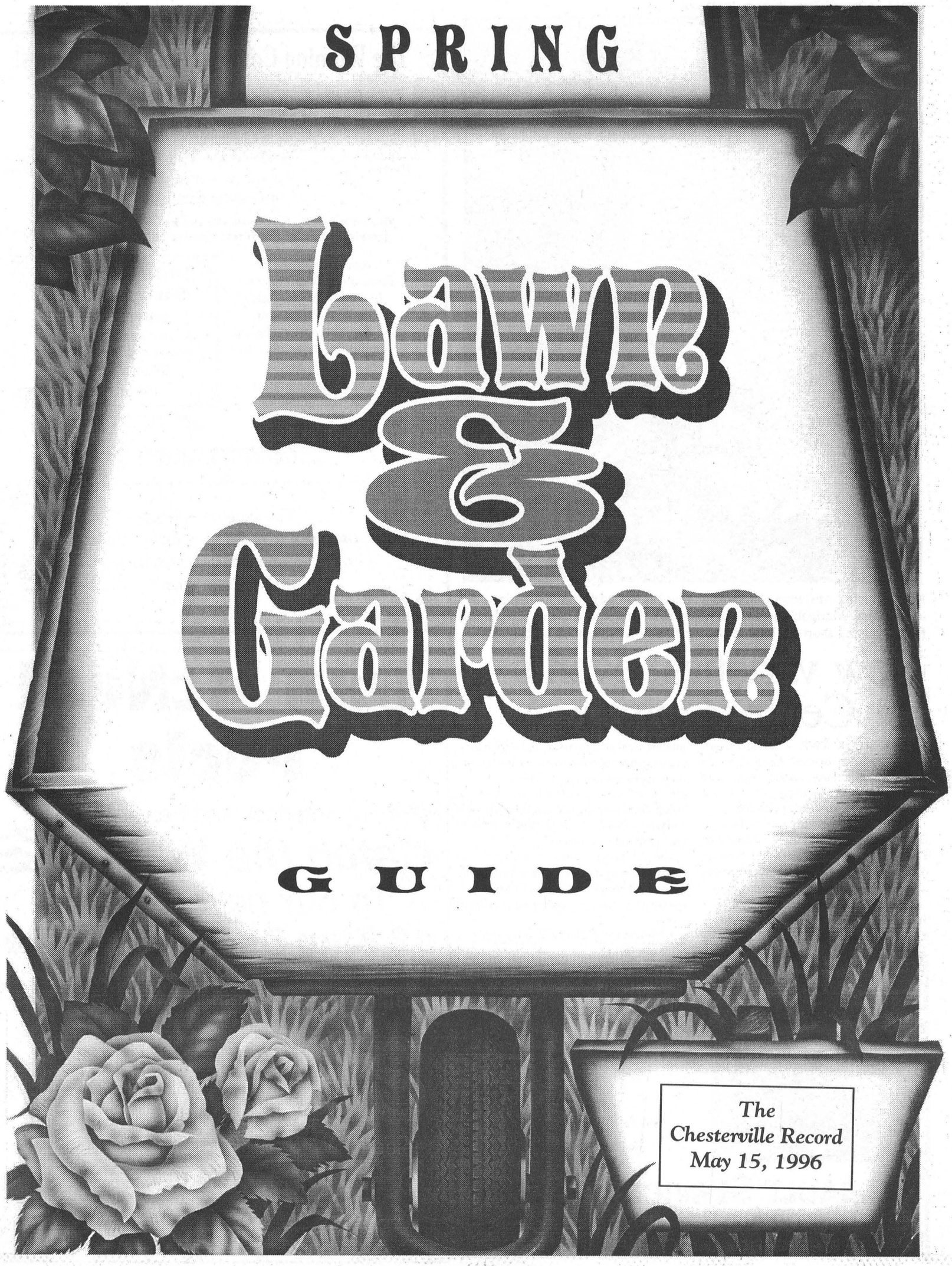
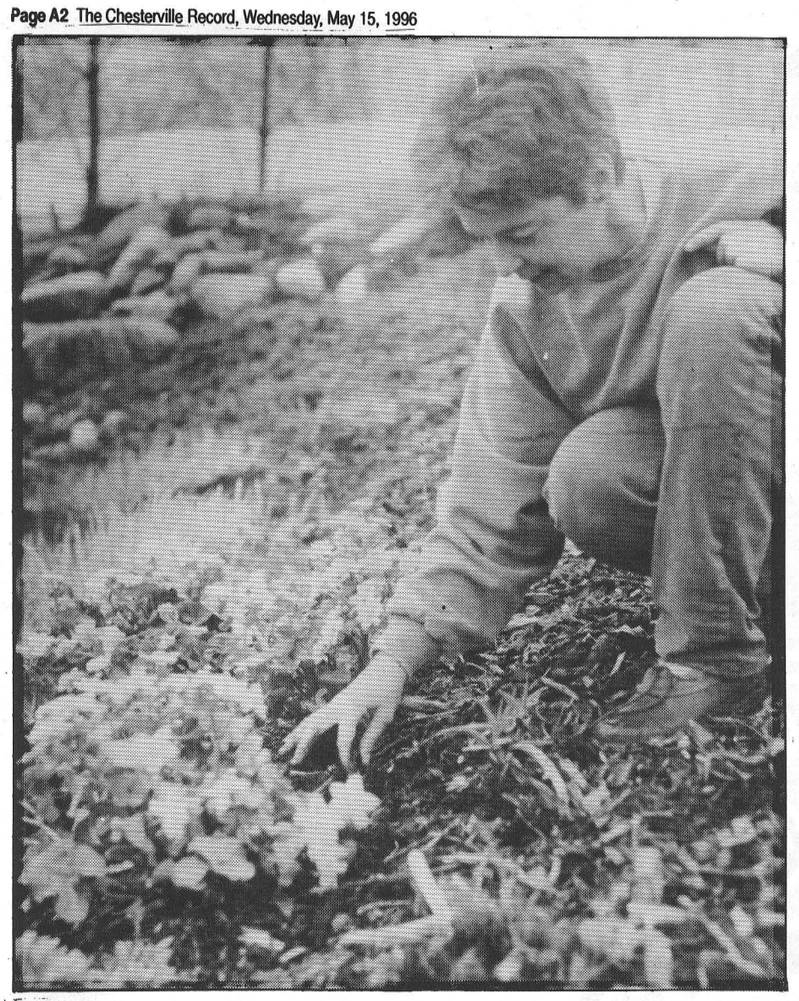

