



TTC
Gardening





Gardener's Corner Contents

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Gardening Team

Templeogue Tennis Club has one unique value that has stayed through the test of time and that is "the club is run 98% by Volunteers that are made up of our members".

The beautiful gardening is created, managed and maintained by the Gardening Crew. Their work really enhances the club facilities and makes it such an amazing club for members and visitors.

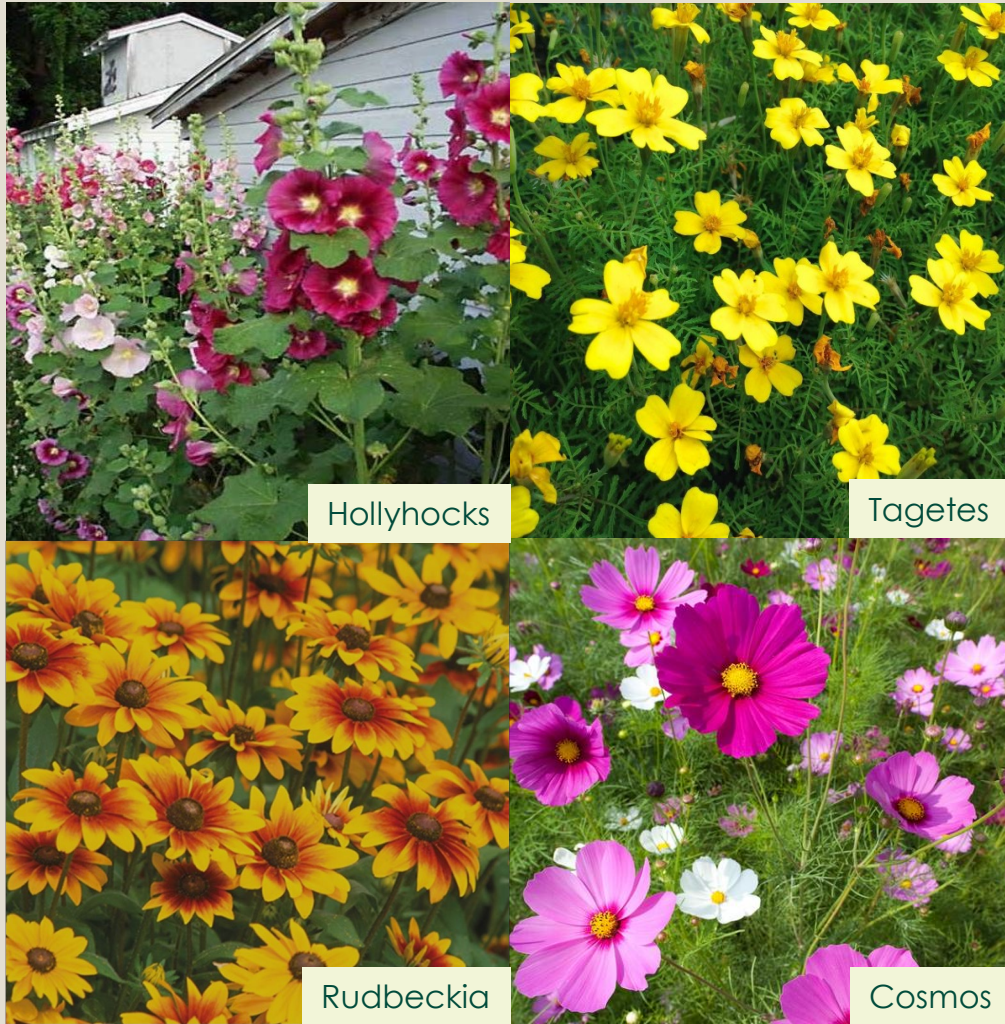


Gardener's Corner

For those who might like to plant some colourful flowers this summer it is not too late to plant seeds indoors for planting out in May. Mr Middleton and GIY will mail seed packets to homes. Some examples of seeds to sow are, Marigolds, Sweet Pea, Sunflowers, Poppies, Stock and many more.

For example the splashes of yellow beside court 5 in the club last year were Tagetes grown by our very own Des Cody. We had Hollyhocks and Cosmos around the club also grown by Des. These are grown from seed in April/May. In the raised bed to the front of the club house we had some stunning Rudbeckia grown by Colin Redmond.

So go ahead and give it a try. Get the seeds, sow in a compost tray and by May plant out in your garden. It's that easy.





Magnolia Soulangeana



Pieris 'Forest Flame'



Dicentra Spectabilis
(Bleeding Heart)



Muscari Botryoides
(Grape Hyacinth)

What is looking good in gardens now?

