very large plants growing and I'm not sure if they are weeds or not. Very large and now about 5 feet tall and the stalk of the plant is about an inch in diameter. I had plants put in last year but don't recognize this one on the list of ones that were planted. Can you help?</p>	<p>This plant is the native Canada goldenrod (<i>Solidago canadensis</i>). It is very common in both cities and in the countryside, where it is often found along roadsides and in meadows. It will bloom in the late summer and early fall with a showy golden flower. You likely didn't plant this, which is why it is not on your list. Goldenrod is a perennial that reproduces by seed as well as by its rhizomes (roots that travel under the soil), and it will self-seed liberally. Goldenrod is often described as both a weed and a wildflower. Many gardeners prefer to think of this native as a wildflower, and they welcome it as a visitor – albeit uninvited – to the garden because of its fantastic display of fall colour at a time when many other perennials have finished blooming. If there are too many of them, simply pull them, getting as much root as possible, but if you have a spot for a few, they really are quite lovely in the fall, and you can keep your eye on them and deadhead their spent blooms before seed is set to keep them under control.</p>


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	Image	Question	Answer
July 2019		<p>Three years ago, this plant started growing in my garden and I have no idea what its name is. I started out with one the first year, then four last year and this year ten plants are growing. It is very tall, nearly eight or more feet high and has enormous leaves and numerous blossoms. I enclose a photo of its blossoms.</p> <p>I am located in North York, Toronto. The plant has sunlight almost all day. Soil is normal, neither sandy nor clay.</p> <p>I hope you can identify it. The seeds were probably brought by birds, as I definitely did not plant it.</p> <p>Hope you are able to identify it. It is slightly reminiscent of a sunflower, though definitely smaller blossoms.</p>	<p>There are several plants that fit your description. The picture does not show the leaf which would help significantly. I am not sure what the bloom time is for this plant as I assume this is a picture from last year. You mention the height of the plant which rules out several possibilities. I have come up with some possible ID's for you to look at.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Silphium perfolium</i>: The compass plant, grows to a great height and has yellow flowers like the one you posted. It can be easily spread by seed. The following links should help you decide if the description, leaf shape and plant structure match your plant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=g650 ○ https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/silphium-perfoliatum/ • <i>Helianthus sp.</i>: There are several wild sunflowers that have the smaller flowers rather than the large flower we are accustomed to. These also grow very tall. Here are some links to a few different ones that may help you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=hest ○ http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=277327&isprofile=1&gen=Helianthus ○ https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=HETU ○ https://michiganflora.net/species.aspx?id=359 <p>If none of these match your plants please send in another picture that includes the leaves and please provide the timing of the blooms.</p>



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	Image	Question	Answer
July 2019		<p>I have a plant that I planted some time ago and cannot remember the name. I would be very grateful if you can give me an identity.</p>	<p>The flower in the photo I believe belongs to a <i>Potentilla</i> sp. (it is commonly called Cinquefoil).</p> <p><i>Potentilla</i> is a member of the rose family and comes in many shapes and sizes. There are large and small leaf varieties. Many have yellow flowers but there are pink and red varieties as well. I wish I could tell you the specific variety you have but I can not see the flowers close enough and there are so many varieties available. If you search for red <i>Potentilla</i> with large leaves you maybe able to narrow the search further by comparing the flowers. Here is a link with some information about the plant.</p> <p>http://extension.illinois.edu/hortanswers/plantdetail.cfm?PlantID=361&PlantTypeID=8</p>

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	Image	Question	Answer
July 2019		<p>This has shown up in our back garden, do not know what it is. Hoping you could help.</p>	<p>A big part of the fun of gardening is trying to figure out what's popped up in the garden – and it's not always easy to identify plants from photos. I asked our Master Gardener team for help in identifying the plant in your photo, and we came up with a few likely plants. Here are some opinions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My first thought was that it's a bee balm (<i>Monarda</i>). The leaves look quite similar to those in my garden, and the flowers emerge from the top of the plant, as in your photo. Although mine have been in full bloom since around July 13, another Master Gardener living in Markam reports that her purple (native) bee balsms have yet to bloom. However, the stems of <i>Monarda</i> are quite hairy and your plant looks to have smooth stems. See the Royal Horticultural Society's Monarda didyma • A few Master Gardeners felt that this is likely the Himalayan balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>). See Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program – Himalayan Balsam. If you enlarge the photo of the leaves on this site, you'll see how the flowers emerge – very similar to your photo. • Common boneset (<i>Eupatorium</i>). See Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Plant Database, Eupatorium perfoliatum • A couple of Master Gardeners suggested this might be garden balsam (<i>Impatiens balsamina</i>). See Missouri Botanical Garden – Impatiens balsamina • Swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>). See Missouri Botanical Garden – Asclepias incarnata • Ironweed (<i>Vernonia</i>). See Missouri Botanical Garden Vernonia noveboracensis, for example. • Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>). See Ontario's invading species awareness program. Purple loosestrife <p>Please get back to us with a photo of what your mystery plant looks like in a few weeks when it blooms! I anticipate that it will turn out to be one of the above plants, but time will tell!</p>

