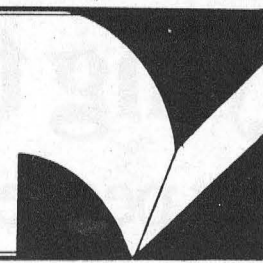


THE CHESTERVILLE

# RECORD



There is nothing more therapeutic than gardening! It ranks as one of America's favorite pastimes. You'll want to get started early this year so check this

guide for timely tips and information, as well as all the places in our area to get everything you need for a beautiful garden you can enjoy all summer long!

# SPRING GARDENING



# Burying the hatchet

## Bringing peace to the garden by making pals of your plants

In the plant world, some plants enjoy each other's company, others are allies and some are downright enemies.

And if you recognize which plants make good "companions" and which ones don't, you can actually increase the amount of fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs your garden produces.

"Most of the information on companion planting comes from garden lore; science doesn't have a firm answer for all the cases yet," says Master Gardener Grahame Killeleagh of Dorchester.

Master Gardeners are gardening enthusiasts who have received formal horticultural training through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Master Gardener program.

The beneficial effects of companion planting may be caused by root exudates that stimulate growth of one or both companions; or to some protective factor in one plant that suppresses soil diseases harmful to the other; or even to a beneficial shade, thrown by one on the other.

"And companion planting disrupts insects' abilities to find their favorite vegetables," he added.

In the following list, "companions" are those vegetables that, when planted together, are mutually beneficial; "allies" are the herbs and flowers that provide protection or improve the growth of certain vegetables; and "enemies" are other vegetables, herbs and flowers that can cause detrimental effects when planted near certain vegetables.

Asparagus: "companions": basil, parsley, tomato; "allies": pot marigold (deters beetles).

Beans: "companions": beets (bush beans only), cabbage family, carrot,

celery, chard, corn, cucumber, eggplant, peas, potatoes, radishes, strawberries; "allies": marigolds (deter Mexican bean beetles and nematodes), nasturtiums and rosemary (deter bean beetles), summer savory (deters bean beetles, improves growth and flavor); "enemies": garlic, onions and shallots (these stunt the growth of beans).

Cabbage family: "companions": beets, celery, chard, cucumber, lettuce, onions, potatoes, spinach; "allies": chamomile and garlic (these improve growth and flavor); catnip, hyssop, rosemary and sage (these deter the cabbage moth), dill (improves growth and health), mint (deters cabbage moth and ants, improves health and flavor), nasturtiums (deter bugs and beetles, aphids), thyme (deters cabbageworm); "Enemies": kohlrabi and tomato (these stunt each other's growth).

Carrots: "companions": beans, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, radishes, and tomatoes; "allies": chives, (they improve growth and flavor), rosemary and sage (these deter the carrot fly); "enemies": dill retards the growth of carrots.

Chard: "companions": beans, cabbage family, and onions.

Cucumbers: "companions": beans, cabbage family, corn, peas, radishes, and tomatoes; "allies": marigolds, nasturtiums, oregano; "enemies": sage.

Lettuce: "companions": beets, cabbage family, carrots, onions, radishes and strawberries; "allies": chives and garlic (these deter aphids).

Onions: "companions": beets, cabbage family, carrots, chard, lettuce, peppers, strawberries, and tomatoes; "allies": chamomile and summer

savory; "enemies": onions stunt beans and peas.

Parsley: "companions": asparagus, corn and tomatoes.

Peas: "companions": asparagus, corn and tomatoes.

Peas: "companions": beans, carrots, corn, cucumbers, radishes and turnip; "allies": chives and mint; "enemies": garlic and onions stunt growth of peas.

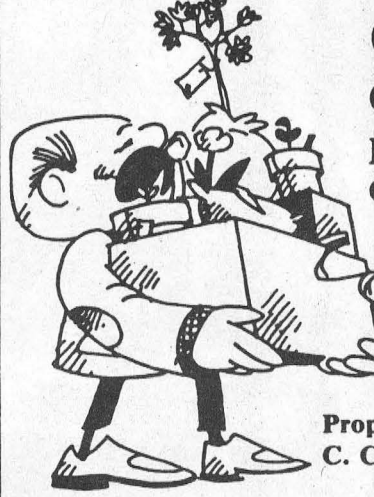
Peppers: "companions": carrots, eggplant, onion and tomatoes.

Potatoes: "companions": beans, cabbage family, corn, eggplant and peas; "allies": horseradish (plant at corners of potato patch to provide

general protection), and marigolds (to deter beetles); "enemies": tomatoes and potatoes are attacked by the same blight.

Radishes: "companions": beans, carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, melons and peas; "allies": chervil and nasturtiums; "enemies": hyssop.

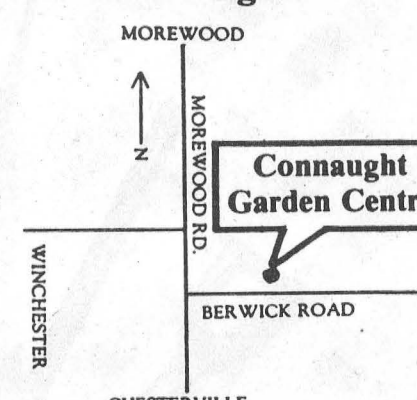
Tomatoes: "companions": asparagus, carrots, celery, cucumbers, onions, parsley and peppers; "allies": basil, bee balm, chives, mint, borage, dill (an ally, only until it is mature; once mature, dill stunts tomato growth) and marigolds (marigolds deter nematodes); "enemies": corn, mature dill, kohlrabi and potatoes.



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## Working out bugs in lawns

If your lawn is turning brown this summer, in spite of watering or rainfall, then insects are likely to blame.

The damage is usually a result of insects attacking the roots of the turfgrass.

Healthy grass has deep roots and can withstand considerable drought, before turning brown.

To determine if insects are at the "root" of the problem, carefully inspect the browned-out patches.

Chinch bugs, sod webworm and white grubs are common lawn pests.

Chinch bugs are their piercing mouthparts to suck sap from the stems of grass plants — usually causing the grass to wither and die.

The adult chinch bugs are about five millimetres long, black in color with an irregular white band on each wing.

"Finding the bugs in slightly damaged lawns can be difficult because they tend to hide in the thatch layer," says Horticulturist Ruth Friendship-Keller of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's rural organizations and services branch.

But chinch bugs can be flushed out with water; flood the dead, sunken patches in the lawn and place a white cloth over the area.

The chinch bugs will crawl onto the cloth where they can be seen more easily.

Another method of detection is to force a large can — from which the top and bottom have been removed — into the turf just outside the edge of the browned-out area.

Fill the can with water and tease the grass at the bottom; the chinch bugs will rise to the surface of the water where they can be seen more easily.

If you find chinch bugs, apply a chemical, such as carbaryl or diazinon, to the browned-out patches.

Before applying chemicals, water the lawn thoroughly.

Water the treated areas again after applying the chemical to make sure it reaches the insects as they move into the thatch layer.

"Best control is achieved in July and usually, one well-applied treatment is sufficient," she said.

