



The Green Thumb Print

Green Thumb News and Topics of Interest to Community Gardeners in New York City

November 2002

The bulletin of Green Thumb, a program of City of New York Parks & Recreation

GreenThumb Grant Makes a Splash

There is something different about the corner of President St and Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Perhaps the leaves are changing, or the flowers beds are put to rest. Winter is creeping up on us and the colors of nature are a little muted. Despite such changes, it is still a very colorful corner full of the vibrant colors of nature. And then it becomes clear. It is the fanciful new mural that graces the wall of the Greenspace@President Street Garden!

The show-stopping, head-turning “Goldenrod Blossom” mural designed by Pasqualina Azzarello was realized “from our research on Goldenrod. The plant name Solidago is from the Latin solidare, which means to make whole, which is so important to me in New York City 2002,” said Azzarello.

The mural was created as a means to engage the community with the growing presence of the garden as a community resource. It was meant to “beautify the space and increase the interaction between gardeners and the neighborhood block”, said Judy Janda of Greenspace. Membership increased this past summer with evening movie screenings that brought in as many as 40 to 50 local residents for each showing. Judy wrote to GT and excitedly relayed that the “plants are simultaneously in bloom at this very moment with a profusion of blue-purple asters and our signature goldenrods. Definitely a showstopper for pedestrians and vehicles as they see both mural and blooms.”

The mural was made possible by the GreenThumb Plant & People Grant. Thanks to Pasqualina Azzarello and all those involved for their beautiful work.



Designer Pasqualina Azzarello (left) with painters Wilgen Lopez and Anthony Taveras in front of the mural they created at the Greenspace on Fifth Ave at President St in Park Slope. Titled “Goldenrod Blossom,” the mural reflects the native plant orientation of the new garden. The mural faces Fifth Ave and is visible to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

- Photo courtesy of The Brooklyn Papers/Greg Mango

**The GreenThumb Plant & People Grant
is currently on hold.**

**Please look in your mail for further
information regarding the program
this spring.**

Fall Bulb Giveaway

BULB PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Spring-flowering bulbs must be planted in our area in October or early November to ensure proper root development- soil temperatures should be below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. They need an in-ground cooling period to reach full maturity.

2. Soil must be well-drained. Loosen soil with a spade, then condition soil with bone meal, about a handful (1 oz.) per square foot. Compost should be added as well.

3. Plant the bulbs:

- Larger bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, should be planted 8 inches deep and spaced 4 to 6 inches apart.
- Smaller bulbs, like crocuses and muscari, should be planted 5 inches deep and spaced 1 to 2 inches apart.
- Plant bulbs pointed tips up, cover with soil, and water.
- Mulch and water the area again, but don't overwater.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

1. When the plants emerge from the ground in the spring, re-fertilize with compost.

2. After flowers die, cut them off, but allow the other foliage to die naturally.

3. Some people remove the bulbs in late spring and store them in a cool, dry place. When ready, bulbs should have a couple of inches of top growth; check for healthy root development by gently turning the bulbs.

4. Others allow them to just stay in the ground all year- daffodils, crocus, and muscari do best with this method. In any case, to bloom again the following season, tulips need to be dormant 12-14 weeks, Daffodils/Narcissi 10-12 weeks, Hyacinths 6-10 weeks, and Crocus 6-10 weeks.

5. You can also plant them indoors for winter color, after they have been dormant the recommended period of time.

Bulbs offered at GreenThumb's 2002 Fall Bulb Giveaway include Allium Sphaerocephalon, Allium Globe Master, Narcissus White Lady, Narcissus Actaea, Tulip Angelique, Tulip Banja Luca, Hyacinth Carnegie, Galanthus Nivalus, Muscari Blue Spike, Crocus Mixed, and Fritillaria Rubra.

The following is the giveaway schedule for this year's bulbs. Workshops are outdoors. Please dress for the weather.

Bronx:

When: Wednesday, November 13th, 6:30 pm
Workshop starts at 6:30 and led by Luis Lemos of Bronx Green-Up

Location: New York Botanical Garden, Watson Building, Room 101, 200th St and Southern Blvd.

