



# Barrie Garden Club Newsletter

## Cuttings

March & April 2025

Look for us at: [www.barriegardenclub.ca](http://www.barriegardenclub.ca)



Written by Kimberly Sturge

**MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> 2025 (PASSED)  
BGC MEETING**

**SEE "IN CASE YOU MISSED IT"  
BELOW (PAGES 6&7)  
FOR MORE INFO!**



### **SEAN JAMES – NIFTY NATIVES TOO**

This presentation focused on great, and often overlooked species that deserve a home in our gardens. He'll also talked about the biodiversity these species support and for some of these plants, care points to make them at home in our ever-more beautiful yards.

Sean James has been gardening professionally since age sixteen. He is a graduate of the prestigious Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, a Master Gardener and was named one of "20 Canadians Making a Difference" in the Canada-wide magazine GardenMaking. Sean has built an international reputation for sustainable landscaping. His company specializes in quality design, consulting - building on over 30 years of experience in horticulture. Sean runs an environmentally-friendly company, using eco-friendly materials, recycling, composting and promoting responsible use of biological controls.

**APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> 2025,  
BGC ANNUAL MEETING  
@ 7PM  
AT 52 MORROW RD  
BARRIE ONTARIO  
(UPSTAIRS)**



### **PAT COOK VEGGIE GARDENING IN CONTAINERS**

This is the Year of Edible Gardens! Come and see how any sized space can grow some veggies for you to enjoy this summer! Pat has been a member of Simcoe County Master Gardeners since 2015 earning her Master Gardener qualification in 2017.

Pat grows a selection of vegetables and herbs in her large raised vegetable garden. She also has a special interest in growing hard to find perennials and native plants in her many perennial gardens. Each spring Pat looks forward to starting her vegetables, annual flowers and perennial flowers from seed indoors.

As a Master Gardener, Pat enjoys the opportunity to bring together her experience as a gardener and her master gardener training to help new and experienced gardeners learn how to grow their own food, and create pollinator friendly gardens.

Pat lives in Coldwater, Ontario and is a member of the Barrie Garden Club, the Oro-Medonte Horticultural Society and the Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society.



## 2024 at a Glance! We had an amazing year!

- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - Gilda's Club Seasonal Urns
  - Shear Park Community Garden
  - Library Rooftop Garden
  - Fort Willow Pioneer Garden
  - Photo Contest
  - 2 MTO Adopt-a-Highway Clean-ups
  - 2 Zoom Meetings
  - 4 Face to Face Guest Speakers
  - Website re-vamp
- check it out at:  
[www.barriegardenclub.ca](http://www.barriegardenclub.ca)

Have you seen the OHA - Garden Ontario Trillium Newsletter?  
Check it out at:

<https://gardenontario.org/autumn-2024-trillium-is-now-here>



## Renew your Membership Today!

Either sign-up at our April Meeting or send  
\$20.00 per person

(or \$35.00 per family - all residents at same civic address).

or e-transfer your membership amount through your bank to:

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

**\*\*with your name and contact information in the message.\*\***

## And take a look at 2025 upcoming Speakers:

Date	Speaker
Tuesday, April 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>Annual Meeting</b>	Demo- <b>Veggie Gardening in Containers</b> Pat Cook - Master Gardener
Tuesday, May 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>(&amp; Flower Show)</b>	Merwan Kalyaniwalla - Georgian College <b>How to take Great Flower Photos</b>
Tuesday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>(Bring a Friend Night)</i>	Lorraine Johnson <b>Pocket Pollinator Patches</b>
July Field Trip	TBA
August	No meeting
Tuesday, September 9 <sup>th</sup> <b>(&amp; Flower Show)</b>	Sean Booth <b>Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants</b>
Tuesday, October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Scott - Innisfil Creek Bee Farm <b>All About Raising Bees</b>
Tuesday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Potluck and Demo</b> Heather or Kristin - Tea Cup Demo?
Tuesday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Make &amp; Take</b> Outside Urns or Centerpiece making