The rate of chemical application for lawn insecticides can be found on the product label.

It is important that you apply the correct amount of chemical on the specified surface area; if recommended insecticides are applied at the correct rate and in the recommended manner, the treatment is not harmful to pets, birds or earthworms.

Remove areas of grass killed by chinch bugs and re-seed following chemical treatment.

White grubs are the larvae of the June beetle.

They have a soft white body, six

legs and a brownish head.

They are characteristically C-shaped and develop into an adult while feeding on the roots of grasses.

The adults feed strictly on the foliage of deciduous trees.

You may suspect a grub problem if irregular patches of your lawn gradually turn brown in summer.

Check by digging up a small area of the lawn; if grubs are present treat brown patches with an insecticide such as chlorpyrifos in early-to-mid-July or in mid-September.

Immediately following the insecticide application, thoroughly water the sod.

Again, it is important that you apply the correct amount of chemical, according to the product label, on the specified surface area.

The young worm-like sod webworm, also called lawn moth, skeletonize grass blades; older worms cut the blades off completely.

They are easily detected by digging into the ground and turning over a small piece of sod.

The worms eventually develop into white moths which can be seen flying up from an infested lawn — in profusion!

Spray the lawn with carbaryl or diazinon as soon as you notice damage.

Do not water the lawn for several days following a spray for sod webworm.

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## Planting thoughts in a green classroom

Greg Kielec  
Record Staff

MAPLE RIDGE — Students may not leave Carl Robinson's science class with a green thumb, but hopefully they'll have a better understanding of plants.

Robinson looks after the greenhouse at North Dundas District High School and teaches the science of horticulture to basic science and environmental science students.

"I don't have any green thumb," he says. People aren't born with a knack for growing plants, but have to learn the science in order to do it well.

"It's just learning to pick up the logic to it," he maintained.

What he tries to instill in his students is a sense of appreciation for plants — how to treat them in order for them to survive.

Students involvement in the greenhouse begins at the end of March each year and finishes at the end of the school term.

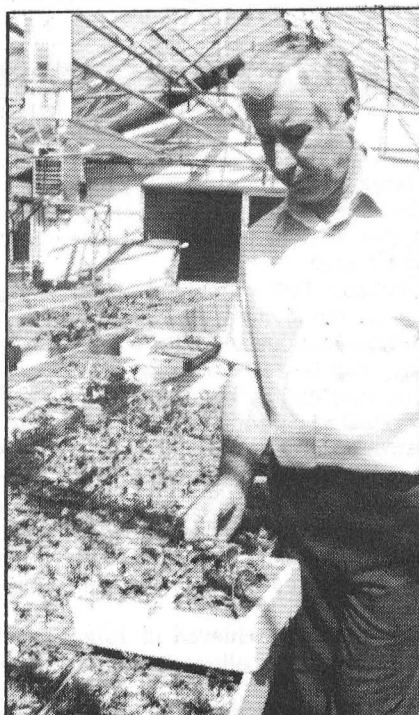
The students grow a variety of flowers and vegetables and also experiment with plant growth.

The students seed the vegetables in the spring. The flowers are grown in the fall from cuttings.

The soil is sterilized and seeds planted in a large workshop adjacent to the greenhouse. Only watering and fertilizing are done in the greenhouse.

The end result of the students' work usually goes to them or their parents at the end of the school year.

The greenhouse is in an ideal location, completely surrounded by the school, Robinsons said. But the



NDDHS science teacher Carl Robinson checks some of the plants in the school's greenhouse. The greenhouse, now packed with growing flowers and vegetables, will be empty again at the end of the term, and end products going home with the students or their parents.

structure is growing old and is becoming expensive to maintain, he added.

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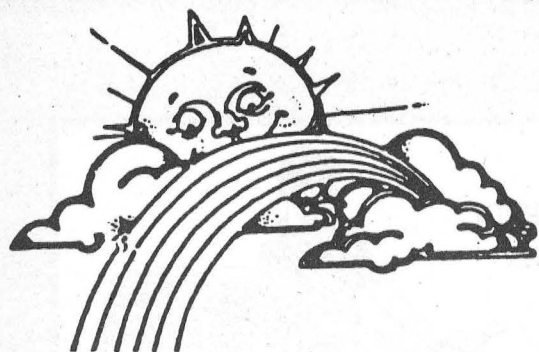
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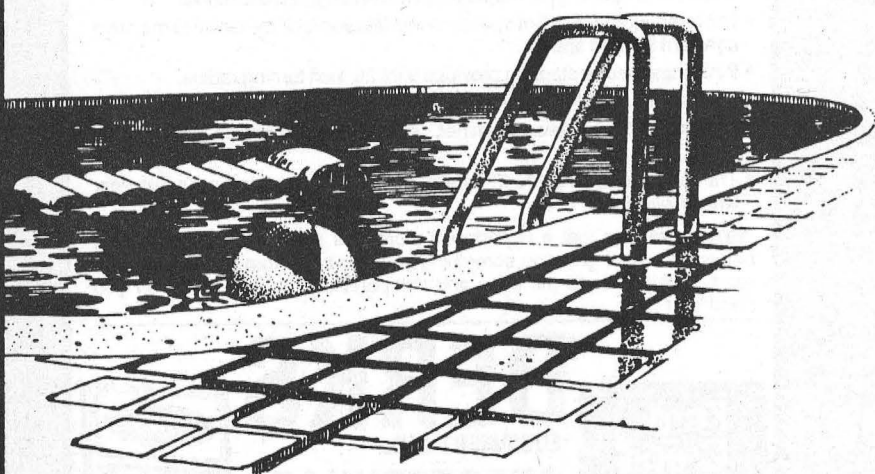


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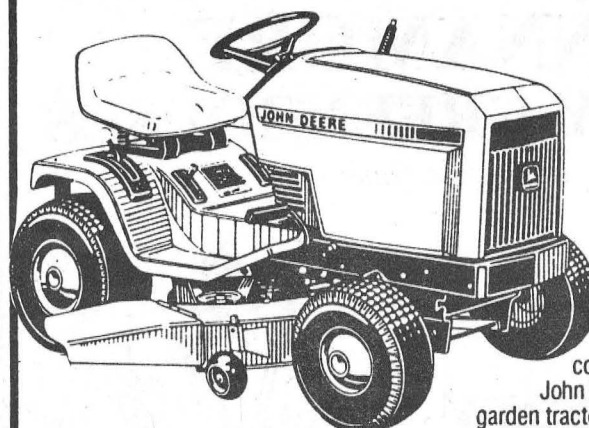
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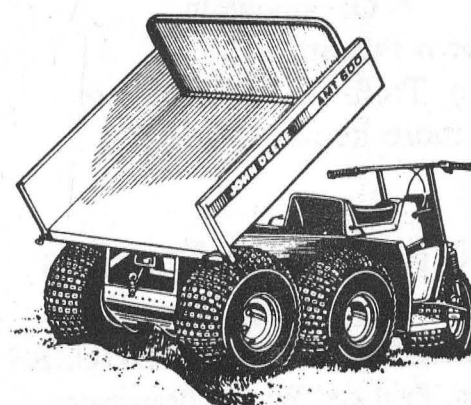


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# Brits know secret of perennials

(And we colonists can learn!)