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	Image	Question	Answer
July 2019		I see this Plant in Markham area Parks. Can you say what it is..thanks	<p>The pink flowered plant is Common Milk Weed, <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>.</p> <p>Milkweeds are the only plant that the Monarch Butterfly can lay their eggs on and is essential for the caterpillars survival. There has been a push lately to promote growing milk weed to help the struggling populations of butterflies. I am attaching two links below. One it about the plant and one is about the important role it plays in the Monarch's life cycle.</p> <p>http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/common_milk_weed.htm</p> <p>http://ontariowildflowers.com/main/species.php?id=84</p>
July 2019		Thank you for your reply of July 10th. You thought it might be a type of evening primrose, but needed a clearer photo. I hope this one, taken at 10:15 this morning, is better able for you to identify it. At present, I have about six plants. Each seems to show only one flower at a time. I appreciate your help.	I wrote the person back to confirm that is a oenothera or evening primrose.

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July 2019



I have a mystery plant in my garden. I live near Bloor and Ossington. I have a small backyard garden where I grow veggies, shrubs and flowering plants. This year a new plant showed up. I did not plant it. It is now about 6 feet tall, had broad leaves and seems very healthy. It just developed something that looks like a bloom. Hour you can see it in the photo.
A neighbour several houses away says he has the same volunteer plant in his yard.
Please let me know what it is, whether it is a threat to other plants, is it poisonous et .

Hi again. Thanks for that addition information. Yes, I was worried about the possibility that your plant was Japanese knotweed, so that is why I had hoped for a little more information to confirm. Since you've read about knotweed, you do know the challenges associated with that plant. I have included some addition links below for more information on control. If it is Japanese knotweed, you will want to keep a close eye on it over the new few years.

There is another possibility which would be a little less stressful for you. There is a similar plant called Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*). Pokeweed is sometimes grown as a food for its young greens, but it becomes toxic as it grows. The roots are also toxic to animals and humans. It's a particularly problem for farmers who may have animals that forage in fields.

It has slightly different flowers to the Japanese knotweed. The flowers are also greenish-white, but they grow in a more more prominent, a little larger in a more upright cluster. If you follow the links to both the Japanese knotweed info and the pokeweed info you will see the differences. Both have hollow stems. The pokeweed has a very large taproot, whereas the knotweed tends to have a more fibrous "knotty" rhizomous root system. The pokeweed is not nearly as invasive or troublesome as the Japanese knotweed, but it should be controlled because of its toxicity to people and animals. The links I've included have more information on control of pokeweed. Pokeweed also has a large taproot. If pokeweed gets to the fruiting stage, it will have almost grape like clusters of dark ovoid berries. Again, sorry for the confusion that caused the delay in response. Please don't hesitate to submit follow up questions through the Master Gardner site. I won't be able to monitor this email address, so its best that you address any new inquiries through the site and another Master Gardener on shift will be able respond.

Pokeweed

links:<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/pokeweed.htm>


<http://ontariowildflowers.com/main/species.php?id=137>

[Pokeweed \(Phytolacca americana\) - Ontario Wildflowers](#)


Range map for Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*). PLEASE NOTE: A coloured species occurs somewhere in that Province/State. The entire Province/State is that Province/State it occurs.