SPRING
Lawn
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Garden
GUIDE
The
Chesterville Record
May 15, 1996



Karen Carriere of Centre Commons Perennials in Osnabruck Township, tends to the Marsh Marigolds around the new pond. A variety of events are planned for the centre's short but busy season, and new varieties are in stock.

New varieties, events for Centre Commons

OSNABRUCK TWP. — Centre Commons Perennials opened April 27 to its fifth short but busy season, with new plants in stock and a variety of events and free clinics and workshops planned.

Nestled on a scenic piece of land in Osnabruck Township, Centre Commons Perennials offers more than 500 varieties of organically-grown flowers, and features artistically-arranged theme gardens.

Changes this year will include a formal 38' by 38' formal rose garden, says owner Karen Carriere, adding there's a lot of interest right now in roses, and new, hardy but fragrant varieties such as the David Austen are coming into bloom.

year with Dividing Perennials on June 8, Using Foliage in the Garden June 15, and "Mystery Plants," where your perenials are identified, on June 22.

June 30 is "Gardens of Delight" at Centre Commons, featuring a variety of events and speakers. George Pagowski of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton

☐ Please see CENTRE on page 7

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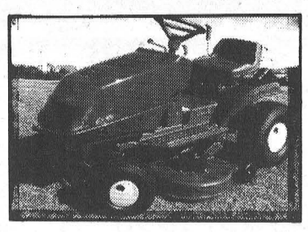
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Enthusiast helps land go back to nature

Colin Abbott has been busy giving Mother Nature a hand this spring.

By planting hundreds of wildflowers this year, he says, he is allowing his farmland on the Sandtown Road to return to its original natural state.

"I think wildflowers are beautiful and by planting them I am encouraging native plants to come back to life," he says.

The wildflowers will also stabilize the ground and create feed for wildlife. "Wildflowers are native to this country along with being exquisite to look at."

Abbott discovered their beauty while refining his skills in macro-photograpy. "I was amazed at all of the stunning little flowers I was seeing."

As a result of seeing their beauty so close up, Abbott, decided to go back to nature entirely. "Along with the wildflowers, I'm also growing wild cherries, strawberries and other wild plants."

Trying to make one's garden perfect is impossible, Abbott says. "They never were perfect, so it's fun to see what they do naturally."

Perhaps, it's the myriad of colors and textures wildflowers come in. "Their natural beauty rivals even the most elegant of formal gardens."

Twenty years ago, it was difficult to make wildflowers a part of the home garden. Enthusiasts transplanted favorite varieties from the wild, or they collected seeds and planted them in domestic gardens with varying degrees of success.

However, these days wildflower seeds are available in most local nurseries and garden centres. The Co-op in Chesterville has practically sold out of its wildflower seeds this spring and in the past has sold increasing numbers of packages.

Now it is possible, says Abbott, to set aside part of any landscape for a wildflower garden. In his case though, "I love watching everything grow so I plant all sorts of crazy stuff in different places."