If you have ever wondered why those British cottage gardens always seem to be a myriad of color from spring to fall, it is because the British know the secret of perennials.

A perennial is an herbaceous plant that comes up every year, in more or less the same location in which it was originally planted.

Peonies, daylilies and irises are all good examples of perennials.

Plants such as petunias, sweet alyssum and geraniums by contrast, do not overwinter and are referred to as annuals.

Annuals however should not be overlooked in the perennial border because they provide a consistent, reliable base of color throughout the growing season.

"The charm of the perennial border is change; your garden will take on new colors and a new form from one week to the next," says landscape architect Fiona Rintoul of Guelph.

For this reason, herbaceous perennial borders require thoughtful planning -- a perfect job for a few long winter nights, she added.

To do this, you will need trace paper (available in art supply stores), a soft lead pencil, some pencil crayons and a good reference guide on perennials.

A draftsman's scale is also helpful so that you can accurately plot the dimensions of your garden; however, a ruler may be substituted.

A good reference book on perennials will list both botanical (Latin) name and the common name for every plant -- which is important since you may need both in order to locate a plant at a garden centre.

This reference book should also give details on height, varieties, planting distance, color availability, blooming period as well as any other plant-specific information you may need to achieve peak performance.

Color photos are also extremely helpful.

Some reliable sources are: A.R. Buckley's Canadian Garden Perennials; J.L. Faust's The New York Times Book of Annuals and Perennials; Hay and Syngue's The Color Dictionary of Flowers and Plants for Homes and Gardens; and Time Life's book Perennials, part of the series Encyclopedia of Gardening.

"Location is the first consideration in planning the herbaceous perennial border," Rintoul said.

Most perennials require a sunny location, although some will thrive in partial shade and full shade conditions.

To achieve the most pleasing results, a backdrop such as a fence, hedge or wall should be used to set off the garden and give it a visual reference point.

A third consideration is soil type and drainage; avoid low areas and heavy clay soils because most perennials require the good drainage provided by light, sandy soils.

Once you have established a location and determined the size and shape of the garden, use the trace paper to outline the perimeter on six separate sheets to represent each of the months from April to September.

These, in turn, may be used to plan

in color, each month's display, while simultaneously considering the previous and future month's display.

"By designing the garden this way, you can avoid the tendency to slump plants of one height, color or blooming time together in the same area -- because the six sheets can be used as overlays," she said.

When actually choosing plant material, several key points should be considered.

An honest evaluation of the size of your border is extremely important at the outset; smaller gardens should avoid such wide-spreading plants as delphiniums and peonies because these tend to overshadow and compete with other varieties.

Secondly, develop a plant list consisting of the plants you would most like to have and from this list, choose a few "anchor" plants around which you can compose your design.

These "anchor" plants will become the focus of the border in their respective blooming times, so choose plants to represent the entire growing season.

Repetition is the third design consideration.

Avoid the temptation of putting one of everything in the border; repeat several key plants and key colors instead. This creates visual harmony and allows you to play with patterns," she said.

For blooms in May and June, try tall bearded iris (*Iris* sp.); peonies (*Paeonie* sp.); Oriental poppies (*Papaver orientale*); bleeding hearts (*Dicentra spectabilis*); ground phlox (*Phlox subulata*); followed by June and July bloomers such as lupins (*Lupin polyphyllis*); delphiniums (*Delphinium* sp.); astilbes (*Astilbe* sp.) and evening primrose (*Oenothera cinaeas*); and finally for August and September color, black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) and the New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*).

Perennial borders do require maintenance -- weeding and thinning in particular.

Irises, for example, should be dug and divided every two or three years in July.

Others should be transplanted in early spring or fall months.

"The rewards of these labors are many -- a constantly changing display of color as well as a handy source of fresh-cut flowers such as sweet William, phlox, chrysanthemums and black-eyed Susans," she said.

Flowers can also be grown and later dried for more permanent flower arrangements.

Chinese lanterns, silver dollars, straw-flower, baby's breath are good examples of perennials that may be dried.

As well, perennials often attract bees and butterflies.

Red Beeblam (*Monarda* sp.) will often encourage hummingbirds to visit your garden.

"Perennials are more expensive per plant than annuals but the pay for themselves over time because they come up year after year. And one plant can be propagated to yield many offspring and spread color to other parts of the garden," Rintoul said.

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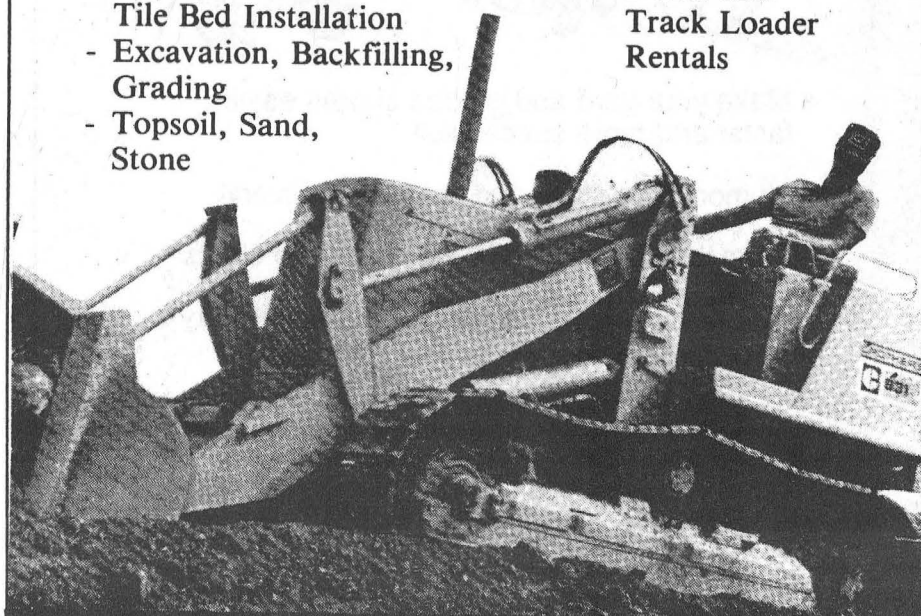
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## Gardening glossary

**Acid Soil.** Soil with a pH reading below 7.0. Gound limestone sweetens acid soil.

**Alkaline Soil.** Soil with a pH reading above 7.0. Ground agricultural sulfur corrects alkaline soil.

**Aphids.** One of the most prevalent of garden insects. They usually congregate on the undersides of plants' foliage and suck the nourishment from the stems and leaves.

**Annual.** A plant that lives for only one year or one season.

**Biennial.** A plant that lives for two years, producing leaves the first year and flowers and seeds the second.

**Blanching.** The process of depriving a plant of light in order to leave it pale and tender. A technique used with celery, endive, and forced rhubarb, among other plants.

**Bolting.** The premature flowering of a plant, which make it inedible. Spinach lettuce, celery and endive are plants that are prone to bolting.