What is looking good in gardens now? The next time you go on your socially distanced 2km walk take a moment to look around you and enjoy some of the beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers that are putting on their best display right now.

Some of my favourites are Magnolias – yes I know they don't flower for very long but they are so spectacular at the moment I always forgive their short season of glory. Pieris is another stunning shrub with beautiful bright new foliage in Springtime.

It has the added benefit of creamy white pendulous flowers and it is evergreen – what's not to love about it? Dicentra spectabilis (Bleeding Heart) is another very reliable and well behaved perennial.

Despite its gruesome common name it has the prettiest flower structure and yes, it does resemble a bleeding heart. Look also at all the beautiful spring bulbs which are popping up in many gardens right now. Take a note of the ones you like best and make a promise to yourselves to plant them next autumn. Most of all enjoy your gardens and if you don't have one enjoy other people's gardens when out walking.

Time to plant Dahlias

While we are all living very socially distanced lives at the moment now is the time to take refuge in our gardens and maybe do a little planning for later in the summer. One of the stars of the garden in mid to late summer and indeed even well into autumn are dahlias. You have endless choice from flowers the size of dinner plates, pom–pom style heads, or more restrained single flowered varieties in a huge range of colours. You can start the tubers off indoors in pots at the moment. If you wish you can soak the tubers for about an hour in a bucket of tepid water to ensure they are fully hydrated.

Make sure you plant them with the eyes or growing points facing upwards. They may be planted out when there is no further danger of frost. Alternatively you can plant them directly into the soil but again you will need to wait until the frosts are over. I know the weather has been lovely but it is still only April and the weather in this country can always go backwards. Dig a hole that's about 6 to 8 inches deep. Set the tubers into it, with the 'eyes' facing up, fill in with soil until it is at ground level. Tall, large-flowered cultivars will require support. Choose a sunny spot to grow your dahlias as they will not perform as well in shade. I am a great believer in 'right plant, right place'.

Dahlias also prefer well drained soil so if you have heavy soil adding horticultural grit and/or garden compost will help to improve the drainage. Dead-head regularly to prolong their flowering season which will last until the first frosts. If you can cast your minds back to previous summers in the tennis club to the long raised bed facing courts 1 and 2 we have some lovely tall dahlias there which we don't have to lift in the winter. As the bed is raised the drainage is good. They get several hours of sun every day and the brick wall retains heat and give them shelter. This is a good example of 'right plant, right place'.





Where to buy Plants?

If you are going to purchase some plants or bulbs over the next few weeks may I ask you to spare a thought for local businesses please. Easygarden at Spawell are offering a very good service at the moment and will drop orders to you for a 10 euro fee or will arrange a pickup with you if you live within the permitted 2km range for walking or driving. I understand the Paint Pot are open for limited hours so I would advise phoning ahead to check. They usually have some plants and other garden requirements for sale. In Terenure The Pet Parlour stocks compost and some plants too. While Midletons are not exactly local they provide an excellent online service and have a great selection to choose from. Happy gardening.

<https://www.easygarden.ie/product-range/12/summer-stars>

Phone 4999012 or 086 0414955

The Paint Pot Orwell Shopping Centre (01) 450 9842

The Pet Parlour in Terenure (01) 492 4566

<https://www.mrmiddleton.com/summer-bulbs/>

Among the many things we are missing in the tennis club is seeing some of our projects come to fruition. One of these is a large pot placed where the corner of courts 2, 4 and 5 meet. Some months ago we planted this pot with several layers of different varieties of bulbs which is probably just coming into its full glory right now.

Flower Bulb Layering

The secret to having lovely flower displays in relatively tight spaces such as a flower pot is in layering the bulbs. This process has been referred to as creating a flower bulb lasagne. First, decide what types of bulbs you want to layer. Place a layer of compost on the bottom of the pot. The largest bulbs should be planted the deepest so they go in first. Add a couple of inches of compost, then plant the next sized bulbs at the next depth and just continue to add compost between the bulb layers as you go. If you are planting tulips it is a good idea to put a layer of horticultural grit under them as they prefer good drainage.

You don't need to be too concerned with recommended planting distances between bulbs as you are not planting to allow them space to grow over time. It is possible to have one layer coming into flower as another one fades away. You could aim for a beautifully colour coordinated scheme or just opt for a riot of colour. Have fun with it!

Unfortunately we don't have a photograph of our layered pot but these photos should give you an idea of what we were trying to achieve.