The better mixes provide color throughout the year by combining early blooming species with both mid- season and late-season blossoms. Plants such as wild columbine and larkspur, for example, bloom profusely in mid-spring, while wild lupine not only starts early but continues to bloom in early July.

"Wildflowers are native to this country along with being exquisite to look at."
- Colin Abbott

Wildflowers such as lance-leaved coreopsis and wild sweet William provide color from late spring well into summer and sometimes beyond, while bachelor buttons and blue flax are loaded with blossoms from mid-summer right into fall.

There are a few standard rules to planting wildflowers.

First, work up the soil one to three inches deep in the selected garden area. Although a roto- tiller will make the job easier, it is not required. Simply till the soil until the clods are about the size of marbles.

Then scatter the seed, either by hand or with a hand-held seed spreader. For the best effect, plant in clumps — the way wildflowers grow in the wild — and never plant in rows.

Fertilizing at the time of seeding will enhance the results. This can be done with either a dry, granular product or a liquid fertilizer.

Covering the seed is not necessary, although it helps to rake the area lightly with a leaf rake... just enough to jostle the seeds into the soil.

As well, many local garden centres this year are selling a new and easy way to enjoy wildflowers. Wildflower Patch-Master is a product that includes 28 varieties of the most beautiful wildflowers, plus the right amount of fertilizer they need, plus mulch to hold moisture and hasten germination.

The seed, fertilizer and mulch are all mixed together, so once the soil is worked, the mixture can be scattered on the area, watered and there it is... wildflowers!

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Wildflowers:
An elegant touch to any garden

There's something special about wildflowers. Their natural beauty rivals even the most elegant of formal gardens.

One reason is the myriad varieties, colors and textures they come in. There are more than 80 families of wildflowers, with more than 1,200 species.

Twenty years ago, it was difficult to make wildflowers a part of the home garden. Enthusiasts transplanted favorite varieties from the wild, or they collected seeds and planted them in domestic garden with varying degrees of success. Today, however, wildflower seeds are available in many nurseries and garden centers. Now it is possible to set aside part of any landscape for a "wildflower garden."

The better mixes provide color throughout the year by combining early-blooming species with both midseason and late-season blossomers. Plants such as wild columbine and larkspur, for example, bloom profusely in midspring, while wild lupine not only starts early but continues to bloom into early July.

Wildflowers such as lance-leaved coreopsis and wild sweet William provide color from late spring well into summer and sometimes beyond, while bachelor buttons and blue flax are loaded with blossoms from midsummer right into fall.

To plant the wildflowers, work up the soil one to three inches deep in the selected garden area. Although a rototiller will make the job easier, it is not required. Simply till the soil until the clods are about the size of marbles.

Then scatter the seed, either by hand or with a hand-held seed spreader. For best effect, plant in clumps—the way wildflowers grow in the wild—and NEVER plant in rows.

Fertilizing at the time of seeding will enhance the results. This can be done with either a dry, granular product or a liquid fertilizer.

Covering the seed is not necessary, although it helps to rake the area lightly with a leaf rake . . . just enough to jostle the seeds into the soil.

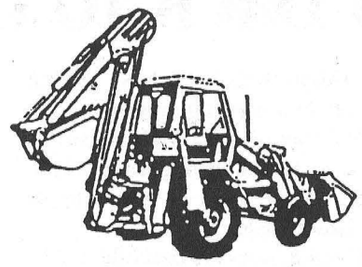
This year, there's a new, easy way to enjoy wildflowers. It's a product that includes 28 varieties of the most beautiful wildflowers, plus the right amount of fertilizer they need, plus mulch to hold moisture and hasten germination. The seed, fertilizer and mulch are all mixed together, so once the soil is worked, the mixture can be scattered on the area, watered and voilà . . . wildflowers!

Pros offer healthy turf tips

Homeowners can learn how professionals achieve a healthy turf. Basic considerations include:

- *Soil type*. Grass grows best in soils that have a mix of clay, silt, sand, key nutrients and proper pH balance. Poor soils can be improved.
- *Grass*. A grass type compatible with geographic conditions will promote the lawn's health, aesthetics and environmental functions.
- *Watering*. Water only when the lawn needs it, and then water slowly and deeply. Apply about an inch and a half of water each time. Early morning watering reduces evaporation.
- *Mowing*. Lawns should be mowed high, often and with a sharp blade. Mowing high fosters proper root development. Grasscycling — leaving clippings on the lawn to decompose — returns nutrients to the soil.
- *Fertilizer*. Most lawns need fertilizer to provide more nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium than most soils can deliver. Overfertilization can harm lawns.
- *Pest control*. Many lawn care companies use a variety of pest control practices and products. Some are preventive and some are done as spot applications for weed, insect and disease problems.