**Cloche.** A portable glass or plastic cover for a row, making it possible to sow some crops weeks ahead of time in the spring or late in the fall.

**Cold Frame.** A low structure with a translucent top, used for protecting plants from the weather and for hardening-off young seedlings.

**Commercial Fertilizers.** Chemical compounds, available in a number of forms, including liquid and granular that provide plants with needed nutrients:

**Compost.** The richest of organic materials, the remains of decomposed vegetable matter.

**Crown.** The part of a plant where the root and stem meet.

**Drill.** A shallow furrow in which seeds are sown. The planting board is a helpful, time-saving tool for making drills.

**Foliar Spray.** A solution of water and fertilizer sprayed directly on the foliage of plants, where it can be quickly absorbed.

**Force.** To speed growth with the artificial changing of the seasons. Many bulb plants can be forced, as can rhubarb.

**Fungicide.** A chemical that kills fungi or prevents their growth.

**Germination.** The sprouting of seeds.

**Green Manure.** A crop of growing plants, such as rye grass, that is plowed under while still green and allowed to decay and enrich the soil.

**Grow On.** Transplanting a plant to a larger container for continued development.

**Harden-off.** The process of gradually toughening a plant's cell structure by exposing it to controlled cold weather, as in a cold frame.

**Humus.** The end product of decaying organic material.

**Hilling-up.** The process of periodically pulling soil around the stems of plants to keep the roots deep and cool, as with potatoes, or to protect growing plants from the sun, as with leeks.

**Hybrid.** A plant produced by crossing different species.

**Intercrop.** One crop grown between the rows of another. It is also used to describe the practice of alternating the plants of two crops within a row, like slow-growing cabbage and fast-growing lettuce.

**Leader.** The primary or top stem of a plant.

**Loam.** Soil composed of roughly equal portions of clay and sand. The best of garden soils.

**Mulch.** A covering spread around plants to control weeds and hold moisture in the soil.

**Neutral Soil.** Soil that has a pH around 7.0, which is neither acid nor alkaline. Most vegetables do their best in soil with a pH of 6.0 to 6.8, just on the acid side of neutral.

**Organic Fertilizers.** Natural materials, such as manure, compost, bone meal, and blood meal, that nourish plants slowly as the material decays.

**pH Factor.** A reading of acidity or alkalinity, based on the 0-14 pH scale. A pH of 7.0 indicates neutral soil; below 7.0 indicates acid soil, and above 7.0 indicates alkaline soil.

**Pelleted Seeds.** Tiny seeds that are coated to give added bulk and make them easier to handle.

**Perennial.** A plant that lives for more than two years.

**Pricking Out.** Gently lifting a seedling out of its seed container to be

transplanted elsewhere.

**Rootstock.** A growing plant onto which a scion, a piece of another plant, is grafted.

**Runners.** Above-ground stems that send out roots when they come into contact with moist soil. The most familiar of the runner plants is the June-bearing strawberry.

**Scion.** A young shoot of a plant that is joined to a rootstock during the grafting process.

**Seed Leaves.** The first two leaves — sometimes only one leaf — that grow after germination.

**Seedling.** A very young plant that's been started from seed.

**Setting.** The development of seeds or fruit after pollination.

**Skips.** Empty spots in garden rows where plants failed to survive.

**Thinning.** Pulling or clipping the weak seedlings in a pot or row in order to leave the others room enough to develop.

**Transplant Solution.** A mixture of foliar fertilizer and water poured onto newly set-out seedlings to get them growing quickly.

**Transplanting.** Moving a plant from one location to another.

**True Leaves.** All the leaves that plant produces above the seed leaves.

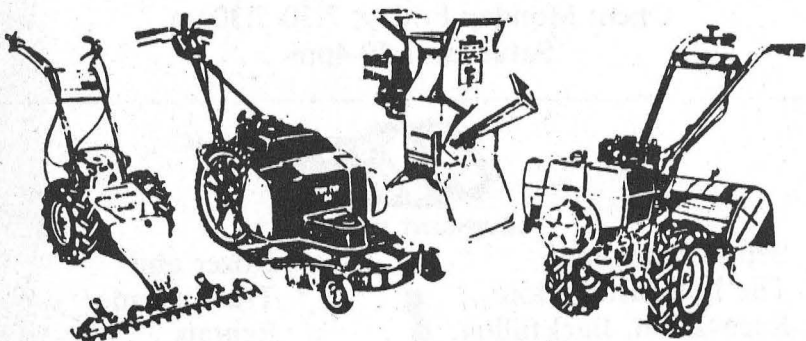
**Tuber.** The natural swelling of an underground stem.

**Virus.** Microscopic organism that causes diseases in plants.

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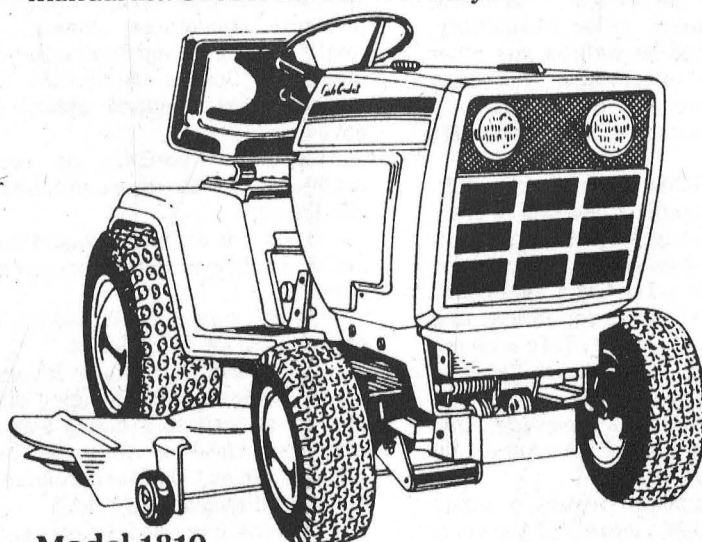
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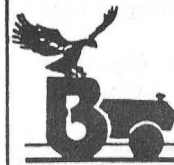
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# The short cuts of pruning properly

Proper pruning can be the best thing for your trees and shrubs; improper pruning can be the worst thing for them.

"Pruning is both an art and a science," says Horticulturist Ruth Friendship-Keller of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's rural organizations and services branch.

The "artist" in you will prune to retain or restore the natural form of the plant.

The "scientist" in you will prune to remove dead and/or diseased branches, stimulate flower and fruit development, control the plant's overall size, and to improve the plant's structural strength, health and vigor.

There is no ideal time to prune all plants.

"The correct time to prune depends on the flowering season of the species, its growth habit and your specific reason for pruning," she says.

Generally, late winter or early spring is the best time to prune deciduous trees, some vines, roses and certain shrubs; at these times of the year the plants have no leaves and that makes it easier to decide where to prune.

At these times, there is also less danger of damaging the bark.

Fruit-bearing trees should be pruned just after they have leafed out.

