



## BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE



Photo by Jon Clayton, CVC

Before you eat your next meal, think about this: One third of all the food we eat is produced with the help of pollinators. Close to 80 per cent of all flowering plants need insects or other animals for pollination. Without pollinators many of our favourite foods wouldn't exist. Imagine life without coffee or chocolate!

Pollinators include certain birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals and most importantly bees.

Most familiar is the European honeybee, however there are hundreds of native bees in Ontario that pollinate. Many native bees live in solitude for only a single season before they die. They gather pollen and store it in a nest for their offspring to eat during winter. Native bees make their nests in holes within wood, hollow plant stems or in tunnels dug into the soil.

Both honeybee and native bee populations have declined in recent years. Food source depletion, destruction of nesting sites, disease and unintended insecticide poisoning are to blame.

*What can you do to help?* Ensure that our native pollinators have a place to call home.

Create a pollinator patch in your garden to provide a food source for our native bees. Plant multiple species of flowering plants to ensure that you have some in bloom from early spring through to fall. Clumping similar species together will help bees pollinate more efficiently. In the fall, leave all dead plant material in the garden. Your bees may be nesting in the stems.

Construct bee nests. Drill different sized holes six inches deep into dead trees or blocks of untreated wood. Alternatively, you can collect the dead hollow stems from different grasses or bamboo, cut them to six inches in length and tie them up in a bundle with string. Place the bundle in a plastic pale or wooden box to protect the stems from the sun and rain. Install your bee nest facing east or south-east and replace the hollow stems every year. For ground nesting bees, leave soil bare or nearly bare in a location with full sun for bees to nest in.

Limit the use of insecticides and use best practices when applying. Insecticides are intended to kill unwanted insects but they often kill beneficial insects like bees. If you use insecticides first ensure that you have a pest

problem and apply the product in accordance with the manufacturer's label, avoiding times when plants are in bloom and attractive to bees.

### POLLINATOR WORKSHOP

Learn more about why bee health is in decline and what you can do to help reverse this trend.

Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Terra Cotta Watershed Learning Centre

Cost: Free  
Register at: [creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events)

### INSIDE STORY

### PLANT ME INSTEAD

Find a variety of native plants, trees and shrubs to add to your backyard or garden this spring. They look great and are essential to a healthy countryside.





## PLANT ME INSTEAD

With the warm winds of spring finally here, we find ourselves drawn outdoors into our backyards, gardens and forests to experience nature's reawakening. The colourful blossoming of wildflowers like the trillium and trout lily are a welcoming contrast to the bleak browns and greys of late winter. For many, this is the start of gardening season. When choosing trees, shrubs and flowers for your garden or landscaping it's important to think about protecting the diversity of native plants in our countryside.

Non-native invasive plants are the second greatest threat to our planet's biodiversity - right behind habitat loss. Invasive plants are introduced species from outside of North America that are highly adaptable and can out-compete native species for nutrients, water and space. This happens at the expense of native plant communities that evolved over thousands of years to perform specific ecological functions. Conserving our native biodiversity will help maintain a healthy and sustainable network of natural areas that provide clean air, water and soil.

As you rediscover your backyard and garden this spring, consider planting native alternatives for some of the common invasive plants sold at local garden centres or perhaps even growing on your property. Choosing a native alternative will enrich your landscape and help contribute to a healthy countryside.



### AVOID:



#### **Norway Maple**

- Creates dense, shaded conditions and alters soil composition to eliminate other plants
- Varieties sold under names crimson king and emerald king

### AVOID:



#### **Goutweed**

- Herbaceous groundcover that spreads rapidly and densely, choking out all other plants
- Spread primarily by roots but also by seed

### AVOID:



#### **Periwinkle**

- Distinctive herbaceous groundcover. Grows in dense mats that choke out other plants
- Spread primarily by roots

### CHOOSE:



1

#### **Freeman's Maple**

- Fast-growing
- Excellent shade tree
- Beautiful fall colour
- Often sold as autumn blaze maple



2

#### **Hackberry**

- Fast-growing
- Leaves turn yellow in fall
- Berries are an excellent food source for wildlife

### CHOOSE:



#### **Wild Ginger**

- Easy to grow herbaceous perennial
- Spreads quickly
- Makes an excellent cover in shady areas



#### **Barren strawberry**

- Easy to grow herbaceous perennial
- Showy yellow flowers bloom in May/June

### CHOOSE:



3

#### **Bearberry**

- Low, woody evergreen shrub
- Produces drooping clusters of white-pink flowers in May/June



#### **Bunchberry**

- Low, erect herbaceous perennial with a single white flower in spring and scarlet berries in fall
- Requires rich soils

All tree and plant alternatives are taken from the CVC brochure - *Invasive Garden Plants & Alternatives*. Please visit [creditvalleyca.ca/invasives](http://creditvalleyca.ca/invasives) for a full list of invasive plant alternatives.

Photo Credits: 1. Sheridan Nerseries, 2. Northscaping and Connon Nurseries, 3. Northscaping and Connon Nurseries

## from the *Expert*



**CVC Acting Escarpment Outreach Coordinator, Karen Buckle, on septic system maintenance**

To avoid a septic system disaster, follow the six tips below and consider joining us at our Well and Septic Social on June 15.

