

A POSY PICKER'S PAPER

New Meadows Garden Club

Topsfield, Massachusetts

September 2022



Check out this month's Green Thumb Corner to learn more about the European tradition "Telling the Bees."

Welcome to our club's sixty-third year!

And a warm welcome to our newest member, Roberta Sapienza!

September 30 -October 10



The annual Topsfield Fair is back once again this year with all its usual excitement! If you decided to go, be sure to see the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts Standard Flower Show "Screenshots Capture Your Memories" and the Topsfield Garden Club's exhibit, both located in the Flower Building. Also, check out the exhibits in Coolidge Hall where our "chef extraordinaire" Donna Ryan, may have some to-die-for entries!

October 6



Our members have been invited to join the Topsfield Council of Aging at their flower arranging workshop "Flowers with Tom." The class will be held at 12:30 pm at Public Hall at the Topsfield Town Hall located on the second floor. Reservations must be made with your payment of \$15.00 in cash or check to the Council On Aging Office at the Town Hall. Seats are limited so no dragging feet...make your reservations quickly! Checks should be made to Tom Capano. The workshop is approximately 25 minutes and you're sure to leave with a masterpiece!

October 21—October 23



The Massachusetts Orchid Society presents "World of Orchids, The Amazon." Orchids are my favorites, so I do love the sound of this! The show will take place at the Sons of Italy Hall, 117 Swanton Street, Winchester, MA. There will be lots of exhibits and vendors to leisurely browse through. Admission is \$10.00. Here's a link for more information : <https://massorchid.org/show>

...more news on the following page...

November 2



The Joint Meeting of the Tri-Town Garden Clubs will be held at the First Church Congregational, 4 Georgetown Road, Boxford at 6 pm. The guest speaker will be Maureen Christmas of Floral Notes, Acton, MA, who will present her program "Embracing the Holiday Season with Eco-Friendly Designs." Do mark your calendars for this special event and please watch your inbox for details about plans for our sale table at this event.

November 27



Our club will decorate the outside of the Topsfield Town Library for the holidays at 12 pm. Please mark your calendars and come by to lend a hand any time that you can spare from your busy holiday schedules!

NOTES



Just a reminder that fall is here, and with that it will soon be time for us to cut down our community gardens and put them to bed for the winter. Please be at the ready with your gardening gloves, clippers and rakes to help at the Pine Grove Cemetery Memorial Garden, the Prospect Street Island and the traffic island at Linebrook Road. More details soon!

Upcoming Events To Watch For!

*Pine Grove Cemetery Garden and traffic islands fall cleanup...date and details to follow.
Sale table preparation for the Tri-Town Garden Clubs November Joint Meeting...details to follow.
Topsfield Town Library Holiday decorating day...November 27th, 12 pm.
Topsfield Council On Aging Boxwood Tree Workshop...date and details to follow.
Centerpieces for the Topsfield Council on Aging Holiday dinner...date and details to follow.
Club Holiday Social...date and details to follow.
Mother's Day Tea Cup Sale...date and details to follow. Start collecting your cups today!*

...more news on the following page...



...Bits and pieces...

It was a beautiful day for Topsfield's Tomato Festival a few weeks ago and hopefully some of you were able to participate in the fun. As is not unusual when our star chef, Donna Ryan, enters a competition, she blew away the competition by bringing home two awards, a first for her Green Tomato Marmalade and a second for her 7 layer Mediterranean Dip. Here's a peak at her two creations...



Green tomato Marmalade



7 Layer Mediterranean Dip

Our Topsfield Civic Projects



Prospect Street Island



Pine Grove Memorial Garden



Linebrook Road Island



*Urns at the Topsfield Town Library
(Many thanks to Jane, Sandy and Claudette for creating such beauty!)*



...Green Thumb Corner follows...

Green Thumb Corner

The past few weeks have been sad ones for British citizens and indeed citizens of the entire world at the passing of much beloved Queen Elizabeth II. Unlike the time of her coronation, when one was lucky to have a TV to witness this so special event, in today's world, this is no longer a problem. Endless electronic outlets provided all of us the opportunity to visually witness the funeral of the longest reigning



*Royal Beekeeper,
John Chapple*

monarch in British history. As word spread around the globe of Elizabeth's passing, the royal beekeeper, John Chapple, traveled to Buckingham Palace and Clarence House to break the sad news to the royal bees. "Telling of the Bees" is actually a centuries-old tradition practiced in England, Ireland, Wales, Germany Netherlands, France, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and even here in the United States. It is not just a royal tradition! It is the custom to notify the honey bees of major events in the hive owner's life, such as marriage or a death. The idea is to share important news, both good and bad with them. Some feel that, if the bees aren't notified, they could possibly become very ill and stop producing honey, or move out of the hives completely because they weren't kept in the loop!