On the other hand, spring flowering trees and shrubs such as forsythia should be pruned after flowering. (This is because these plants produce their flower buds on the growth of the previous season).

By pruning at this time, you won't destroy prospective blooms and you allow the plant sufficient time and space to grow and produce flower buds for next year.

Shrubs that flower on the current year's wood, such as hydrangea, should be pruned before they flower.

Late fall to early winter is the poorest time to prune because the wounds may not close during the winter months.

Winter pruning is also uncomfortable for you, so you are less likely to take the time to prune with care.

Trees that "bleed" profusely such as maple, birch, walnut, and yellowwoods should only be pruned when they are in full leaf because the leaves will be using the sap -- thereby reducing the "bleeding" and promoting rapid healing.

Pruning while the trees are in leaf also makes it easier to see which branches are dead or lacking vigor.

But avoid pruning in late summer because this could stimulate growth which won't be able to "harden off" before the cold winter temperatures strike.

## Suitable Tools

As with any gardening task, it is important to use suitable tools and equipment.

Special equipment and expertise are needed to prune large trees so you might be wise to hire a professional for these large jobs.

But small trees can be pruned easily.

A sharp, properly set saw is required for the larger cuts and will do a better job for any size of cut than even the best pruning shears.

A pruning saw should be used wherever possible.

Hand pruners should be light, sharp, properly set and of good quality.

Long-handled pruners can speed a pruning job but they tend to leave stubs so use these selectively.

"The choice of tool is a matter of personal preference, but remember to keep your tools sharp and properly adjusted to make clean, flush cuts," she said.

Pruning paint, which was once a

common recommendation, has been found to be of no benefit to the process of wound closure.

Therefore it is not necessary to use pruning paint, except for cosmetic reasons. If you do decide to paint the wound, use a thin coat of some commercial material prepared for this purpose.

Do not use house paints.

Apply the wound paint only to the wound; painting the bark all around the trunk can kill the tree.

All pruning cuts must be made so natural processes will heal the cut surfaces completely and not contribute to the death of the bud immediately below the cut.

"There is a slightly-raised ridge of bark on a branch called the branch collar which is the tissue separating the

branch from the main stem. This can be used as your guide to proper pruning," she said.

Place you saw or shears in front of the ridge and cut downward and slightly outward.

This results in removal of the branch without injury to the main stem.

By leaving the "collar", there is less chance of infection.

"Flush cutting" or cutting through the branch collar makes a large wound than necessary and slows down wound closure.

This type of cut often results when chain saws are used for pruning.

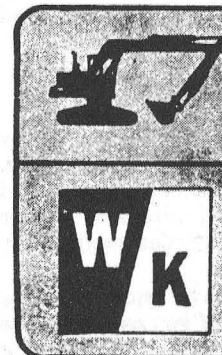
Prune deciduous trees to have a more or less "open" centre.

Remove waterspouts and suckers to encourage the growth outward and upwards.

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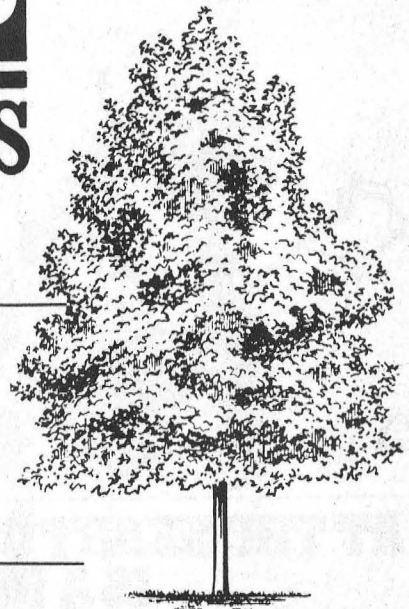
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# A large colorful yard is for the birds

If you are the owner of a home which has a large yard, you are fortunate indeed.

You may not think fortunate is quite the right word though, as you push the lawn mower once more across that green expanse.

However, with a little planning and some special plantings from your local nursery, you will not only decrease the amount of grass which seems to endlessly need cutting, you'll attract birds and perhaps butterflies.

"You must agree, sitting and watching birds and butterflies beats grass cutting as a backyard pastime," says Biologist Alan Watson at the University of Guelph's Arboretum.

To help you in your pursuit of backyard bliss, it is important to consider what aspects of plants will attract birds.

## Attraction

These include cover, food, and nesting material.

The cover can be important from the standpoint of safe places for birds to nest (robins and cardinals will nest in thick vines), to offering areas where birds can roost at night or escape the neighbor's cat.

With respect to food, it is necessary to plan to have fruits and seeds becoming available over a period of time, rather than just in the fall.

For example, serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.) yields bird-attracting fruit in June; raspberries (*Rubus* sp.) are ready in July and elderberries produce fruit in late August or early September.

Also, don't forget, it is not just the birds that you are after; butterflies can be attracted to your yard if you plant flowers such as foxglove (*Digitalis* sp.).

At The Arboretum, we have begun planting the Gosling Wildlife Gardens following the plan developed by Landscape Architect, Katherine Dunster.

The gardens take their name from Philip and Jean Gosling of Guelph who

are providing financial support for the project.

The Gosling Wildlife Gardens are made up of five "backyards", which include structures such as fences, garden walls and patios, planted with a large number of plants, ranging from trees and shrubs to herbaceous material to fulfill the requirements of cover, food and nesting material.

There is a pathway system through the gardens; brochures are presently being developed to help the homeowner identify the plants and their value to wildlife.

Some of the plants you will find in the gardens include: Snowy Mountain Ash (*Sorbus decora*); Red Jade Crabapple (*Malus "Red Jade"*); Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*); Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*); European Highbush Cranberry; it has fruit that is so sour, no self-respecting bird will go near it); Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*); Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*); Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*); Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*); Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*); Red raspberry (*Rubus strigosus* (the birds will share these with you); Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) and Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*).

## Shrubs

These trees and shrubs are readily available at most nurseries and some, such as the Sumac, Crabapple and Mountain Ash, will also add winter interest to your garden with their colored fruit.

You might have more success attracting wildlife if you can persuade your neighbors to do some planting of their own.

"And that shouldn't be too difficult once they see that you are spending less time cutting your grass, and more time enjoying your yard," Watson said.

Wait until they see your underplantings (herbaceous plants under the trees

and shrubs) of Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) (the hummingbirds will be lining up); Borage (*Borago officinalis*); Globe Thistle (*Echinopsphaerocephalus*); Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); and Glory of the Snow (*Chinodoxa luciliae*).

To attract butterflies, you must include food plants for their caterpillars: birch, oak, willow, ash, spice bush, wild grape, and roses (yes, you want some caterpillars on your roses -- the fruit of *Rosa multiflora* also feed Mockingbirds and Thrushes).

Of course, many of the flowers in your underplantings will provide nectar for these larvae after they become adults.

The Gosling Wildlife Gardens at The Arboretum will be officially opened in May, just in time for the annual meeting of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Conference.

"The Gosling Gardens will take at least five years to develop, after which there will be a continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of the various plantings, bird and bat houses, and feeding stations," he said.

