



Douglaston Garden Club May Newsletter

Dear Members,

I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter but with our Annual Luncheon planning and other events, I have fallen behind in getting this out.

The Luncheon was beautiful and all of us must thank Gloria Brehl as Luncheon Chairperson. We are especially grateful to the Raffle Committee and Ways and Means for their tireless efforts. At our next meeting on May 19, 2026, Gloria will be giving a full report on the financial outcome from the Luncheon.





Here is the Hospitality List for May 19, 2026

Tea Sandwiches

Sarah Milunec Sheri Roman Maura Wrynn Nell Wrynn

Cookies

Margarita Autz Ruth Harrigan Laretta Mulholland

Fruit

Maria Santalessa Patty Yoon

Centerpiece

Johanna Abramo

Sarah's Environmental Report

What is the Mother's Day rule? In our area and zone there is a rule we can plant vegetables and annuals on Mother's Day. However, you need to use your own judgement. We have had an extremely cold winter, soil is still cold. These plants are hot house grown and shipped to nurseries and kept warm. First week in May temperatures still near or around 40 degrees. I would not rush.

What is the 70 30 rule for gardening?

- The 70/30 rule in gardening is a design and maintenance principle where 70% of plants are reliable, structural, or native, and 30% are experimental, colorful, or seasonal fillers. This approach ensures a stable, low-maintenance "backbone" (70%) while allowing room for creativity or temporary, high-impact plants (30%) without risking a failed garden.

Usage Examples & Interpretations:

- **Structural vs. Experimental (Design):** 70% of the garden is established, long-lived perennials, shrubs, or structural plants, while 30% is left for annuals, new varieties, or colorful, fleeting accents.
- **Native vs. Non-Native (Eco-friendly):** 70% of the plants are native to the region (to support local wildlife), while 30% are non-native, non-invasive plants.
- **Vegetable Gardening:**

70% of the space is used for reliable crops (tomatoes, beans) that thrive in your area, and 30% is used to test new or more delicate vegetable varieties.

- **Hardscape vs. Softscape:** Some interpret this as 30% hardscaping (patios, paths) and 70% softscaping (planting) to balance structure and nature.


Synonyms and Similar Rules:

- **Safe/Experimental Garden:** A common synonym focusing on using proven plants for security and new plants for fun.
- **Balanced Planting Approach:** Often used to describe the mixture of structural and seasonal plants.
- **The 70/30 Color Rule:** Focusing on using 70% of a garden's color palette as neutrals (greens, whites) and 30% for high-impact colors.

The 70% portion usually consists of hardy perennials, evergreen shrubs, or native plants that do not require replanting every year. The 30% can be used for colorful annuals that provide blooms all summer, as noted on this video. This rule is popular because it reduces stress for new gardeners and provides a guaranteed aesthetic, even if experimental.

2nd District, FGCNYS
Annual Meeting & Luncheon
Elizabeth Walsh, District Director
"United We Grow"

July 30, 2026
10:30am - 3:30pm



Bayview House
at
Captain Bill's
122 Ocean Avenue
Bay Shore, NY

Featured Guest ***Andrew Pascoe***
of Andrew Pascoe Flowers LTD, Oyster Bay
 \$70 Per Person

Luncheon Co-Chairs: Lisa Nolan & Gail Farrell (LisaMcWaltersNolan@gmail.com)
Co-Hosts: Nassau South Section Chair Maria Heller & Queens Section Chair Barbara Buckley

Return completed section below with ONE CLUB CHECK, payable to Second District, FGCNYS
Mail to: Sandy Hart, 18 Partridge Trail, Coram, NY 11727. RSVP Questions: sandyhart511@gmail.com, 516-297-8081

Please RSVP by July 14th

Club Name: _____ President's Name: _____

Treasurer's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Treasurer's Email: _____

Total Number of Reservations: _____ @ \$70PP = Total \$ _____

****Include names of attendees on the reverse side or attach with this form.****