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Recapture nutrients with grass clippings

If you still mow your lawn in the traditional way, you probably face the same problem over and over again: grass clippings.

Disposing of clippings through curbside pickup burdens our landfills. In fact, many communities now refuse to collect yard wastes.

You may not know it, but keeping grass clippings on the lawn can actually make a lawn healthier by returning vital nitrogen to the soil, effectively enriching your lawn every time you mow.

So, what do you do? First, mow more often. A side-discharge mower keeps clippings to a minimum and spreads them evenly over your lawn, so you won't need to rake.

If you use a bagging attachment, you can transfer clippings to a compost pile that will provide you with natural, organically enriched earth for feeding vegetables and plants later on.

Besides mowing, you could try mulching. Mulching mowers and mulching blade attachments put grass clippings to work for you. By cutting and then recutting grass, a mulching blade produced fine particles that can barely be seen. These small particles decompose quickly, returning nutrients to your lawn.

As you can see, any type of mower can help you to recycle grass clippings.

And remember, a well-landscaped lawn shows you take pride in your home, while enhancing its value—and it shows you are "Earth wise."

Manage and minimize mosquito problems

What mosquitoes lack in size, they more than make up for in audacity and sheer numbers. These tiny flying pests are a summertime nuisance and are carriers of diseases that are harmful to people and their pets.

Fortunately, there are things you can do to minimize mosquito problems other than staying indoors all summer.

Mosquitoes must have standing water upon which to lay their eggs and develop during their early life stages. Therefore, it is important to remove or regularly clean any items which collect water and become mosquito breeding grounds. These include stopped-up rain gutters, birdbaths, shallow ditches, hollow tree stumps and discarded items such as tin cans or tires.

It is also helpful to carefully prune dense vines and shrubs around houses so that these areas do not harbor mosquitoes.

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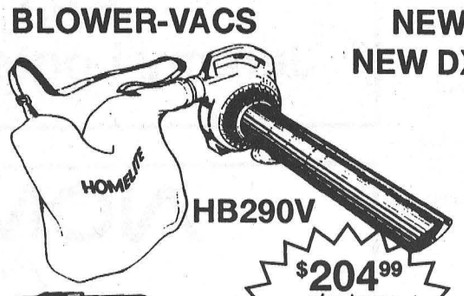
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Riding mowers: *Adult time savers, not children's toys*

When used properly, riding mowers are time-saving and work-saving devices. Thousands of Canadian homeowners depend on their lawn or garden tractor to maintain a beautiful lawn, which in turn enhances the value of their property.

Children, on the other hand, are often attracted to riding mowers and the mowing area. Those parents who operate riding mowers with children on their laps, or in the mowing area, are unknowingly raising the risk of accidents and possible injury.

Despite manufacturer's warning labels, cautions in operator's manuals, safety devices and industry safety education programs, the careless practice of operating a mower with a child, or allowing a child to operate a mower, continues.

Dr. Walt Chwals, a trauma surgeon at the Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina recently published the results of a five-year study of injuries he



had treated in the *Journal of Trauma*.

His findings revealed that 10 of 13 children he treated suffered from injuries involving riding mowers, and that all of these accidents were entirely preventable. The average age of his patients was 4.2 years old.

Parents don't intentionally want to harm their children, but don't associate riding mowers with the risk of serious injury for curious children.

Parents don't see the danger until it's too late. Toddlers can squirm and slip and fall from a lap very easily. Kids in a yard can dart from anywhere and are prone to tripping and falling.

"My message to parents is to keep children away from mowers, period," Chwals said. "Keep them inside and safe while you're mowing, and never operate a riding mower with a child in your lap."

Remember these important dos and don'ts when you operate a riding mower:

- **Do** keep small children out of the mowing area, preferably indoors under adult supervision.
- **Do** be alert and turn the mower off if children enter the area.
- **Do** read the manufacturer's operator's manual before operating.
- **Do**, before operating in reverse, look behind and down for small children.
- **Do** use extra care when approaching corners, shrubs and trees.
- **Don't** carry children. Riding mowers are designed for one operator only.
- **Don't** allow children to operate a riding mower.

Rid your lawn of weeds

Are you tired of Mother Nature planting a garden of dandelions, clover and other weeds in your lawn every spring? There is a solution to the problem, but according lawn care experts you're just wasting your time and effort if you try to tame those weeds by digging and pulling.

Years ago, the popular way to get dandelions and other broadleaf weeds out of a lawn was to dig them out, and a special V-shaped tool was sold specifically for this purpose. But much to the lawnowner's disappointment, the weeds grew back . . . again and again.

Dandelion roots are sometimes up to two feet long. Simply yanking them out of the ground may give immediate, temporary results, but the roots will continue to grow underground and a new plant will replace the old one on your lawn's surface.