And that information won't be kept secret from homeowners.

"We will make visitors aware of the plantings which we have found are best at attracting wildlife. We are also planning a wide range of programs that will use the Gosling Wildlife Gardens as their focus," Watson said.

In the meantime, pick up a catalogue at your local nursery, design an outline of your yard and start on your own plans. And take a tip from your elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) and plan to visit the Gosling Wildlife Gardens at The Arboretum. Many species of wildlife will be glad that Yew (*Taxus* sp.) did!

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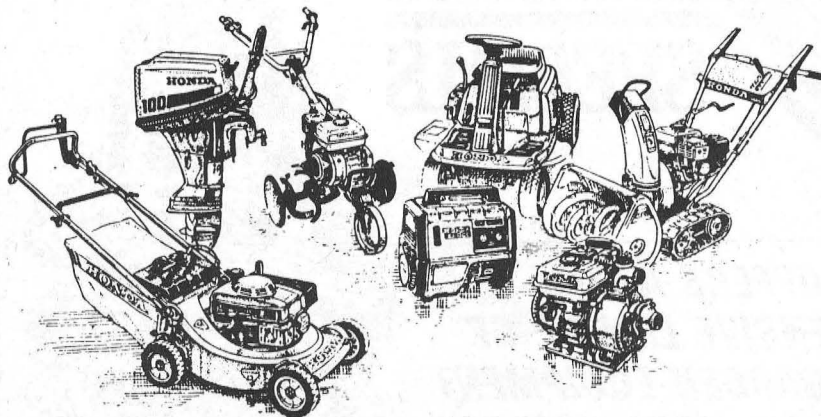
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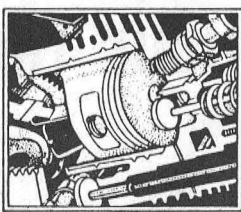
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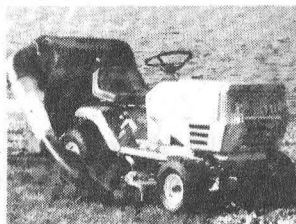
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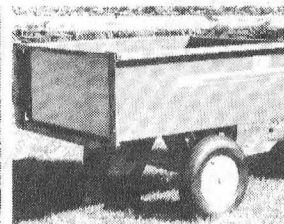
**TTI 12/36D.** 12 hp Briggs & Stratton Industrial/Commercial (I/C) Synchro/balanced engine. Electric start with 12-volt alternator. 6 forward speeds, 1 reverse. Full floating 91.44 cm (36 in.) cut mower deck. 15.00x6.00 front tires, 18.00x9.50 rear tires. Pivoting front axle. Tilt spring-mounted adjustable cushioned seat and ammeter. Approx. shipping weight: 202 kg (446 lb.)

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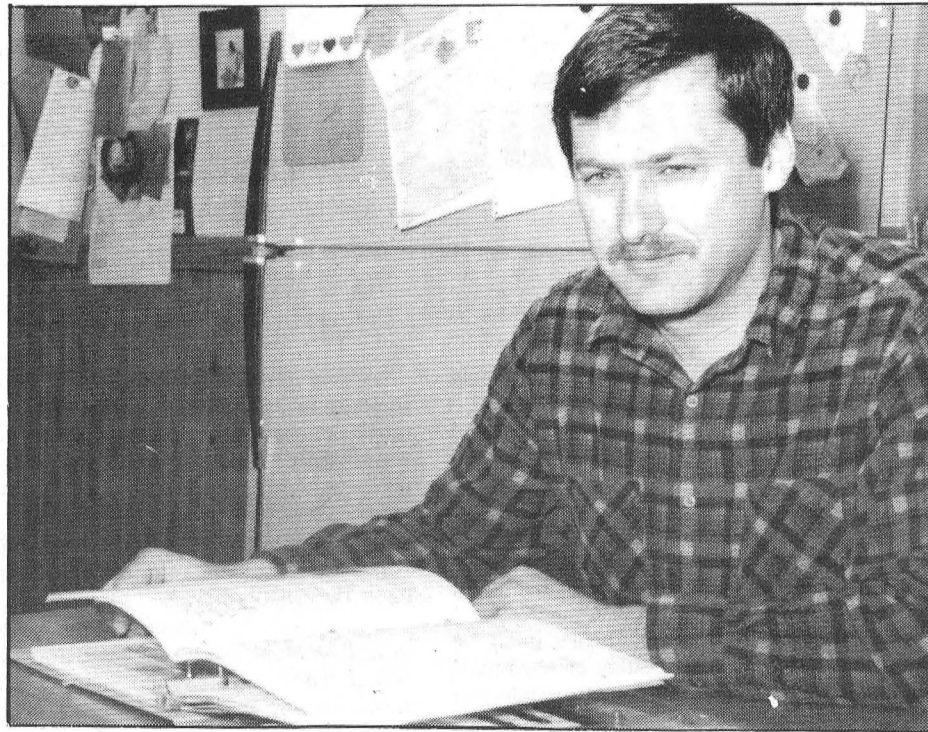
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As a Master Gardener, Randy Nelson studies plant growth and horticulture through the University of Guelph's correspondence courses.  
Record Photo - Johnston

## Bugged? Call a Master Gardener

Diane Johnston  
Record Staff

VERNON — Is an unidentified pest bugging your potato plants? Are your junipers turning brown?

There's help available from more than 315 Master Gardeners, co-sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and local horticultural societies, scattered around the province.

Randy Nelson, sheep producer and Agriculture Canada employee, is one of them. Three years ago, he took up the ministry's offer of correspondence courses through the University of Guelph and has since been volunteering his gardening advice.

"Part of the reason I got involved was it was a good learning experience as well," the 35-year-old Nelson says from his farmhouse northeast of Vernon.

He's picked up tips for his own garden from the home gardening course through the university and also through contacts with other gardeners. He's not working his way through a course that will make him a qualified

plantsman.

As part of his volunteer duties, he takes a turn answering questions called in to the ministry's Bell's Corners from what fertilizer to use to how to prepare the soil for tillage.

When the Bell's Corners group began, he says it was probably one of the largest with 50 members. It's now down to about 30.

Nelson said the Master Gardener program takes some of the workload from the ministry's horticultural specialists. Through clinics in shopping malls, fairs and flower shows, the Master Gardeners can help educate the public.

"I guess it's an extension of what horticultural societies are doing," Nelson says.

Among the suggestions Nelson has offered the area's gardeners plagued by bugs is the use of organic farming techniques and companion plants.

"I think what we've tended to try to do is give people an alternate solution to bugs other than chemicals."

To reach a local Master Gardener, you can contact the hotline number and leave your question on a recorder by calling 828-5264.