### **Top Six Septic Tips:**

1. Pump and inspect your tank every three to five years. Clean effluent filters every four to six months.
2. Upgrade your tank to code by adding risers and effluent filters.
3. Don't put feminine sanitary products, diapers, hazardous household chemicals, paint or fats like bacon grease down the drain. Make sure your family and guests know the rules.
4. Septic additives with performance enhancing claims are not required for a septic system to function normally.
5. Protect the area around your septic system from:
  - compaction by heavy vehicles
  - penetration by tree roots
  - saturation from emptying swimming pools
6. Know the signs and symptoms of a failing system and act immediately:
  - pooling in grass over septic bed
  - high bacteria counts in yours or your neighbour's well water
  - slow drains or wastewater backing up into your house
  - bad odour inside or outside home

### **WELL AND SEPTIC SOCIAL**

Sat., June 15, 9 am to noon  
5 Dodds Court, Orangeville. Cost: Free  
Register at: [creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events)

## Did You Know?



Unused private water wells may transport contaminants deep into the earth where they can pollute our ground water, which many of us rely on for drinking water. Funding programs are available to help decommission old wells. Contact a CVC Stewardship Coordinator to learn more.

### **REWARD YOURSELF FOR BEING A COUNTRYSIDE STEWARD**



### **WIN \$75 WORTH OF NATIVE PLANTS**

Many rural landowners are doing their part to protect the natural environment. We'd love to hear what you're doing!

**Step 1:** "Like" Credit Valley Conservation on Facebook.

**Step 2:** Post what you are doing on our wall, starting with "I'm protecting the land I love by..."

**Step 3:** Feel good about doing your part to maintain a greener, healthier countryside.

Need some ideas? Visit [creditvalleyca.ca/countrysidestewardship](http://creditvalleyca.ca/countrysidestewardship) for tips on how you can be a good countryside steward.

Not on Facebook? Email us about your conservation activities and we'll post them for you!

*Contest rules: Participants should live in the Credit River watershed. The winner will be announced on Facebook or by email and be presented with a \$75 gift certificate towards the purchase of native plants. Contest ends June 30, 2013.*

### Private Landowner **Invasive Plant Removal Service**

#### **CVC CAN HELP:**

- Attract more wildlife to your property
- Improve the health of your forest and natural areas
- Increase diversity of native plants and wildflowers on your property



For more information contact Zoltan Kovacs, CVC Forester, at 905-838-1832 or [zkovacs@creditvalleyca.ca](mailto:zkovacs@creditvalleyca.ca).

### **CVC'S AQUATIC PLANTING SERVICES** for **LANDOWNERS** *Let us do the work for you*



It's easy to enhance your pond with aquatic plants. Credit Valley Conservation offers low-cost aquatic planting services.

For more info, call 1-800-668-5557 x427



## FARM GATE

*Adopt an Integrated Pest Management Program and improve your bottom line*



Photo by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food and the Ministry of Rural Affairs

Many producers apply pesticides according to a spray schedule or at certain times of the year to prevent the appearance of a pest. The result is inefficient use of pesticide that could affect your farm's financial bottom line. Adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices on your farm can help increase profit and protect the natural environment.

IPM is a five step process that you can apply to either a conventional or organic farm. It involves pest identification, pest monitoring, determining thresholds, assessing methods of control and evaluating your IPM program success. Each step is described below.

**Identification** – periodically scout your fields at various crop growth stages to allow for early detection. Identify any damage caused and the pest responsible. If you cannot identify the pest, visit [guelphlabservices.com](http://guelphlabservices.com) for reference materials or services that can assist you. Once the type of pest is determined, research and gain an understanding of its life cycle and habits.

**Monitoring** – once a pest is detected, regular monitoring is required. Keep detailed records of the presence and extent of the pest as well as the damage it caused.

**Thresholds** – determine the action threshold. This is the point where the cost to do nothing exceeds the cost to control the pest.

**Control** – research and employ one or more control options. Pest control options include mechanical, cultural, biological, genetic or chemical. For more information, visit [omafra.gov.on.ca](http://omafra.gov.on.ca)

**Evaluation** – determine if your actions were effective. Predict future pest problems.

To learn more about IPM and how to start your farm's IPM program, visit the CropIPM online resource at: [omafra.gov.on.ca/IPM](http://omafra.gov.on.ca/IPM) or contact Mark Eastman, CVC Agricultural Extension Coordinator at 1-88-668-5557 or [meastman@creditvalleyca.ca](mailto:meastman@creditvalleyca.ca).

### PEEL ENVIRONMENTAL FARM TOUR

Join the Peel Rural Water Quality Program partners on a **free** tour of four farms with interesting environmental projects.

Mon. May 27, 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Meet at Broadway Farm's Market  
12506 Heart Lake Rd, Caledon

Register at: [creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events)

## COMING EVENTS

**Register at:**  
[creditvalleyca.ca/events](http://creditvalleyca.ca/events)

### Peel Environmental Farm Tour

Mon. May 27, 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Farms throughout Peel

Registration required

**Cost: free**

### East Credit Community Tree Planting & BBQ

Sat. June 1, 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ken Whillans Resource Management Area, Caledon

**Cost: free**

### Well & Septic Social

Sat. June 15, 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mono

Registration required

**Cost: free**

### Pollinator Health: Why Care and How to Help

Sat. July 20, 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Terra Cotta Watershed Learning Centre

**Cost: free**

### Help Protect Terra Cotta from Invasive Species

Sat. June 22, 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Terra Cotta Conservation Area

**Cost: free**

*CVC Countryside Stewardship programs are available to residents and landowners within the Credit River watershed. Our neighbouring Conservation Authorities offer similar programs. We would be pleased to direct those who live outside the Credit River watershed to the appropriate agency.*



CVC was established in 1954 with a mandate to protect natural resources in the Credit River watershed. We have been working for almost 60 years with our partner municipalities and stakeholders to protect and enhance our land and water for present and future generations.