The easy and efficient way to rid your lawn of those persistent perennial weeds—roots and all—is to apply a weed-and-feed product when the weeds are actively growing.

Using a combination weed-and-feed product will control your broadleaf weeds and help your grass grow quickly into the spots the weeds will be leaving. A time--release fertilizer will help keep your lawn thick and green for up to two months.

Broadleaf weed controls begin working soon after application. Within days, you will see the top growth begin to twist and curl. In about four weeks, the plants will disintegrate, and they won't grow back.

For best results, the lawn should be wet from dew, rain or the sprinkler before application. It's important for the product particles to stick to the weed leaves, so stay off the lawn for 24 hours after application. Don't apply the product when rain is expected within 24 hours.

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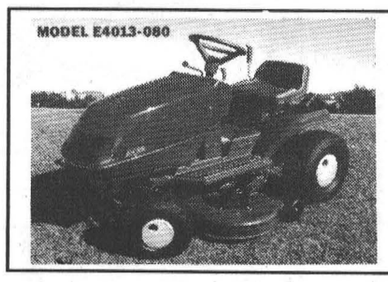
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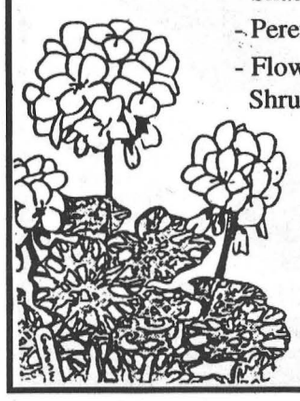
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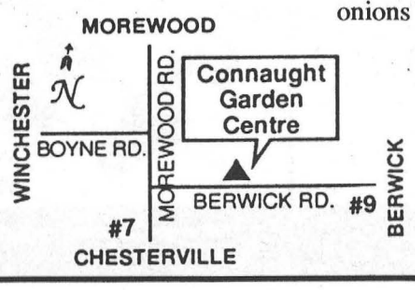
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Centre Commons plans events

☐ Continued from page 2

will be on hand at 2:30 and 4 p.m. to discuss shrub, antique and English roses. Floral design judges Debby Lytle and Ann Tokaruk, of Stittsville, will give presentations on fresh flower arranging at 1:30 and 3 p.m., and at 2 and 4:30 p.m., Carriere will give fragrant garden tours.

Also, ongoing throughout the afternoon, visitors can learn hands-on floral papermaking with artist Wendy Cain, garden gargoyles with ceramist Dora Campbell as well as enjoy flute music, flower crafts for kids and a door prize.

Centre Commons closes for business July 13, but events take place even after that. An open garden August 4 from 1 to 5 p.m. features a workshop on plants for the water garden by master gardeners Lee Boltwood and Darlene Scales, as well as a tour of mid-summer flowers. At another open garden September 1, also from 1 to 5 p.m., visitors can learn dried flower arranging with floral design judge Helen Halpenny and a tour of ornamental gras-

Also new are 15 varieties of fragrant shrubs, and a 40-by-20-foot pond, which will be home to water plants like lillies, marginals and pickerel weed. The pond is six feet deep in the centre, and was built on a part of the property that always held water. The pond is accented by an artificial but attractive waterfall.

New perennials this year include an astible only six inches high, called Perkeo, a double-flowered, ruby-red columbine called Ruby Port, an exceptionally-long-blooming Siberian iris called Lavendar Bounty and So Sweet, the Hosta of the year for 1996.

A series of free clinics continues this ses.

And Centre Commons Perennials, Carriere notes, is not just a place to come and buy. Visitors are welcome throughout the May to mid-July season. Carriere says a trip to the country, to see the theme gardens, is becoming a more and more popular day trip for flower enthusiasts from across eastern Ontario.

For visitors who are not as experienced in the ways of perennials, Carriere can provide lists of garden collections, or suggestions of reliable plants to start with.

Centre Commons has grown each year since it opened. Word-of-mouth advertising is bringing in people from Ottawa and other areas, Carriere says. She noted Centre Commons Perennials stocks some hard-to-find organic items, such as sea kelp, sea weed emulsion, mushroom compost and garden sulphur. Also, the fact that everyting is organically grown, without pesticides or herbicides, has also drawn attention.

Centre Commons Perennials is on Otto Road, RR 2 Newington. It is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, phone (613) 984-2645.

Garden workout can be good, clean fitness fun



The physical fitness trend has finally made it to the family backyard as experts are advocating "garden workouts" to keep both you and your grounds in shape.

With manual hand tools as "exercise equipment," authorities say various garden chores such as digging, raking and weeding can also become an aerobic experience—burning up to 300 calories per hour.