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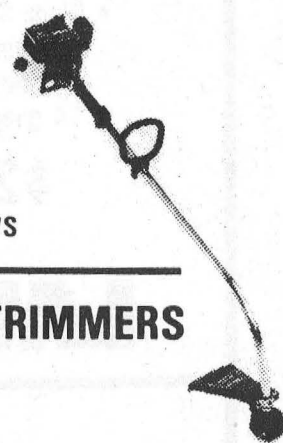
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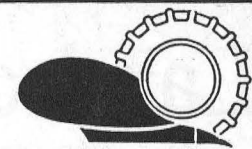
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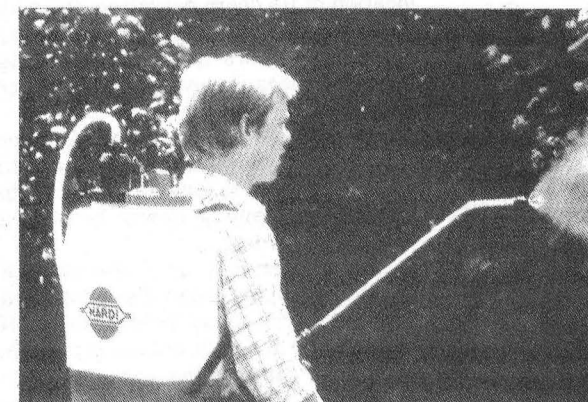
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## Landscaping for fun and profit

If summer conjures an image of restful hours spent swinging on a hammock between two shady trees but the only vegetation growing on your property is a few tufts of grass, you may be considering a landscaping project this spring.

Landscaping is not only soothing to the eye. It is an investment in your home.

If you plan landscaping wisely, you can keep your home cooler in the summer, cut winter heating costs, cut down on dirt and mud that gets tracked into the house and grow fresh vegetables for less than you would pay at the supermarket.

By controlling the amount of sun shining through the windows you may be able to eliminate the need for an air conditioner.

Deciduous trees and shrubs offer shade in the summer. In winter, this type of plant loses its leaves, letting sun-light and heat into the house. Coniferous trees may be best for the north sides of the house.

Maples and other trees with full crowns are best for summer shading because they are high, do not block eye-level views, and let through low-level breezes.

Avoid planting poplars or willows close to the house. Their heavy roots can grow right into the foundation, causing it and the exterior walls to crack. Avoid planting trees that seed a lot, because the seedlings will sprout all over the garden.

Evergreens should not be planted close to the southern exposure because their density prevents summer breezes from passing into the yard and their

cone-shaped heads do not provide such shade.

Generally, there are five things to include in your landscaping project. Keep in mind that the fruits of your labor will not show overnight. The development of a property takes time, usually three or four years.

**Shape of the ground:** Take advantage of natural features on your lot such as rock outcroppings, trees, and uneven grades.

**Surroundings:** You may have a well-wooded area or a stunning view near your house. Plan your landscaping so it will not interfere with these features.

**Climate:** Canadians like to make the most of the few short months of summer. If you are planning a patio or porch, place it in a sunny spot, sheltered from the wind. Vegetable and flower gardens will thrive if planted in a southern exposure.

**The view:** The views from the windows, size of the house and the location of its doors will affect the way you plan your landscaping. The smaller the lot, the more important planning becomes, because every bit of space counts.

**Family:** If you have children or pets, your garden will probably be used mostly for them to play in. Keep this in mind when planting flower beds or a vegetable garden.

No matter how good the plan, it cannot be implemented if the lot itself does not carry away excess water. If the slope, or grade, is not steep enough, water will run into the house or form puddles on the ground. Backfill can be placed against the foundation to create the desired slope.

## Covering up that bald spot

GUELPH — Have you noticed a few bare spots in your lawn this spring?

Perhaps insects, disease or good old Mother Nature gradually deteriorated your lawn to the point where renovation is required.

"Small bare spots in a Kentucky Bluegrass lawn should fill in by themselves if you apply fertilizer and water the lawn more frequently. But areas larger than six inches must be renovated by spot seeding or sodding," says Turf Specialist Annette Anderson of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's plant industry branch.

Begin by removing any dead grass, weeds or debris to expose the bare soil.

Use a rake to loosen the surface. Add additional soil if the area is below lawn level.

Cover the area with seed. Follow the rate of application on the product label or, for every square metre of area, apply 10 grams to 20 grams of seed (roughly 15 seeds per square inch).

Lightly rake the seed into the top centimetre (half inch) of soil and then pack the soil lightly.

Keep the area moist until the grass is well established. If you wish, apply a mulch such as straw to help retain moisture and moderate temperature.

If you decide to repair a bare spot by sodding, use the spot seeding method to prepare the area but remember to allow for the thickness of the sod.

Keep the new sod well watered until it has rooted.

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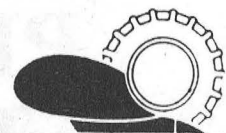


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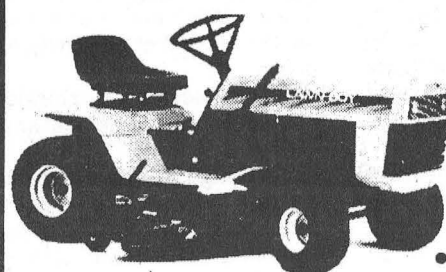
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# Less can be a lot when it comes to gardens

Think your lot is too small for a vegetable garden?

Well, by landscaping with vegetables as well as flowers, you can make the most of today's small city lots, says Master Gardener Bonnie Warner of RR3, Englehart.

Master Gardeners are gardening enthusiasts who have received formal horticultural training through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Master Gardener program.

Try planting a border of leaf lettuce and marigolds around your foundation plantings or grow tomatoes on a trellis to separate two areas.

"Planning is an important part of landscaping with vegetables. You must consider such things as color, growth habit, the time when each variety looks its best and appearance after harvest," she said.

Cabbage, for example, is an effective accent plant until the first head is harvested.

Once the head has been cut, the remaining leaves become an eye-sore.

At this point, perhaps you could replace the cabbage with small pots of marigolds, petunias or geraniums.

Location of the vegetables is of prime importance too.

Full sunlight, adequate water, proper fertilization and good soil are important if your vegetables and flowers are to thrive, she said.

"Certain vegetables also require a regular spray program, so you must find out if the spray will adversely affect neighboring flowers (or vice versa)," she said.

For example, if you plant vegetables around your rose bushes, check to see if the chemical used on the roses

will harm your vegetables. And note if there is a time interval required between the last spray and harvest time, so that the vegetables are not sprayed too close to consumption.

"One advantage of planting vegetables in your flower garden is the unique effect that can be created by combining new colors, forms and textures," she said.

Parsley's dark green color and ruffled texture makes it a good choice for your border.

Parsley is usually late to start from seed in the spring but it is very effective if you plant the seeds with spring bulbs in the fall.

The following spring, the bulbs and the parsley will appear; and in late June, when the bulbs have finished flowering, their unsightly foliage will be hidden by the lacey parsley foliage.

Asparagus, which is a perennial, makes an attractive delicate backdrop in a perennial garden.

"But it is important to remember that asparagus needs about four to five years before you can begin to harvest the tender young shoots," she said.

Tomatoes may be used in several ways.

Miniature or cherry types can be used in patio pots or as border plants.

Larger varieties can be trained to grow on a trellis for an effective backdrop part of the landscape.