Japanese knotweed links:




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		<p>https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/askgardener/japanese-knotweed-control/</p> <p>http://www.invadingspecies.com/japanese-knotweed/</p>  <p>Japanese Knotweed – Ontario's Invasive Species</p> <p>OFAH/OMNRF Invading Species Awareness Program Japanese Knotweed. Retrieved from factsheet may be reproduced for www.invadingspecies.com</p>



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Image	Question	Answer
<p data-bbox="205 592 235 698" style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">July 2019</p> 	<p>I have many different weeds at my backyard but one of them is quite sharp. I attached a photo of it. I was wondering what it is and if there is an effective way to remove it (in addition to pulling it out by hand).</p>	<p>The plant in question appears to be Canada Thistle. Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) is an aggressive, creeping perennial weed that has soft green, deeply lobed, spear-like leaves and these leaves have sharp barbs on them.</p> <p>This plant reproduces by seeds and creeping rhizomes which send up new shoots every 8 to 12 inches. It is a colony-forming weed, reproducing asexually from rhizomatous roots (any part of the root system may give rise to new plants) or sexually from wind-blown seed. The plant emerges from its roots in mid- to late spring and forms rosettes</p> <p>Canada Thistle is difficult to control because its extensive and deep root system allows it to recover from control attempts. Horizontal roots may extend 15 feet or more and vertical roots may grow 6 to 15 feet deep! Seeds may retain viability 4+ years in the soil.</p> <p>Once this weed becomes rooted the best control is to stress the plant and force it to use stored root nutrients by constant mowing and removal of above ground leaves. Find the base of the Canada thistle plant and simply snip it off at the base. Do not pull Canada thistle out, as this can split the root, which causes two Canada thistles to grow back. Check the location weekly and snip off any new growth that you may see. The idea is to force the weed to use up its energy reserves by regrowing but removing the new leaves before the Canada thistle has a chance to build its energy reserves back up</p>



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	Image	Question	Answer
August 2019		<p>Two weeks ago this plant popped up in a garden at Heath and Avenue Rd.</p> <p>Do you know what it is?</p> <p>Looks like a coarse red lettuce leaf. That's a short pink phlox beside it.</p>	<p>Your mystery plant looks somewhat like Red Mustard Greens. Now that being said, it is difficult for us to make a definitive identification from this one picture. What we suggest you do is, pick some of the leaves, place them in a sealed container with some moist paper towel wrapped around the stalks to keep them fresh and take them along to your nearest farmers market and ask a farmer who is selling various greens if he/she can make a positive identification for you.</p> <p>Whatever you do - Do not eat these leaves until you have a trustworthy positive identification.</p> <p>Good luck.</p>
August 2019		<p>This tree started by itself a few years ago and is about 15 ft high. I thought maybe it was a small tree but yesterday I noticed one in Markham and it had a sizeable trunk-maybe 30 inches. It has a distinctive brown/reddish bark. It is situated close to the street thus my concern. I couldn't find a match from several sources.</p>	<p>After scouring many Ontario tree resources, we think your tree could be a Birch, maybe a River Birch. It is very difficult to exactly pinpoint as you have not provided us with any other information such as, how big the leaves are, did the tree flower earlier in the year, are there fruit currently on the tree or sent us a photo of the bark. If it is indeed a River Birch, these trees grow very rapidly in the first few years of life after germinating from a seed that may have been deposited in your yard by the wind or more likely, animals. They can grow to be very large trees and can be very long lived so if you don't have the space to let it get to maturity, I would suggest you contact a certified arborist or tree care professional to do an on-site identification and to discuss your options for removal. If you do not know an arborist, a good starting point would be contacting Landscape Ontario for recommendations, see the link below.</p>
August 2019			<p>We believe the tree you are describing, with its distinctive "squared off" leaf, is the <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>, whose common names are Tulip Tree or Yellow Poplar. The yellow poplar weevil is likely the insect pest that is responsible for the holes you have observed in its leaves.</p> <p>Here is a Toronto-based webpage that will help to identify this tree: http://canadiantreetours.org/species-pages/Tulip-tree.html</p>