For the more robust gardener, hefty full-size 36-inch Groundbreakers landscaping tools will challenge their biceps, while less-active gardeners will benefit from lighter weight configurations with a choice of long or short handles. V&B also gives the gardener/exerciser the option of fitting tools to the task by providing interchangeable handles of various lengths. As an example: long-handled (36-inch) lightweight tools are considered ideal for seniors and others who prefer gardening from a standing position as well as for disabled gardeners operating from a wheelchair. However, a short-handled (16- or 26-inch) tool would be ideal for these same people for one-handed work in a raised plant bed or planter.

Incorporating techniques from the martial arts, aerobics and weight training, Restuccio emphasizes the mental as well as the physical benefits of gardening, observing that the digging, chopping and striking motions used in gardening can provide a healthy outlet for relieving stress and tension.

For gardeners with limited capabilities, lightweight and head-interchangeable yard tools are positives for wheelchair gardeners and others with mobility impairments.

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Be "Earthwise"

Reduce, re-use, recycle

Reduce, re-use, recycle. These are some of the buzzwords of the environmental movement. And if you've gotten into the habit of recycling plastic, glass and newspapers at your home, don't forget to recycle when you're outside, too.

Here are helpful tips on how to keep yard waste in your yard and out of our overburdened landfills:

"Keeping grass clippings on the lawn can actually make it healthier by returning vital nitrogen to the soil, effectively fertilizing your lawn every time you mow.

A side-discharge mower, used frequently, can broadcast smaller clippings throughout a lawn. If you use a bagging attachment, you can collect grass clippings for use in a compost pile, instead of taking clippings curbside.

Mulching mowers and mulching blade attachments are also available to reduce large amounts of clippings into fine particles that can effectively enrich the soil organically.

But what about the bigger stuff? That stuff you pick up so you can actually get to mowing? Twigs, branches, leaves—these contribute to yard waste problems, too.

First, reduce. With the help of a chipper/shredder, any yard waste is substantially reduced. Even large branches are cut down to a much more manageable size.

Re-use. Leaves create mulch, which decomposes into hardworking humus. Wood chips can be used as decorative filler around shrubs, gardens and flowerbeds to help retain moisture.

Recycle. Leftover yard wastes can be transformed into enriched earth in a compost pile, where they break down into nutrient-rich compost for use in future gardening projects.

The right plan, along with the right combination of today's helpful outdoor power equipment, such as a waste-reducing chipper/shredder and a mulching mower, will keep your home looking beautiful while enhancing its value. So recycle in your yard and show that you are "Earth wise."

Plant health care management

A new concept in lawn and plant management — plant health care — is catching on across the country.

The advanced plant-management system is like preventive health care with frequent checkups, early detection and use of integrated treatments to provide long-term solutions.

Plant health care evolved from agriculture's integrated pest management approach. Where integrated pest management is reactive — focusing on the pest; plant health care is proactive — focusing on the plant.

Plant health care encourages plant vigor and healthy, balanced growth. It also involves personal contact with the customer. Establishment of program goals, expectations, monitoring, customer reports, client feedback and a seasonal summary and evaluation become a part of a joint process between the customer and lawn care professional.

Is plant health care right for your lawn?

Every lawn and customer can be different, The program that works for you may not be what works for your neighbor. Consult your lawn care service, and review all your options before making a decision.

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Designed for single-layer landscaping or multiple-layered, raised garden beds, the unique 48-inch-long timbers also interlock and may be secured with joint pins. These timbers are a long-lasting, light, easy-to-install alternative to cumbersome wooden railroad ties. They even come with curved sections so you can create an attractive, 48-inch-diameter circle.

Other proven garden materials include:

- A tree support kit that takes the work out of straightening a tree up to five inches in diameter. The plastic tree rope and sling are recyclable and help prevent damage to trees from the more common hose straps of many kits. The stakes are made from 100-percent-recycled plastic.
- Weed Ban, a professional-quality landscape fabric at a consumer-appreciated price. This fabric blocks the light, thus deterring weeds while allowing air, water and nutrients to penetrate the soil. It replaces the need for weed-killing garden chemicals. This UV-treated fabric carries a 10-year guarantee—the longest in the industry.

The environmentally friendly landscape fabrics and recycled-plastic landscape timbers, made from post-consumer waste, work well together to provide an attractive, low-maintenance garden in which plant survival and growth are enhanced. Therefore, water usage and the need for chemical weed control can be reduced.

Why Canadians love their lawns

As winter's chill and drab colors recede, among the first plants to reflect the hues of spring are lawn grasses.

There are many reasons why Canadians value their lawns. Gallup survey respondents said a well maintained lawn and landscape:

- Helps beautify the neighborhood.
- Provides a place of beauty and relaxation for the family, employees or visitors.
- Reflects positively on its owner.
- Increases real estate value.
- Provides a comfortable place to entertain, work or visit.
- Provides a safe, high-quality play area for children.