Directions: #4 or D train to Bedford Park Blvd Station. Walk east on Bedford Park to the Botanical Garden. Bx19 Bus up Southern Blvd.

Manhattan:

When: Wednesday, November 13th, 4 pm.
Workshops will be held at 4 pm and 5:30 pm. Workshops are hands-on and includes demonstration. Led by Susan Fields of GreenThumb and Lars Chellberg of the Council on the Environment of NYC.

Location: El Sitio Feliz/Union Settlement Community Garden, 203 E 104th St, b/w 2nd & 3rd Aves.

Directions: 6 train to 103rd St. M101, M 102, M103 to 103rd St

Queens:

When: Thursday, November 14, 4 - 6 pm. Workshop led by Alice Brooke Wilson and Harold Paynter.

Location: Sutphin Boulevard Gardens, Sutphin Blvd & 115th Ave. Alternate location in case of rain or cold: Better Business Community Center, 115-47 Sutphin Blvd (directly across the street from the garden).

Directions: E, F, or J train to Archer Ave. Q60 bus to 115th Ave.

Brooklyn:

When: Friday, November 15, 3:30 - 6:30 pm
Giveaway starts at 3 pm, workshop starts at 5:30 pm. Workshop led by Julie Warsowe of BBG.

Location: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave

Directions: Q local or Q express trains to Prospect Park station; 2 or 3 trains to Eastern Parkway. B41, B43, B48, and B71 bus to Flatbush Avenue or Eastern Parkway.

Correction in October 2002 GreenThumb Print:

David Vimont was the design intern for El Jardin del Paraiso, **not** David Schmidlock.

Mum's the Word

Gardeners have been enjoying mums for over 2000 years since the ancient Chinese first cultivated them. Today, we still enjoy these vibrant mums that add fiery color to the fall. Mums bloom in fall because the shortening days (and lengthening nights) of late summer trigger flowering. Some react more quickly than others, and these are the early bloomers. The best time to plant chrysanthemums is in the spring, though you also can plant them through summer and into early fall. The earlier you plant, the longer your mums will have to develop good root systems—a crucial factor in determining winter hardiness. All chrysanthemums need full sun in the North.

Here's how to help them survive their first winter in the ground.

1. Select bushy, well-branched plants with small, leafy stems emerging from the base of the plants, or sprouting around the edge of the pot.
2. Choose a very well-drained location. More fall-planted mums die from root rot than from the effects of low temperatures.
3. Dig a planting hole twice as wide as the plant's rootball.
4. Set each plant in the planting hole 1 inch deeper than it grew in its nursery pot; spread out the roots.
5. After cold weather kills the flowers and leaves, water only if the soil becomes very dry. Trim back tops very slightly, mostly to remove dead blossoms.
6. Leave plants unmulched until Christmas. If by then you have no snow cover, lay conifer boughs over the plants' crowns.
7. Should you decide to move your mum, wait until near the time of your last spring frost. That's the best time to dig and divide any garden chrysanthemum.
8. When growth resumes in spring (or just after transplanting), work 1/4 cup of low-nitrogen fertilizer (such as a 10-10-10) into the soil around each plant.

For more info, go to www.garden.org.



Add a splash of color and toss some mums into your garden.

Conservatory Garden Mum Toss 2002

Tuesday, November 12, 9 am

Conservatory Garden's North Garden

106th St & Fifth Ave, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 train to 110th St.

2002 hardy Korean Chrysanthemums will be available to all. Many glorious colors to choose from; each plant unique! Bring your own bags and tools, as our supplies are limited. Transplant as soon as possible into your garden in as sunny an area as you can provide (deep shade is not an option). Many of these plants are large and can be divided before planting. Next year when your plants reach 12" in height, cut them back by half, so they'll branch out more fully. Cut them back by one third again before mid-August for even more buds. Give them an inch of water per week and be patient until mid-October, then stand back. Please note that children under 18 are not permitted in the mum beds. Vehicles may not be driven into the park to pick up plants.

Reminder!

**The GreenThumb warehouse is now closed
for the season.**

**It will re-open after the
2003 GreenThumb GrowTogether in March.**