### **Barrie Garden Club Spring Flower Show**

**Category 1  
Daffy Daffodils  
(min 5 mix)**

**Category 2  
Terrific Tulips  
(min 5 mix)**

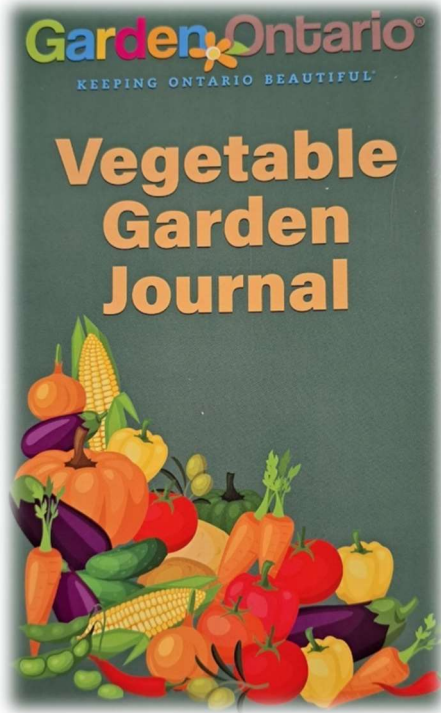
**Category 3  
Beautiful Branches  
(1 stem, up to 18 inches)**



**At our May Meeting, we will be  
once again having a Member-Judged  
Flower Show!**

We encourage all of our members to  
participate!  
There are 3 categories this time!  
Please bring your entries in a vase of  
your choice!





*Get yours today!  
These will be on sale at the April and May  
Meetings!  
Only \$20.00 each!!  
These are very handy journals to have and  
have been designed by the Ontario  
Horticultural Association!*

The colour of the year for gardens varies by source,  
including:

## Teal

The Garden Media Group chose teal as the 2025 color of the year for its calming effect and sophisticated feel. Teal is a blend of blue and green that's rare in plants, but some plants have hues that lean toward teal. Some plants that are teal or teal-leaning include:

- Jade Vine (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*)
- Neptune's Gold Sea Holly
- *Allium caesium* 'Zamin'
- Beyond Blue Fescue
- Blue Chalk Stick
- *Agave tequilana*
- Brunnera 'Jack Frost'



The Garden Ontario/OHA theme of the year for 2025 is **Edible Gardens**.

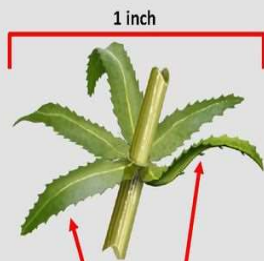


# Hydrilla

*Hydrilla verticillata*

## Plant

- Submerged
- Rooted or free-floating



## Leaves

- Serrated edges
- Mid-vein has spines
- Arranged in whorls
- 4-8 leaves/whorl

Illustration by Bruce Kerr

## Root

- Tuber

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## Warning!!

## New Invasive Plant!!

Hydrilla: This new species is extremely aggressive. This plant loves slow moving streams, rivers, and lakes. This is a very hardy plant and has been shown to be able to grow in every climate except in Antarctica, at this time. Every fragment that breaks off creates a new colony of plants. It grows approximately 1 inch daily and creates a dense cover over the water. It started out as an aquarium plant which ended up in the water system. This plant affects the flow of water and makes it stagnant and brings in mosquitos. This plant is in Ontario already. The areas affected have been closed to try to clean this from the water. This plant looks remarkably like the Elodea. The Elodea is a native plant and is rarely invasive. The Minister of Natural Resources indicated that they are working diligently with our partners to develop plans for controls of Hydrilla in Ontario and across Canada. The plants can rehydrate up to 6 years later once it has been removed. Please report any sightings of invasive species to [www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org) or 1-800-563-7711.

## Welcome Spring!

Meteorological spring began on March 1, while astronomical spring starts on the vernal equinox.

The vernal equinox marks the astronomical first day of spring and falls on Thursday, March 20, 2025.





# OHA DISTRICT 16 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 26 2026

9:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

CREEMORE LEGION

27 WELLINGTON ST CREEMORE, ON

\$35 PER PERSON INCLUDES:

MORNING REFRESHMENT, LUNCH,

2 SPEAKERS (Robert Pavlis & Michelle Merizzi)

VENDORS,

THE D16 BUSINESS MEETING

AND

THE D16 SPRING FLOWER SHOW

HURONIA ROSE SOCIETY

Please let Carolyn Hooper ( [carjim174@bell.net](mailto:carjim174@bell.net) ) know if you'd like to attend.