The unusual heads of the globe artichoke make it an interesting accent, along with its thistle-like flowers.

The heads are cooked like asparagus or sometimes eaten raw.

Kale and borecole (with its finely curled dark leaves) can be used as an

accent or border plant.

The tender leaves of borecole can be used as boiled greens, chopped for salads or sandwiched or used like lettuce.

Brussels sprouts also make a good accent plant in the flower garden.

And after harvesting the sprouts late in the summer, the plant still looks attractive in the landscape.

Herbs - tarragon, dill, sage - may be used as background materials or accent plants.

Ornamental basil, with its dark purple leaves and lavender-white blooms, is an interesting contrast plant.

Chives, with its long narrow grass-like leaves and mauve-pink flowers, is ideal in a border.

Peppers and Swiss chard may also be used as border material.

The shiny leaves and fruit of the pepper add a unique texture to your landscape.

Unlike the beet, only select parts of Swiss chard are harvested, so the plant is still an effective part of the landscape.

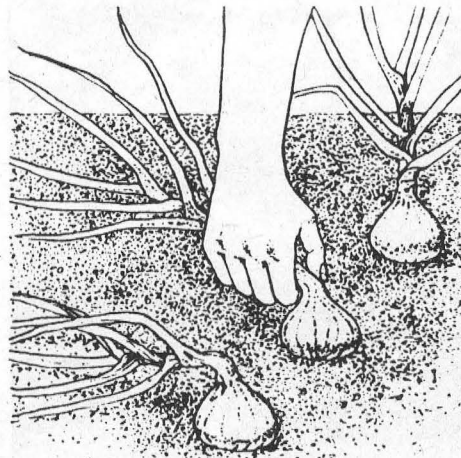
Other vegetables are more difficult, although not impossible to use in a landscape.

Sprawling plants, such as pumpkin, squash and beans should be avoided, except under certain circumstances.

Rhubarb can be used as background material, but its use is limited because it dies down in late summer.

Use only the stalks of rhubarb; rhubarb leaves are poisonous.

With a little imagination and determination, you can create a beautiful, "budget wise" landscape.



## Bending onion tops

When the tips of the leaves start going yellow, it is time to bend over and break the necks of the onions. This starts the ripening process. At the same time, loosen the onions with a fork to start them drying, but take care not to damage the skins. A few days later, ease them out of the ground and leave them in the sun to finish drying out.

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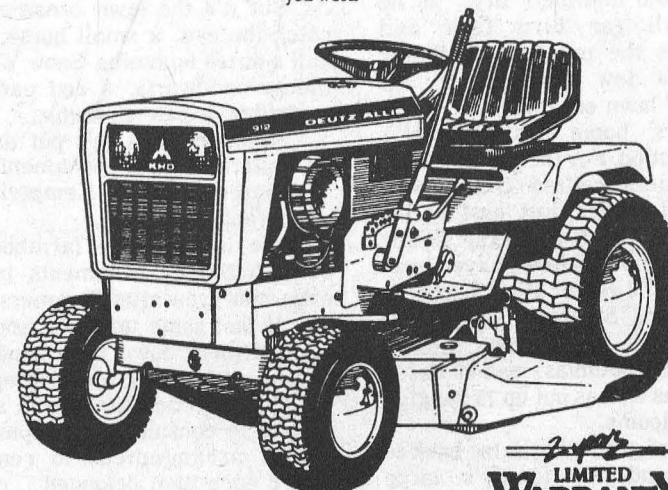


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# A Summers' paradise

## This landscaping isn't just for the birds

Diane Johnston  
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE — Daisies mix with penguins on Art Summers' lawn while a Holstein cow and bull fight for space with the Flintstones.

Pens filled with all sorts and sizes of ornamental birds -- so many he's never bothered to count them -- fill his backyard.

"It's a pretty expensive hobby," the 77-year-old Summers says, as he pays a bill for bird feed and contemplates the purchase of flower flats and a few additions to his collection of lawn ornaments.

Summers' home has become a tourist attraction. For the past 15 years, since Summers retired from dairy farming and moved just east of his family home, bird fanciers, flower lovers and the curious have been dropping by the Baker Road home.

This year, Summers will plant some 50 flats of flowers (mainly marigolds and petunias) and 20 dozen geraniums, as well as put up 75 hanging baskets of blooms.

His love of gardening dates back to his youth and his family's large vegetable garden, fruit trees and 14-foot flower beds.

"When I came here, I just had to do something."

Hard work is the key to his garden's success. Last year, he covered all his flower beds with manure. Two weeks ago, he worked the soil.

"I don't want to touch those beds now until I'm ready to put the flowers in

became they'll dry out so quick."

During the late spring and summer, he often rises at 6 a.m. and sometimes skips lunch while working outside. His evenings are spent watering; last year's garden demanded more than 50 pails of water a night, ladled into the hanging baskets and urns with a dipper.

"A lot of people say, 'Oh, you've got a green thumb.' Anybody can have flowers, but they've got to make up their minds there's some work to it."

But it's the lawn ornaments that catch the eye: a small horse, a deer, half a dozen fountains, Snow White and the seven dwarfs, a red cardinal, a partridge, a pair of skunks.

Summers says he's put thousands of dollars into the ornaments, many purchased from a Kempsville area manufacturer.

The lawn of the farmhouse had been dotted by ornaments but their attraction grew after Summers retired.

"I had some up there and then I fetched them down here. And I kept getting and getting and getting."

His collection has grown so much he had to consult photographs of last year's arrangement to remember where each item belonged.

The multitude of plastic and cement ornaments make cutting the grass a demanding chore.

Summers' enjoyment of his hobby is disturbed only by mother nature, vandals and his own ill health.

Each year, he loses birds and eggs to skunks and foxes. Thieves have also made off with some of the lawn decorations, including one of a pair of



### A gardener's delight

During the summer months, visitors flock to Art Summers' Baker Road home west of Chesterville to tour a garden filled with thousands of blooms, half a dozen fountains and a multitude of lawn ornaments ranging from a Tweety and Sylvester to a deer. For the 77-year-old Summers, his yard has become an all consuming hobby. "A lot of people say, 'Oh, you've got a green thumb.' Anybody can have flowers, but they've got to make up their minds there's some work to it," the retired dairy farmer insists. When they tire of wandering amid the flowers, visitors can gaze at Summers' collection of ornamental birds, ranging from resplendent peacocks and wild ducks to common laying hens. The labor involved in maintaining his nature lover's paradise is demanding, but the smiles of the visitors persuade him it's worth it.

lions that once guarded the driveway entrance.

"One was picked up about four years ago and I tried all over to get one to mate it, but I couldn't find the right size," he says.

Summers suffers from sugar diabetes and now finds the gardening chores, particularly watering, tiring.

"The flowers are kind of on hold. I think I'll have them but it's a lot of

work," he says.

On the kitchen counter he has photographs of couples and children who toured his garden last year. He recalls with a smile the regular visits of senior citizens from a nearby nursing home.

"I say it's my last year. I keep saying that," he says with a smile.

"If I can make somebody happy for a day or two, it makes my day."