The environmental benefits of a healthy lawn—helping to purify and cool the air, and filtering water that drains into the ground—were recognized.

In fact, healthy turf helps lock nitrogen and phosphorus in the root zone and prevents them from reaching the groundwater. Studies show that a healthy, properly maintained lawn is an effective filter for protecting groundwater quality.

With the economic, aesthetic and environmental benefits a healthy lawn brings, it's no wonder we consider lawn care a priority.

Benefits of a healthy lawn

North Americans spend about 1 billion hours a year caring for more than 25 million acres of lawns. Why?

Lawns surround us and enhance our neighborhoods. Their impact is economic, personal and environmental.

Most households value an attractive, healthy lawn and landscaping because they beautify the neighborhood, provide a beautiful place to relax and enhance property values.

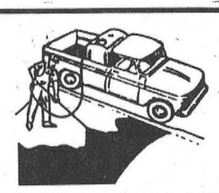
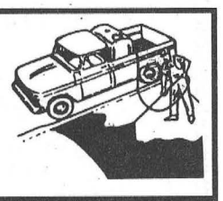
In fact, the investment recovery rate on a home is 100 to 200 percent for landscape improvement. Proper and well-maintained landscaping adds 15 percent to a home's value and results in a quicker sale, buyers say.

While the economic and the psychological appeal of a thick, healthy lawn is obvious, environmental benefits — air cooling and purification, and groundwater filtration — are recognized by only 12 percent of Canadian households.

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More to grass seed than meets the eye

If you're planting grass this year, buying the right kind of seed is important. What you're really buying is a lawn, but at the time of purchase there's nothing to look at, touch or compare . . . except the seed and the box or bag it comes in. It's well worth spending a few minutes to buy the right seed, because however the lawn turns out—good or bad—depends a great deal upon the grass seed you buy.

How do you know which grass seed to buy?

First of all, remember that there's no such thing as bargain grass seed. Time and again, homeowners have purchased cheap grass seed to save a few dollars and later found they ruined their lawn. You should buy only grass seed that comes from a company know for quality. Stay away from unknown names and private-label seed. You may have to pay a little extra, but it could well be the best money you've ever spent on your lawn.

Second, look for a seed mixture that fits your yard conditions (sunny, shady or a combination) and how the lawn area will be used. Will it be a pristine picture of beauty or your children's play area? Read the package to find the mix that fits your needs.

And finally, be sure to read not just the front of the package, but also the analysis label that every grass seed package is required by law to carry.

The label may look confusing at first, but all you need to know are a few simple guidelines. For example, the label will show, by weight, the amount of each grass type in the mixture. Some seed mixtures contain improved



varieties, including specifically named proprietary varieties that are top performers. Look for names like Abbey, Accolade, Banner and Coventry.

A separate listing of "crop" seeds will be on the analysis panel. Stay away from these. Look for as close to 0.00 percent as possible. Weed seeds are listed. Since you obviously don't want to plant weeds, this number should be as low as you can find. Because many weed seeds are tiny, a small percentage by weight could still sow a lot of weeds into your lawn.

Noxious weeds are listed separately by seed count. These are weeds that defy removal by conventional weed controls, and you obviously don't want to plant these problems. Only a few noxious weed seeds can create a big problem in any lawn, so insist on no noxious weeds.

A percentage of germination is also included in the analysis panel. This tells you how much seed from the same batch as is in the package sprouted in laboratory tests. If a package shows 75 percent germination, this means that 25 percent of the seed in the package will not grow at all. Therefore, the higher this number, the better.

Inert matter is listed by percentage of the total weight. This includes chaff, stems and in some cases inert filler material that some companies add to give the package greater bulk. It is all material that will not grow, so look for as small a number here as possible.

By spending just a small amount of time studying the seed-package analysis panel, you can save yourself a lot of headaches and make sure you end up with a lawn to be proud of.

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Don't let Japanese beetle battle bug you

After spending ten months feeding on your lawn's root system, they are now ready to spread their wings, snack on your sycamores and ravage your roses. Japanese beetles, which are the adult form of white grubs, create severe damage in many parts of the Canada each year.

The shiny, green metallic insects can be seen voraciously feeding on everything from vegetable gardens and fruit trees to roses and ornamental plants.

Japanese beetles are most active in bright, sunny locations on warm days. They are usually found in groups that collectively destroy leaf tissue, leaving only the plant's veins intact. This causes the affected plants to have a "skeletonized" appearance.

For very light infestations, shake small trees or plants early in the morning when beetles are sluggish. Place a tarp on the ground to capture the pests so they can be destroyed.

For effective control of heavy infestations, apply Sevin® brand carbaryl insecticide. Sevin is available for use in hose-end sprayers or pump-up sprayers to treat shrubs, trees, vegetable gardens and lawns.

