

SUSTAINABLE ROOTS

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER
UPDATES | INSPIRATION | OFFERINGS



SPRING EDITION

"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also."
- Harriet Ann Jacobs

After a strange winter, we seem to be entering an even stranger spring! With a week of summer-like weather, we're back to our regular April programming, where lots of rain and even some snow is still on the table. I hope that this false start didn't prompt any early garden clean-outs, as this is still an important time for ground nesting insects. Resist the urge to cut back stems or clear out your leaves! Don't worry, gardening season is just around the corner.



Gotta catch 'em all!

I don't know about you, but this time of year can often feel like a big game of Pokemon Go for spring ephemerals! These plants are only seen during a very brief window in early spring, before the trees have fully leafed out and shaded the understory. Now is the time to explore your local forest floor for trilliums, bloodroot, spring beauties, hepatica, dutchmans breeches, and more! If you want an extra challenge, look for a more rare species of trout lily - *Erythronium albidum* or white trout lily. Compared to its yellow kin, *Erythronium americanum*, it is much less common and extra special to find. This one pictured was found at the Humber Arboretum last spring, which is a wonderful place for a spring ephemeral hunt!

DIY Pollinator Kits

It's that time of year again! Our DIY Pollinator Kits are now available for pre-order. Similar to last year, our kits will be available for pick up at select markets throughout the GTA. A complete list with dates is below.

This year, we have 3 distinct kits: Meadow, Shade, and Rain. Our Meadow kit will have species of drought-tolerant, sun loving species, our Shade kit will have some woodland and shade-tolerant species, and our Rain kit will have plants that can collect rain and stormwater runoff when planted in a low-lying area or near a downspout (learn more about rain gardens [here](#)).

Each kit will contain 6 different species, for 15 plants total, with the option to add 10 extra plants for only \$50. This year we have partnered with BIOS Nutrients in order to provide some extra support for your plants! In addition to our favourite soil amendment, Jocelyn's Soil Booster, we will now have the BIOS Fertilizer and Plant Probiotic. The Fertilizer helps to add microbes to spent soil, so we recommend it along with our Meadow kit. The Plant Probiotic can help with the common plant disease powdery mildew, which is especially prevalent on monarda species. We recommend it for our Shade kit. Each kit will come with one of these three plant products of your choice.

Pre-order today to guarantee your Pollinator Kit!

[ORDER HERE](#)



Market Dates

Saturday April 22nd - Markham Earth Day (179 Enterprise Blvd, Markham) 10am-3pm

Sunday May 7th - Toronto Reptile Expo (6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga) 10am-4pm

Saturday May 13th - Stouffville Farmers Market (6240 Main St., Whitchurch-Stouffville) 9am-2pm

Saturday May 20th - Markham Farmers Market (Main St. Markham) 9am-1pm

Saturday May 27th - Whitevale Spring Festival (405 Whitevale Rd., Pickering) all day

Tuesday May 30th - Cabbagetown Farmers Market (191 Winchester St., Toronto) 3pm-7pm

Saturday June 10th - Withrow Park Farmers Market (725 Logan Ave, Toronto), 9am-1pm

Tuesday June 13th - Cabbagetown Farmers Market (191 Winchester St., Toronto) 3pm-7pm

Saturday June 17th - Withrow Park Farmers Market (725 Logan Ave, Toronto), 9am-1pm

Upcoming Events

Markham Earth Day

We are so excited to be attending the City of Markham's Earth Day event on Saturday April 22nd! We will be there with our pollinator kits, but we will also have some giveaways and games for those in attendance. There will be so many amazing earth-centric vendors and activities for kids, and it's completely free to attend! We hope to see you there!

[MORE INFO](#)



"Working with Invasives"

Eat your weeds! Our second installment of 'Working with Invasives - Garlic Mustard' will be hosted at the High Park Nature Centre on Saturday May 6th. Our outdoor educator Reid will be taking a deep dive into Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). We'll be learning identification tips, proper management strategies, and how to prepare it into yummy dishes! There will be samples to try, recipes to bring home, AND an opportunity to help remove some invasive species at our beautiful host site. This will be an afternoon of learning AND stewardship!

For more information and to register:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Conservation Day

This year we have the honour of facilitating a plant walk for Oakvillegreen's Conservation Day! Join Reid on an inspiring, educational, and thought-provoking walk and talk about plants and their unique role in our urban green spaces.

The half-day event will be held at the beautiful grounds of Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre on **June 24th** and will offer attendees a number of interactive sessions, outdoor nature walks and hands-on activities for kids. We hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Who's been inspiring us?



Earth Tracks

Alexis Burnett "is a Naturalist, Tracker, Herbalist, Wilderness Skills Practitioner and Canoe Guide from Orangeville, Ontario." He runs the Outdoor School and Wilderness Canoe Tripping company, Earth Tracks. For many years now, we have been following Alexis Burnett's work in the plant and nature connection world. We've connected with him through his work with Heartwood Gathering and through his consulting with OrganiGrow Canada. Now, we have the opportunity to have him as a mentor through his Wild Plant Apprenticeship program. Each month we will be diving deep into the world of plants, with Alexis' guidance, and we're so excited to be able to bring what we learn to better our work with Sustainable Roots.

[WEBSITE](#)

We're Hiring!

Our small but mighty team is growing! If you like working outside, are knowledgeable about local plants, and would like to help restore local greenspaces, this may be the job for you!

We're hiring two Ecological Restoration Technicians for the 2023 season. This is a huge step for our small business to be expanding in this way. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in this position, please send along a cover letter and resume to our posting on [GoodWork.ca](#)

[APPLY HERE](#)



WE'RE HIRING



Apply at [GoodWork.ca](#) with a cover letter and resume

Join our team today!



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