



# Haliburton County Garlic News

March/April 2017 Issue

Produced & Published

by the Haliburton County Garlic Growers Association

*As you pull back your mulch and experience the thrill of seeing your sturdy little garlic spears push through the thawing soil and reach for their life-giving sun, you are witnessing the start of the annual growth cycle of your new crop!*

*Not everyone pulls the mulch back off of their newly emerging garlic, but it has been my habit to do so and assist the air and sun to warm and dry the excess moisture out of the soil and avoid mold build up, you can check for overwinter creatures, gently push erupted cloves back into the soil and check for any winter kill and damaged plants.*

*The mulch should be spread back around the plants once a significant drying has occurred, as it will keep soil from drying out completely, protect from rapid temperature shifts in spring from damaging and deter weed growth.*

*April is the time to start building up your soil for fall planting. Seed the first green manure crop as soon as you are able to work the soil, in order to turn under in June and reseed immediately. Three plantings over the summer will enrich and loosen your soil*

*Learn to identify and recognize the leek moth in all its stages and by the damage it does to your garlic. The moth starts flying around 10 degrees C. Have your leek moth traps out for early detection. A separate sheet for printout has been added to this publication "Living with the Leek Moth - an organic approach"*

[Spring Tasks continue until scapes start forming & underground bulbs start swelling](#)

## Garlic Cream Sauce

Few things are as impressive to make as a garlic cream sauce. It's surprising that something so rich and versatile is also so fast and easy to make. Choose a traditional garlic cream sauce or roast the garlic beforehand to create a mellower garlic flavor. Whip up a batch and use it on a variety of things, from pizza and pasta to steaks and seafood.



### Basic Recipe

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 7 cloves garlic
- 1 scallion, chopped
- 1/4 cup heavy cream



Melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add the garlic and scallion and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about five minutes. Stir in the heavy cream and cook for another five minutes, until the sauce is reduced by half. **For expanded recipe and step by step video:** <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Garlic-Cream-Sauce>



**Our Garlic Pest & Disease Research** was presented by Emma Horrigan and Angel Taylor on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at "the Table" in Perth. A professional job that was well received by a packed audience that ranged from commercial growers to supporters of local foods and volunteers, all were looking to increase their knowledge in order to help their crops & bottom line as well as each other.

We cannot get ahead if we do not teach/take someone(s) with us.

## "First Annual Spring Garlic Gathering"



Partner Event with Host Abbey Gardens' Spring Festival May 6th  
Details to follow on HCGGA & Abbey Gardens Facebook pages  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Feel free to contact Deb Barnhart with your garlic/growing/project ideas & pictures to share with your garlic neighbours!

[barnhartdebbie@gmail.com](mailto:barnhartdebbie@gmail.com)

705-489-3987

*Editors' note: Amazing 17 year work and research journey is being generously shared by Paul Pospisil, editor of the Garlic News.*

## LIVING WITH THE LEEK MOTH: AN ORGANIC APPROACH

*Adapted from a paper written by Paul Pospisil, Master Gardener Emeritus*

*The Beaver Pond Estates garlic trials plots, being in an isolated opening in a forested area, were undiscovered by the leek moth for many years. The leek moth didn't arrive until the summer of 2008. In the meantime, I carried on my personal investigation and research by visits to growers that already had the pest. This enabled me to provide guidance to growers in advance of the longer-term government research projects.*

*When the leek moth did arrive, the guidance proved very useful and our garlic plots rarely suffered from more than a little sporadic damage.*

*The first issue of the paper, "Living with the Leek Moth, an Organic Approach", was written for Lanark County Master Gardeners. It appeared in the Garlic News, Spring 2005 Issue. The most recent revised and updated version follows:*

### MANAGEMENT

The basics of a good management program are:

- Identification
- Early detection
- Prevention
- Destruction
- Following good garden practices.

### IDENTIFICATION

Learn to identify and recognize the leek moth in all its stages and by the damage it does to your garlic.

### EARLY DETECTION

Inspect, inspect, inspect! Watch temperature for first emergence. Use an outdoor thermometer. The leek moth starts flying when temperatures reach 9-10 degrees C, usually about the 2nd week of April, so you must start checking daily.

The moth lays eggs singly on different plants, soon after mating. Each female deposits up to 100 eggs over her 3-4-week lifespan so the pest multiplies quickly. The eggs start hatching into larvae in 4 -10 days, depending on temperature. It's the larvae that do the damage. Watch for the signs of feeding damage by a daily or regular walk through inspection. Set out pheromone traps to find out when the moths are mating. Inspect daily as scapes form. The 2nd generation larvae bore into the scapes and their damage is easily visible.

### DESTRUCTION

Home gardeners can locate the larvae and crush them by hand. The more you find and destroy at this stage, the fewer there will be in successive generations to cause damage. You can spray with *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk), a naturally occurring bacterial disease used as an insecticide for control of moth species. However, there are doubts as to the practicality of spraying. The leek moth larvae are hatching daily and are exposed only for a day or two before boring into the plant so spraying would need to be done every two or three days for a period of 2 ½ months to work! Moving earwigs from your lettuce and flowers is a useful measure. These omnivores feed on both larvae and pupae.

## LIVING WITH THE LEEK MOTH: AN ORGANIC APPROACH

### PREVENTION

Consider using floating nylon row cover to prevent the moths from laying eggs on the garlic. Trials conducted by the Ottawa Valley Leek Moth Project showed limited success on a 1-acre plot of garlic. Trials at Beaver Pond Estates were less successful as high winds destroy the flimsy material.

Carefully inspect your own seed garlic and that sold or given to others to prevent further spread. Braids require special attention.

### FOLLOW GOOD GARDEN PRACTICES

At scaping time, bum or deep-bury any scapes found with evidence of the leek moth.

At harvest time, carefully inspect each plant for damage, cocoons or the larvae as you handle it. Set aside damaged ones for examination. Bum or deep-bury all residues from harvesting and cleaning of bulbs. Right after harvest, till or turn under the soil in garlic plot to destroy any cocoons or eggs on the surface. Inspect all other alliums in your field or garden. The leek moth attacks leeks, onions, chives, shallots and even flowering alliums.

Check garlic curing and storage areas. Hang a pheromone trap for detection and use one of those electronic zappers to kill flying moths.

DONT PANIC if you discover the leek moth in your beautiful garlic. With the spread of this pest, it's only a matter of time before it will find your plot.

For the future, the parasitoid research promises to come up with an effective biological control method to reduce leek moth populations. This project is still at field trials stage so the final results are yet to come. The leek moth is here to stay. Prudent growers will implement a pest management program to minimize crop loss from this pest.