

Cross Pollination



Wile E. Coyote (me) Versus the Deer

By Bill Kertyzia

Those of you who've been around the last fifteen years, or so, know about my constant struggle with those pesky Cootes Paradise deer.

During this period of time I've lost thousands of dollars' worth of plants, and some of those plants were NOT supposed to be on deer menus.

If you are a hunter in a rural area, you know how difficult it is to spot deer, particularly during hunting season. In our area deer are no longer afraid of the scent of human beings. The lack of predators has caused a substantial rise in the deer population, and an increase in garden damage.

Past control attempts included:

- ◆ Hanging pantyhose sacks of both dog and human hair on nearby trees, creepy and ineffective.

- ◆ Choosing plants that were "deer resistant" was partially effective, but the loss of coral bells and rhododendrons have proved that sometimes deer don't pay attention to the information that says they don't like these plants.



- ◆ Plantskydd, a repellent which smells horrible... it's extremely expensive (approximately 32 dollars a liter. The neighbours complain about the smell, but the deer didn't. And after a period of rain you have to make sure you re-spray.

And now it's Plan Z, Wiley's homemade deer spray... There are many variations, some of which I've tried with limited success. This is my latest recipe.

- ◆ In a blender place two eggs, 4 or 5 garlic cloves, and about 100 ml of water. Blend until the mixture is liquid.
 - ◆ Add in about a litre of water and 2 or 3 tablespoons of hot sauce. Blend the whole mixture for a couple minutes. Place into sealed container a let stand overnight.
 - ◆ Shake mixture well and use either a spray bottle or a regular sprayer. Make sure to re-spray after periods of rain.
- The verdict:** So far it seems to be working, ONE for Wile E Coyote and ZERO for the deer's meals.
- ◆ Spreading blood meal in the garden is a waste of time especially during wet springs and summers when the smell quickly fades away.
 - ◆ Shooting them with a pellet rifle, again ineffective since they don't even flinch. (I was tempted into upping the ante with bigger guns, but so far I haven't had the heart.)
 - ◆ Constructing a wall barrier of stakes and burlap to protect a row of emerald cedars. They broke down the wall.

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Newsletter of the Halton
Master Gardeners

Website:

<http://haltonmastergardeners.wordpress.com>

June TO DO List

- Watch for aphids on roses and pine needle sawfly
- Plant summer bulbs and tender plants
- Prune shrubs and trees after flowering.
- Prune evergreens and the candles on pines (before the buds for mon the tips)
- Put plant stakes and cages in place
- Thin seedlings
- Deadhead faded blooms
- Weed beds regularly
- Take cuttings of shrubs and perennials
- Begin to watch for lily leaf beetle.
- Make second sowing of radish and spinach

Master Gardeners of Halton

Email Help Line: haltonmastergardeners@gmail.com



Halton Master Gardeners Speakers List

Tune into Hamilton Life on Cable 14 for great gardening ideas from Halton Master Gardeners on June 18th, featuring Claudette Sims.

Advice Clinics held at RBG June 7 to June 21st, Laking Garden

Join us for our monthly speakers held at the Royal Botanical Gardens at 7:15 p.m., first Wednesday of the month.

Contact: Patty King at a_p@cogeco.ca Please note a \$5.00 fee covers speakers and refreshments.

What's in a name?

Gardening with David Marshall

“What’s in a name,” said Shakespeare, “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet”. Perhaps so, but without accurate, universal, and unique names, we may not always get the plant we expected.

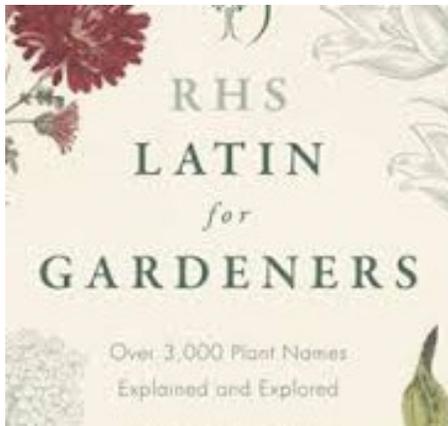
The classification and naming of plants has a long history. The first known attempts were by the Greek philosopher Aristotle around 350 BC, who used visible physical characteristics such as leaf shape, as a basis.

Many other attempts followed, but it was the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus who was responsible for our modern classification when he formulated the binomial system in the mid 1700’s. The first word represented the genus and the second word represented the specific epithet, and the two words together represented the species. Once the plant breeders got to work, it became necessary to add a third level indicating a sub species or cultivar (cultivated variety) e.g. *Cornus seracea* ‘Kelsaye’. Incidentally Linnaeus tried to classify all living things, including fifty seven dried fishes!

A plant may have several common names, and many additional names in other languages, but the Latin binomial name is universal. It means the same in any language, and can represent only one plant.

Linnaeus classified plants based on observed similarities and differences. Now have tools such as genetics, and so changes in genus are sometimes necessary. Since the rules are a bit arbitrary and loose, not

all botanists agree to the changes, and the International Committee on Spermatophyte is the final adjudicator. And gardeners don’t often change names without a fight.



Take the garden chrysanthemum for instance. A few years ago, based on the work of a Russian botanist, Nicolas Tevelov, the garden chrysanthemum was moved to the genus *Dendranthemum*. Tevelov decided that our beloved garden mum had little in common with the crown daisy, so it had to go, along with several other members of the genus which were relegated to genera such as *Nipponantheum* and *Tanacetum*.

Americans largely ignored the switch and were thus spared the heartache, but such was the uproar in other countries, even by the usually compliant Dutch, that the Committee on Spermatophyte came up with the radical solution of changing the type species to *Chrysanthemum indicum*. Thus our garden mum was restored to its rightful place and the crown daisy became *Glebious coronaria* and was banished to the *Asteracea* family.

There will always be conflict between botanists, who want to get it right, and gardeners, who also want to get it right so long as everything stays the same! All is not lost though. The Royal Horticultural Society in Britain has set up an Advisory Panel on Nomenclature and Taxonomy, whose mandate is to speak particularly for horticulturalists, restricting name changes to, in the words of one panel member, “those that are incontrovertibly proven and helpful to gardeners”.

Amen to that.