And so, Beekeeper, John Chapple, came to the royal bees with the sad news. Rather than tell the bees individually, he whispered into the hives that the Queen had died and that their new master is King Charles III. He knocked on each hive and said "The mistress is dead, but don't you go. Your master will be a good master to you." While the bees were not invited to the Queen's funeral, the beekeeper did drape black bows around the hives to signify that the bees are in mourning for the late beloved monarch. Hopefully, the bees will take the sad news well and continue to provide the honey the royal chefs use to make treats like honey madeleines, chocolate truffle filling, and honey and cream sponges, which had traditionally been served to guests at the Queen's summer garden parties. Some of the honey was also sold for charity. The Queen was a great honeybee enthusiast. Hopefully, her son, King Charles is as well!

As our growing season comes to a close here in the Northeast, we gardeners must stay aware of the first freezing temperatures if we have tender plants in our gardens and outdoor containers. I came across some great charts just recently that gives us in this area and specifically in Topsfield a general idea of first frost dates in fall and last frost dates in spring. I have included them on the following page for your reference!

And lastly for today, my fall Hummingbird update...at our house, the last Hummingbird sighting was September 8th this year...much the same as in years past. The recommendation is to keep the feeders up for about two weeks after the last sighting in case some stragglers pass through on their way to the tropics. Our feeders came down today. Bye for now, my Hummingbird friends! ♥

And a thought for the today...

Life is like a camera.

Focus on what matters most.

Capture what makes you happy.

Develop from the negatives.

And if things don't work out,

Always take another shot!

...Frost Date Chart follows...

Frost Dates: First and last frost dates for Topsfield, Massachusetts

How to read these charts for the fall

As your growing season comes to an end, the nightly temperatures for Topsfield, Massachusetts start to go down, and therefore every day that goes by increases the chance that you'll get frost. Your risk of frost really begins around September 29, and by October 18 you're almost certain to have received at least one frost event.

The charts on this page show the **probabilities** of receiving a certain temperature on a certain day. Some examples that might help:

1. You have a small 20% chance of getting 32° by October 3.
2. There is a 50% chance of being hit by a 32° frost starting around October 11
3. You have a 80% chance of seeing 32° by October 18
4. Said another way, you have a 1 in 5 chance at making it to that day without a 32° night.

In the Fall

Temperature	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
First 16°	Nov 19	Nov 24	Nov 28	Nov 30	Dec 3	Dec 6	Dec 9	Dec 12	Dec 17
First 20°	Nov 5	Nov 11	Nov 16	Nov 19	Nov 23	Nov 27	Dec 1	Dec 5	Dec 12
First 24°	Oct 18	Oct 25	Oct 30	Nov 3	Nov 6	Nov 10	Nov 14	Nov 19	Nov 26
First 28°	Oct 9	Oct 14	Oct 17	Oct 20	Oct 23	Oct 26	Oct 29	Nov 2	Nov 7
First 32°	Sep 29	Oct 3	Oct 6	Oct 8	Oct 11	Oct 13	Oct 15	Oct 18	Oct 23
First 36°	Sep 14	Sep 18	Sep 20	Sep 23	Sep 25	Sep 27	Sep 30	Oct 2	Oct 6

How to read these charts for the spring

As the growing season approaches, the days get longer, the weather begins to warm up, and the nights start being less cold. You're still getting frost, but the chance of nightly frosts gets less and less with each passing day. Eventually, the frost stops, and this is when your tender plants are fully safe. So, how do you plan for this? The **probabilities** on this page help you assess your risk of frost on any given day.

What's a safe temperature for tender plants? When the nightly temperature falls, frost can form, even above 32°, because the air is colder high above the ground and the frost can form up there and then fall down onto your garden and do some damage, even if it's 36° on the ground. So many factors come into play, including wind, concrete, houses, trees and other structures, etc Because of all this, you might want to consider 36° as "the danger zone".

In your average springtime, you have a 90% chance that there will be no 36° nights by **May 23**. In other words, you can pretty much count on being safe from frost by that day. But we want to get those tomatoes in the ground as soon as possible, right? We see that there's still an 80% chance of 36° on **May 4**, so we don't dare plant that early. We wait a few days and by **May 11** we are at the 50/50 point. At this point, we are close and we can start watching the weather forecast. If the upcoming week's forecast doesn't show below 40°, then it's probably okay to risk planting out your plants. If conditions change and a surprise frost does threaten, there's always things you can do to protect plants from frost.

In the Spring

Temperature	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%
Last 16°	Mar 31	Mar 26	Mar 22	Mar 19	Mar 16	Mar 13	Mar 10	Mar 6	Mar 1
Last 20°	Apr 5	Apr 1	Mar 29	Mar 26	Mar 24	Mar 21	Mar 18	Mar 15	Mar 11
Last 24°	Apr 12	Apr 8	Apr 5	Apr 3	Mar 31	Mar 29	Mar 27	Mar 24	Mar 20
Last 28°	Apr 28	Apr 24	Apr 20	Apr 18	Apr 15	Apr 12	Apr 10	Apr 6	Apr 2
Last 32°	May 16	May 11	May 7	May 4	May 1	Apr 28	Apr 24	Apr 20	Apr 15
Last 36°	May 23	May 19	May 16	May 14	May 11	May 9	May 7	May 4	Apr 30