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	Image	Question	Answer
August 2019		<p>I am wondering what this plant is. it stands relatively tall, about to my hip and i am 5'5' . The leaves are a dark green, in a pointed oval shape, with the under side being lighter and almost suede in texture. The plant has this bulb type thing on it that is really soft with soft little spikes coming out facing downward. The bulb thing is a light green. When i picked the bulb off the plant it has a lot of milky white liquid. Pulling it apart it looks like a seed pod.</p>	<p>The picture you sent us is Common Milk Weed, <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>.</p> <p>Milkweeds are a native plant and are the only plants that the Monarch Butterfly can lay their eggs on so essential for the caterpillars survival. There has been a push lately to promote growing milk weeds to help the struggling populations of butterflies. Do be careful with the white milky sap as many find it irritating to the skin. If you look closely at the leaves you maybe lucky enough to spot some Monarch caterpillars.</p> <p>I am attaching two links below. One is about the plant and one is about the important role it plays in the Monarch's life cycle.</p> <p>http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/common_milk_weed.htm</p> <p>https://local.extension.umn.edu/local/steele/county-agriculture-educator/article/leave-your-milkweed-monarch-caterpillars-munch</p>
August 2019		<p>I found this in our park here in Toronto and I wonder if you can tell me what it is?</p>	<p>Which park did you find this plant in? Was it in a flower bed or kitchen garden? In full sun or shade? Do you have a photo of the entire plant (if not, what does the plant as a whole look like?)?</p> <p>Some possibilities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • red or burgundy Amaranth • Purpleleaf Sandcherry (<i>Prunus x cistena</i>) • Iresine, also known as the Bloodleaf plant • burning bush • European spindle tree • Cornus 'Kesselringii'



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August 2019		<p>This plant is growing suddenly beside my rugosa rose and I have no idea what it is.</p>	<p>Has this plant flowered at all since you've noticed it? It does look like you have a black locust tree seedling growing beside your rugosa rose. This is an invasive species. More information, including how to handle this tree can be found on the following websites:</p> <p>http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Black_Locust_BMP.pdf</p> <p>https://treacanada.ca/resources/tree-killers/black-locust</p>
August 2019		<p>We're still relatively new to our house. We have this plants that looks like a small pine tree but it is softer and dies down in the fall like a perennial. It likes the sun and grows to approx 12" tall. Can you help us identify it and how to care for it?</p>	<p>Thanks for contacting Toronto Master Gardeners. From the picture the plant looks like a euphorbia-cyparissas or Cyprus spurge. Cyprus spurge is a rhizomatous perennial which typically grows to 12" tall. Numerous lime yellow tiny flowers appear in umbel-like clusters in spring. It can spread rapidly by rhizomes to become a ground cover. It also reseeds. In rich moist soils it can be invasive. Trimming away the old flowering stems before they set seed keeps volunteers under control.</p> <p>The best place to grow it is in a dry well-drained soil in full sun on a slope away from other perennials.</p> <p>Please note: The white, milky sap of the plant is toxic. It causes a rash and possible blistering on contact. Getting any of the sap in your eyes is painful, and can even cause blindness. The plant is also toxic if eaten. Gloves and protective clothing are recommended when you trim the plant. For more information please see the following websites:</p> <p>http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=v680</p> <p>https://www.gardenia.net/plant/euphorbia-cyparissias</p> <p>https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/cacti-succulents/euphorbia/growing-euphorbia-plants.htm</p> <p>https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/euphorbia-cyparissias/</p> <p>https://homeguides.sfgate.com/trim-euphorbia-92451.html</p>



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	Image	Question	Answer
August 2019		<p>I have lived here for 20 years and this is the first time this plant has grown in the back yard. Please help identify what it is and is it a weed?</p>	<p>It's challenging to identify the plant from your photo, as there are lots of plants (weeds?) that look similar from the distance in your photo – it is not possible to see how the leaves are arranged with respect to one another and the stems, or if the stem is smooth, hairy or barbed. I asked a number of fellow Master Gardeners for help, and one suggested that it could be the weed Beggarticks (<i>Bidens</i> genus) – these are in the aster family and have bright yellow flowers that look like daisies. Here is an example – Common beggar-ticks (<i>Bidens frondosa</i>) Another suggestion is that this could be a spider flower (<i>Cleome</i>) – see The Spruce – Cleome profile! I'd suggest that if you like the look of the plant, let it grow until it flowers - the flowers will provide a huge clue as to its identity. As you've lived in the same place for many years, the plant is likely a weed - I find that some of my most interesting plants are "weeds" to everyone else... Please send us a photo of the plant once it flowers, we would be happy to try again to positively identify it!</p>
August 2019		<p>This plant keeps growing beside my house. I have pulled it out previously but it continues to return. Is this a tree? I am concerned about leaving it because its proximity to the foundation.</p>	<p>Mighty oaks from little acorns grow... I polled our Master Gardener team, and they unanimously agreed that this is an oak tree baby that should DEFINITELY not be planted near your house's foundation. One of my colleagues suggested it may have been "planted" by a squirrel -- likely that little fella was upset when he couldn't find his acorn treat! Even though this would grow into a tree, in your garden, it's a weed. Keep pulling it out! If it's not possible to dig it out (roots and all!) cut it to the ground every time you see it sprouting. This is NOT a good plant to have growing near your home's foundation</p>




