

May DiRT

from the Silver Ridge Park - Westerly Garden Committee 2025

We all moved here into Silver Ridge Park-Westerly for different reasons but we all got the same benefit of living amongst the wonderful forest of the NJ Pinelands. This forest in our common grounds offers us fresh air, it supports food for wildlife and the tress can even hide us from our neighbors.

This delight does come with one unwanted extra in the month of MAY: pine pollen covering your car, patio furniture and changing the color of just about everything outside to yellow! Because pine pollen is so large that is what makes it visible to us unlike oak tree pollen which stays up in the air longer and get into our noses and make us sneeze. The evolutionary reason that pine trees produce large amounts of pollen is to ensure that their seeds get fertilized to create the next forest generation.



‘DiRT’ we have scheduled:

*Wednesday MAY 14 **Fun Project** starting at 10am.*
Bring your gardening gloves and enthusiasm to the ClubHouse as we will start the installation of our flower containers around the pool . The project does involve some heavy lifting. No problem though if weights are not your thing, just stop by and chat!

*Wednesday MAY 28 **Monthly Meeting** at 7pm.*
We will review what plants are best in patio containers and which are drought resistant species.
Time-saving watering techniques will also be discussed.

‘DiRT’ you need to know:

If you want a more sustainable yard, one that is attractive to you with colorful flowers and shrubs, but also a yard that takes less of your time to maintain and uses less energy to manage, you might need to **take a break from perfection** and allow your gardens to be somewhat on the "untidy" side. For example, leftover seed pods on flowers or a few leaves under your shrubs might seem messy to your neighbor, but to the chickadees in your birdhouse, that is where they find food to raise their young.

Co-Gardeners:

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