Fending off fleas

Fleas will literally jump at the chance to attach themselves to your family pet, and will happily hitch a ride indoors. Once inside your house, these small, hardy pests will set up residence and rapidly multiply.

Fleas have sucking mouths that are used to feed on the blood of mammals such as rodents, family pets and even humans. While feeding, fleas produce a secretion that causes skin irritation and discomfort. It has been estimated that as many as one in three visits to the local neighborhood veterinarian are due to flea-related problems. In addition to irritating skin, fleas can also cause tapeworm infestations, behavioral changes and, in young or very old animals, anemia.

But you can battle flea attacks if you take the proper steps. Outside the house, apply a proven product such as Sevin® brand carbaryl insecticide to shrubs, woody areas, around entranceways and to areas where your pet sleeps or rests. Inside your home, wash your pet's blankets and other bedding material in hot, soapy water. Be sure to vacuum your carpets and upholstered furniture regularly, paying special attention to crevices and corners near baseboards where fleas love to hide. Immediately dispose of the vacuum bag so that it will not become a breeding ground for fleas in your closet.

How to select a lawn care pro

Time is in short supply for most Canadians. When it comes to lawn care, thousands of Canadian households prefer to save time by calling in a professional, according to a recent Gallup survey.

Lawn and landscaping companies offer services ranging from fertilizing and pest control to aerating, mowing and ornamental and small-tree care. Property values, the environment and community all benefit from a healthy, thick lawn.

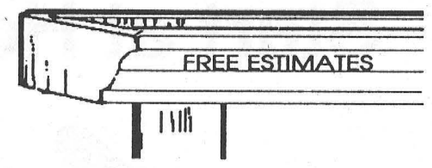
Experts at the Professional Lawn Care Association of America suggest homeowners think quality as well as price when calling in a pro. When selecting a lawn and landscape firm in your area, ask for the following:



- A detailed list of services and costs.
- A written estimate and length of service.
- A list of references.
- Evidence that the company meets any state licensing requirements.

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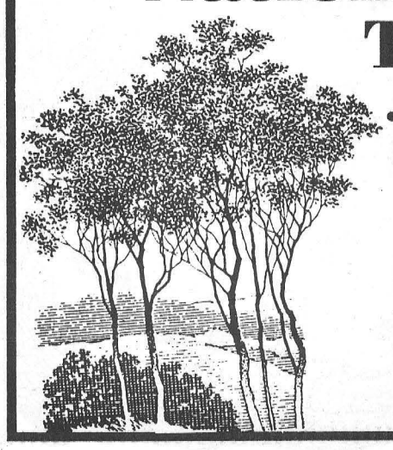
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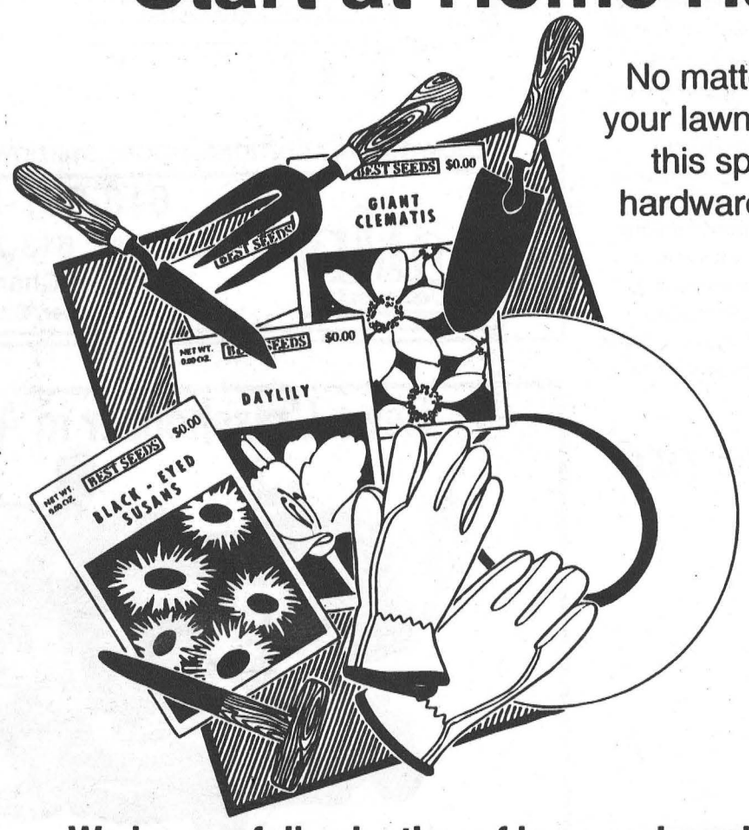


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