Please etransfer \$35.00 to  
[thebarriegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:thebarriegardenclub@gmail.com)

**In the notes please put your full name and D16 AM**




## *Some high points of the D16 Spring AGM:*

- **The Creemore Legion Hall** will hold the meeting - easy parking and all on one level
- **Refreshments** - coffee/tea and muffin on arrival, fruit tray and coffee/tea at morning break, buffet lunch choices - 2 soups - a vegetarian vegetable soup and a cream soup, assorted sandwich choice such as salmon, egg salad and ham and cheese (for dietary restrictions attendees must identify in advance) and dessert squares
- **Outstanding Guest Speakers:**  
Michelle Merizzi will be speaking on *Beginners Guide to Dazzling Dahlias*.  
Robert Pavlis' topic is *Growing and Preserving Nutritious Food*.
- **District 16 Flower Show** - **ask Kim to send the flower show schedule** - [kmsturge@gmail.com](mailto:kmsturge@gmail.com)
- **Hurononia Rose Society** will decorate the tables with their Miniature Roses for sale and have extras for sale
- Other garden related vendors will be there to shop at!

# In Case You Missed It... Sean James!

Sean gave an excellent presentation on some fantastic Native Plants we can add to our gardens to help our local environment! His philosophy of "just add one" in a pot or in your garden, helps even the most amateur gardener start somewhere in making the switch over to a more environmentally and pollinator friendly garden! Kim recorded this presentation and this can be shared to anyone in our Club that missed this Zoom meeting! Please contact Kim at: [kmsturje@gmail.com](mailto:kmsturje@gmail.com) to have it sent to you! You can also find out more directly from Sean James at the below addresses!



Search 'Sean James Consulting & Design' on  YouTube and , please, subscribe!  
Please consider supporting us on [Patreon](#).  
Twitter: [@seanjamesdesign](#)  
Facebook: [sean.james.12](#)  
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email: [SeanJames@SeanJames-Consulting.ca](mailto:SeanJames@SeanJames-Consulting.ca)  
Visit [www.seanjames-consulting.ca](http://www.seanjames-consulting.ca) and subscribe to my newsletter (under the 'Educate' tab)

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Here are also some of Sean's favourite Native Plant Nurseries:

## Native Plant Nurseries

[Natural Themes Nursery](#) – Frankfurt, ON  
In Our Nature <https://www.inournature.ca/>  
Grow Wild! <http://grow-wild.com> – near Omemee  
North American Native Plant Society annual plant sale [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org)  
Ontario Native Plants <https://www.onplants.ca/> – Mail Order!  
Not So Hollow Farm <http://www.notsohollowfarm.ca/>  
Eden in Season: <http://www.edeninseason.ca/>  
General Seed Company <https://www.generalseedcompany.ca/> all four tallgrass prairie species (Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass and Switchgrass) even though they are not listed on their website

 [Toronto Plant Market](#)

# Native Plant Nurseries

Kayanase <https://kayanase.weebly.com/>

Sassafras Farms <http://www.sassafrasfarms.ca/>

Native plants in Claremont <http://www.nativeplants.ca/>

St. Williams Nursery <http://stwilliamsnursery.com>

Bee Sweet Nature Company <https://beesweetnature.ca/>

Acorus Restoration <https://www.acorusrestoration.com/>

Hawthorn Farm: <https://hawthornfarm.ca/> (focussing on organic open-pollinated seeds)

North American Native Plant Society annual plant sale [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org)

Earthgen <http://www.earthgen.ca/> – Dunnville, ON

[Little Otter Tree Farm](#) – Tillsonburg, ON

Some of his slides:



**Anise Hyssop**  
*Agastache foeniculum*

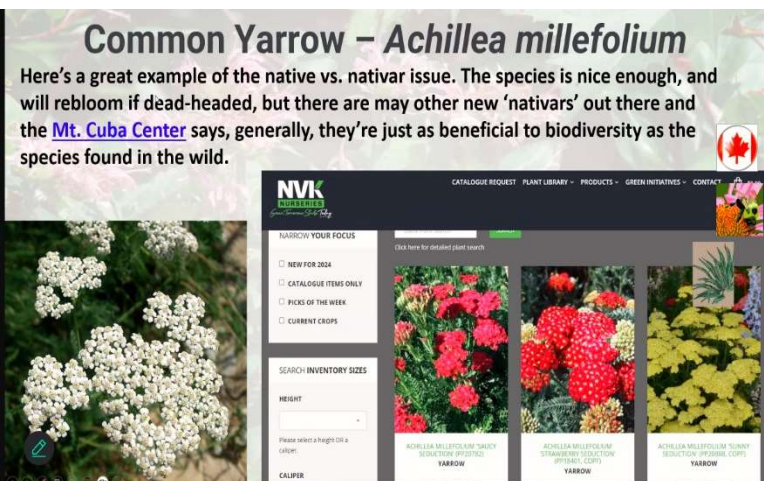

Shockingly good for pollinators! (and tasty)



**Silky Dogwood – *Cornus amomum***


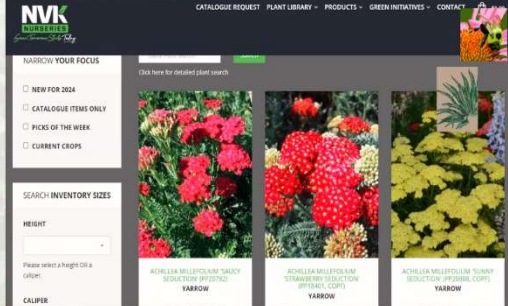

Folks LOVE invasive Burning Bush, but this has spring flowers for pollinators, blue-jean-blue berries in summer/fall for birds and spectacular fall colour and winter twigs (if coppiced every now and then). It's also food for the larvae.

(Yes, this is a repeat from the first presentation, which, IF you subscribe, you can see on my YouTube page – link at the end, but I wanted to re-message the Burning Bush thing...)



**Common Yarrow – *Achillea millefolium***

Here's a great example of the native vs. nativar issue. The species is nice enough, and will rebloom if dead-headed, but there are many other new 'nativars' out there and the [Mt. Cuba Center](#) says, generally, they're just as beneficial to biodiversity as the species found in the wild.



Sean's fave grass! AMAZING in winter too, and a host for many butterflies.

Bulletproof, even tolerating wet feet and a bit of shade, as well as drought, of course. Interplant with Virginia Bluebells for more seasonal interest.



**Blood Brothers Switchgrass**  
*Panicum virgatum* 'Blood Brothers'



# 10 Vegetable Seeds to Start in April

Posted on March 4, 2025  
Adapted from thegardenbeds



## Why Start Seeds in April?

April is an ideal time to start seeds for several reasons:

**Optimal Soil Temperature:** Many vegetables thrive when soil temperatures reach 7°C or higher, which is often achieved in April.

**Longer Growing Season:** Starting seeds early allows plants to establish strong roots and mature before the heat of summer or the chill of fall.

**Cost-Effective:** Growing vegetables from seeds is more affordable than purchasing seedlings from a nursery.

**Greater Variety:** Seed catalogs and nurseries offer a wider selection of vegetable varieties than what's typically available as transplants.

## 10 best vegetable seeds to start in April...

### 1. Tomatoes

Tomatoes are a garden favorite, and starting them indoors in April ensures they have enough time to mature before transplanting outdoors after the last frost. Choose from a variety of types, such as cherry, beefsteak, or heirloom tomatoes.

#### Tips for Success:

- Use a seed-starting mix and keep the soil consistently moist.
- Provide plenty of light (14-16 hours per day) using grow lights or a sunny windowsill.
- Transplant seedlings outdoors when nighttime temperatures stay above 50°F (10°C).

### 2. Peppers

Peppers, both sweet and hot varieties, benefit from an early start. They require a long growing season and warm temperatures to produce a good harvest.

#### Tips for Success:

- Start seeds indoors 8-10 weeks before the last frost date.
- Keep the soil warm (75-85°F or 24-29°C) for optimal germination.
- Harden off seedlings before transplanting them outdoors.