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August 2019		<p>Can you say what plant is in the attached photo with the light pink flowers..my neighbour says it might be Chrysanthemum but is unsure</p>	<p>It is difficult to be 100% sure of a plants identity without a closeup of the plants leaf and flower structure, However I am fairly sure the light pink flower is a member of the Mallow family, <i>Malva sp.</i>This is a fairly large family of plants which also includes Hibiscus and Hollyhocks. Mallow comes in many shapes, colours and forms. The shape of the leaf in your picture is what makes me suspect you have a plant from the family. Most Mallow are perennials or biennials and most spread fairly easily by seed. I am attaching a link to help you see if this is the correct ID.</p> <p>https://www.wildflowers-and-weeds.com/Plant_Families/Malvaceae.htm</p> <p>The Chrysanthemum looks to be to the left of the mallow in the picture. It is early yet for Chrysanthemums to be blooming, they bloom in the fall.</p>
August 2019		<p>Not sure if this is the right place to ask but not finding much else. Would like to ID the plant in the attached picture. I have lots growing here in Ottawa. It's a weed from the definition that I didn't plant it, it made its own decision on where to live. The question is, do I move it or rip it out?</p>	<p>It looks like you have common burdock growing on your property. You are correct in identifying it as a weed; in fact, it is considered an invasive species. Further information on this plant can be found on the following websites:</p> <p>Ontario Wildflowers</p> <p>http://ontariowildflowers.com/main/species.php?id=165</p> <p>Fletcher Wildlife Gardens, Ottawa - Invasive Species Factsheet</p> <p>http://ofnc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Burdock-Factsheet-Final-Eng.pdf</p>



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	Image	Question	Answer
August 2019		<p>Sorry to add to your workload! I can write back to my friend in detail if you have some ideas about what this is. It's growing in a wild-ish meadow on a cottage property near Haliburton. Well-drained. The leaves seem to be alternate with "large teeth with smaller intervening teeth". My leading suspects are some kind of pincherry (prunus variety), or the hackberry -- celtis australis or celtris occidentalis -- which is a relative of elms, or maybe even eastern cottonwood (unlikely).</p>	<p>I have spent a couple of hours looking at various possibilities. First, I also thought that the shrub in question could be hackberry. Hackberry leaves are sharply toothed, shiny green, paler underside, with 3 distinct veins at base where it meets stalk. The one key is that hackberry have asymmetrical leaf bases. I could tell from your photo if the leaves are asymmetrical at the base.</p> <p>If the leaves are not asymmetrical at the base then I think that the shrub in question could be beaked hazelnut, <i>Corylus cornuta</i>. The leaves of <i>C.cornuta</i> are green, rounded oval with a pointed tip, coarsely double-toothed, 5–11 cm long and 3–8 cm broad, with hairy undersides. It grows in dry woodlands and at forest edges and can reach 4–8 metres. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corylus_cornuta</p>
August 2019		<p>My Dad purchased this 'basil' plant many years ago but did not note the variety. I am starting to question if it is basil. It tastes a little like basil, but a strong taste not sweet. Someone suggested to me it was hyssop but the leaves are very jagged like little teeth on the edges. Pictures of anise hyssop I find on web don't look exactly like that. It grows like a perennial, with deep root structure spreading underground. Another reason it makes me think it's not basil.</p>	<p>It is difficult to see from your photograph the colour of the flowers, however the square angular stem and opposite leaves puts this particular herb in the Lamiaceae (mint) family. I believe that your plant is a species of <i>Agastache</i>. If the flowers are pale purple then your herb is most likely <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> (anise hyssop).The ovate leaves of this herb are medium green with a paler green underside. They are 2.5 to 7.5 cm long (1"-3") with a serrated edge. The 10 cm (4") lavender flower spikes are made of many small, tubular flowers packed together. Each plant produces a mass of flower spikes which results in a very attractive plant. If the flowers are white then the plant in question could be <i>A. foeniculum</i> 'Alabaster'.The aromatic leaves of this herb can be harvested and used to make herbal teas or jellies.</p>

TORONTO MASTER GARDENERS ASK PLANT ID QUESTIONS

	Image	Question	Answer
August 2019		found this plant growing in a crack of my mom's south-facing driveway in Ottawa. I transplanted it into an indoor pot. I can't figure out what it is, but would love to know so that I can try to nurture it properly and figure out exactly what it needs to survive the transplant (I don't know how many of the root system I managed to extract).	What you have is type of creeping succulent. It is a part of a very large family that include Cactus and Sedums. They are wonderful, easy care plants and it is no wonder that they are gaining in popularity, especially with those who have busy lives and don't have a lot of time for high maintenance plants. Your particular plant looks like it belongs in the Echeveria group of succulents, but that is a bit of mystery as this family of succulents cannot survive winter outdoors. How it came to be in an Ottawa driveway – I cannot explain. Sempervivums (hens and chicks) and sedums can easily survive our winters, as long as they aren't in standing water for too long. These plants do not need a large root system to survive, in fact they can be propagated by sticking a leaf directly into the soil. As mentioned above, your plant will be very easy to care for, provide it with the correct planting soil, stick in a sunny window and don't over water. Here is a link to our garden guide that will give you more info on the proper care for these plants: https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/wpadmin/post.php?post=13012&action=edit
August 2019		Could you please identify this Clematis. I have never been able to find it.	From your photo I believe that the clematis in question is Clematis 'Francis Rivis' This superlative, vigorous, free-flowering variety, has pale blue nodding flowers bearing beautiful blue petals and a contrasting boss of white stamens, that open all through the spring. It is also suitable for containers. https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/56435801567249456/ This clematis appears to be readily available in England. I would begin by goggling seed companies and see if they will ship the seed to Canada.
August 2019		can you identify this plant. it grows in northwestern Ontario between Manitoba Border and Fort Frances, Ontario at present it is approx 7 ft tall, grows in grassy area close to a creek but about 4 feet above creek bed.	From your photo, I believe that this is a wild grape vine (Vitis spp) in flower. According to Ohio State University, most of the 50 or 60 species in the Vitis genus are native to eastern and central North America. Wild grapes grow in woods, on riverbanks, along fencerows, and in managed areas such as orchards, vineyards, tree plantations, and landscapes. They are perennial climbing or trailing vines with large veined leaves, forked tendrils that persist becoming dark and brittle over time, shredding bark, and fruits that are smaller than but similar in appearance to commercially available grapes. It is important to note that while grapes are beneficial to wildlife, the vines are also considered invasive and can cause problems. Grape vines grow into the tops of trees by growing up with the tree from the seedling stage or by growing into the canopy from a neighboring tree. The vines can block light from reaching the tree's leaves which slows the tree's synthesis of food causing stress or even death.

TORONTO MASTER GARDENERS ASK PLANT ID QUESTIONS

	Image	Question	Answer
August 2019		<p>Please find attached picture. The big red flower/shrub in the back. Is this something can grow in Toronto?</p>	<p>Hello! Thanks for contacting the Toronto Master Gardeners and a big thank you for enquiring about one of my favorite plants. Cannas! I assume the plant you are referring to in your photo is the tall plant with large green leaves and red flowers, if so, then yes that is a Canna. Many people refer to it as a Canna lily, but it is not a lily, surprisingly this tall majestic plant grows in a short time from a relatively small rhizome. Its striking foliage and flowers add great interest, and tropical flavour to gardens or containers but they are most at home in the Tropics and therefore will not survive our winter outdoors. However, they can easily be stored indoors overwinter and brought out once with weather has warmed up. I allow my Cannas to dry up in the late fall and lift them before a really hard frost hits. I clean the sturdy roots and cut stems to about 2 or 3 inches. I place them in a yard waste bag and tuck them in a heated garage until mid April when I plant them in a moist (but not wet) potting soil and put them in a sunny window. I plant them in a well enriched soil outside once all chance of frost is over. They tend to sulk a bit in cool springs like the one we have just had, but once warm weather hits – you can almost watch them grow! They are very easy care and they always garnish compliments from neighbours and passers by. I hope you try them! Here is a link with some more information on growing Cannas. www.torontomastergardeners.ca/askagardener/canna--i-think-they-are-called/lilies</p>
August 2019		<p>This plant grows wild in my local park, can you identify it</p>	<p>The plant in question is Cutleaf Coneflower, <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>. This herbaceous perennial is a member of the Aster family. This perennial can grows 5-8' tall with bright yellow flowers. This perennial spreads rapidly from underground rhizomes and its tall stems may need staking late in the season. Late in the season these flowers furnish necessary food to many insects for migration and overwintering. The nectar and pollen attract bees, wasps, flies and especially butterflies.</p>