### 3. Broccoli

Broccoli is a cool-season crop that thrives when started in April. It can tolerate light frosts, making it a great choice for early spring planting.

#### Tips for Success:

- Sow seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost date.
- Transplant seedlings outdoors when they have 4-6 true leaves.
- Space plants 18-24 inches apart to allow for proper growth.

*For Barrie Ontario  
the average last  
frost date is  
typically around  
May 11-20, and the  
average first frost  
date is around  
October 1-10.*

#### 4. Cabbage

Cabbage is another cool-weather vegetable that performs well when started in April. It's a versatile crop that can be used in salads, slaws, and cooked dishes.

##### Tips for Success:

- Start seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost.
- Transplant seedlings outdoors when they are 4-6 inches tall.
- Provide consistent moisture and protect young plants from pests like cabbage worms.

#### 5. Lettuce

Lettuce is a fast-growing crop that can be **sown directly in the garden** or started indoors in April. It's perfect for early spring salads.

##### Tips for Success:

- Sow seeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep in well-draining soil.
- Keep the soil moist but not waterlogged.
- Harvest leaves as needed for a continuous supply of fresh greens.

#### 6. Spinach

Spinach is a nutrient-packed leafy green that thrives in cool weather. Starting spinach seeds in April ensures a harvest before the summer heat causes it to bolt.

##### Tips for Success:

- Sow seeds directly in the garden or start them indoors.
- Space plants 6 inches apart to allow for proper growth.
- Provide shade if temperatures rise unexpectedly.

#### 7. Carrots

Carrots are a root vegetable that can be sown directly in the garden in April. They prefer loose, well-draining soil for optimal growth.

##### Tips for Success:

- Sow seeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep and thin seedlings to 2-3 inches apart.
- Keep the soil consistently moist for even germination.
- Harvest carrots when they reach the desired size.

#### 8. Radishes

Radishes are one of the fastest-growing vegetables, making them a great choice for gardeners eager to see results. They can be sown directly in the garden in April.

##### Tips for Success:

- Sow seeds  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep and 1 inch apart.
- Thin seedlings to 2-3 inches apart to prevent overcrowding.
- Harvest radishes in as little as 3-4 weeks.

#### 9. Peas

Peas are a cool-season crop that can be sown directly in the garden in April. They are a great source of protein and can be grown as snap peas, snow peas, or shelling peas.



### Tips for Success:

- Sow seeds 1 inch deep and 2 inches apart.
- Provide support for vining varieties with trellises or stakes.
- Harvest peas when pods are plump and bright green.

### 10. Kale

Kale is a hardy leafy green that can be started in April for an early spring harvest. It's packed with vitamins and can be used in salads, smoothies, and cooked dishes.

### Tips for Success:

- Sow seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last frost or directly in the garden.
- Transplant seedlings outdoors when they have 4-6 true leaves.
- Harvest outer leaves as needed to encourage continuous growth.
- Final Tips for Starting Seeds in April.

**Use Quality Soil:** Invest in a good seed-starting mix to provide the right nutrients and drainage.

**Provide Adequate Light:** Ensure seedlings receive 14-16 hours of light daily to prevent leggy growth.

**Harden Off Seedlings:** Gradually acclimate indoor-started plants to outdoor conditions before transplanting.

**Monitor Moisture:** Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged to promote healthy growth.

Starting vegetable seeds in April is a rewarding way to kick off the gardening season. By choosing the right crops and following best practices for seed starting, you can enjoy a thriving garden and a bountiful harvest. Whether you're growing tomatoes, peppers, or leafy greens, April is the perfect time to get your hands dirty and start planting. Happy gardening!

## HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FLOWERPOT FOR MY CROPS



Adapted from: [https://thegardenbeds.com/2025/03/04/10-vegetable-seeds-to-start-in-march/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAR2lqk4W9X0LRscdkzBHkqSVnvZOVnFzKmm31mxM89MXiUYdXZJxpT0A0QQ\\_aem\\_iPjQ9\\_pLeXsT\\_NBfO2aB8A](https://thegardenbeds.com/2025/03/04/10-vegetable-seeds-to-start-in-march/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAR2lqk4W9X0LRscdkzBHkqSVnvZOVnFzKmm31mxM89MXiUYdXZJxpT0A0QQ_aem_iPjQ9_pLeXsT_NBfO2aB8A)



March 19th, 6:30 p.m. CT

### Be a Waterwise Gardener

Too much or not enough water and never at the right time. This seems to be the complaint of every gardener. We'll take an in-depth look at ways to minimize water use, keep water where it falls, and efficient ways to water plants when needed. I will provide an in-depth look at many of the drought-tolerant plants and ways to manage those that need a bit more moisture. I will share the benefits of incorporating rain barrels and rain gardens into your landscape and using drip and clay pot irrigation and other water-efficient devices. You'll learn how to manage this precious resource as you grow a beautiful landscape.

Webinar is underwritten by [Summit® Responsible Solutions®](#)



April 2nd, 6:30 p.m. CT

### Container Gardens for Sun and Shade

Container gardens add color and seasonal interest to balconies, patios, decks, and even your front entrance. No matter where they're placed, matching the plants to the available sunlight will help boost success. Gardening expert and author Melinda Myers will share container plant combinations for both sun-filled and shady locations. Plus, she'll provide tips on the proper care to keep them looking good all season long.

Webinar is underwritten by [We Energies](#)

**Melinda Myers** is a nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist. She has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books. Find all about her and sign up for her free webinars at:

<https://www.melindamyers.com/>

Go to:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sPN8oRgCTfyS25Dr5eMceQ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sPN8oRgCTfyS25Dr5eMceQ#/registration)

for Waterwise gardener

Or

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_QINKSZgxRbSKsDABXwbwPg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QINKSZgxRbSKsDABXwbwPg#/registration)

for Container Gardens

## Bee Keeping Workshops!



[https://innisfilcreekhoney.com/shop/ols/products/1-](https://innisfilcreekhoney.com/shop/ols/products/1-beginner-beekeeping-course)

[beginner-beekeeping-course](https://innisfilcreekhoney.com/shop/ols/products/1-beginner-beekeeping-course)

Through out April, May and June!



# Spring Comfort Food Recipes

From: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/>

## Ham & Veggie Casserole

Recipe by Sherri Melotik

Prep Time: 20 min Cook Time: 10 min Yield: 4 servings

Great for leftover Holiday Ham!!

### Ingredients

- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen broccoli florets
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen cauliflower
- 2 teaspoons plus 2 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1/4 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 cups 2% milk
- 3/4 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1-1/2 cups cubed fully cooked ham (about 8 ounces)
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper



### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425°. Cook broccoli and cauliflower according to package directions; drain.
2. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt 2 teaspoons butter. Add bread crumbs; cook and stir over medium heat until lightly toasted, 2-3 minutes. Remove from heat.
3. In a large saucepan, melt remaining butter over medium heat. Stir in flour until smooth; gradually whisk in milk. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened, 1-2 minutes.
4. Remove from heat; stir in cheeses until blended. Stir in ham, pepper and vegetables.
5. Transfer to a greased 8-in. square baking dish. Sprinkle with toasted crumbs. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, 10-15 minutes.



# Creamy Tuna Noodle Asparagus Casserole

By Lindsay D. Mattison

Prep Time: 20 min Cook Time: 25 min Yield: 6 servings

## Ingredients

- 5 cups uncooked egg noodles
- 1 cup asparagus chopped - fresh or frozen
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) reduced-fat reduced-sodium condensed cream of asparagus soup, undiluted
- 1 cup fat-free sour cream
- 2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3 cup 2% milk
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cans (5 ounces each) light tuna in water, drained and flaked
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green pepper (optional)

## TOPPING:

- 1/2 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Cook noodles according to package directions for al dente, adding asparagus during the last minute of cooking; drain.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine soup, sour cream, cheese, milk and salt; stir in tuna, onion and peppers.
3. Add noodles and asparagus; toss to combine.
4. Transfer to an 11x7-in. baking dish coated with cooking spray. In a small bowl, toss bread crumbs with melted butter; sprinkle over top.
5. Bake, uncovered, 25-30 minutes or until bubbly.

