

Advertising
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Press

GARDEN TIME

This week we bring you our
annual yard and garden guide.

Wed., May 6, 1987



Time to transplant

An early spring is a bonus for a gardener in terms of preparing the soil. Either bone meal or mushroom soil can be worked into the soil to improve its quality.

Press Photo

Gardeners get bonus with early cultivation

OSGOODE — The bedding plants are sitting in the spare bedroom, looking as healthy as they could possibly be; as if by divination, I planted them about four weeks early this year and they are ready to take advantage of this early spring.

Or are they? Not on your life, says Nelly Koel, who along with her husband Herbert operates a nursery and greenhouse. Resist the temptation to set out bedding plants until after the last full moon in May, or after the Victoria Day weekend, whichever is the later: that's Koel's advice.

Despite the balmy spring we're enjoying, frost is quite a likely event until at least May 24, and will destroy all the effort or money that is invested in those tomatoes, green peppers, broccoli and other flats.

Take the time, instead, to prepare the soil. The early start has given the hobby gardener the ideal opportunity to pamper the soil without losing any valuable growing season, explains Koel. Either bone meal or mushroom soil can be worked into the ground and given a chance to incorporate before plants are set in.

Carleton County Agricultural Representative Henry Stanley agreed with Koel's prescriptions for successful gardening this spring. He did add, though, that there are quite a few vegetables that can profit by the early spring.

Onions, lettuce, cabbages, spinach and radishes can all go into the ground at this stage, as can peas. For a steady crop of onions, half can be planted now and a second bunch can be planted two weeks from now, he added.

Stanley also explained why this spring is such a bonus in terms of cultivating and tilling the family garden. The soil has had a chance not only to thaw and shed the snow that prevents rototilling, but it has also had time to dry. Jumping the gun by tilling too early can seriously harm the

soil structure, he said. A proportion of air, water and dirt are present in the ground, and by compressing the ingredients in putting weight on the garden, the composition is changed such that the soil will become cement-like in the coming weeks. With the air component compressed out of it, and the water component gradually drying away, the solid soil will soon pack so tight, it will be hard for vegetable roots to make their way through.

Home gardeners are a little more adrift this year than they have been other years; Agriculture Canada has had to cease providing home gardening advice, due to fiscal cutbacks. Agriculture and Food, a provincial ministry, is taking up some of the slack through its fruit and vegetable specialist, Debbie Hoffman, located at Kemptville.

Perhaps the innovation that is making the most difference, though, explained Stanley, is the Master Gardener group of volunteers.

The Master Gardeners are a core of about 35 experienced gardeners who will provide advice and answers to specific questions. Telephone 828-5264 and leave a message on the group's answering machine and one of the gardeners will return your call.

The volunteers have all gardened, themselves, and as well have received training from experts at both Guelph and Kemptville. As well, they have an extensive library on which to draw for help researching some of the more obscure questions.

By the way, in case you thought the premature spring might get some of the more pesky insects out of the way early, forget it. Stanley says that not just gardeners have a headstart — the bugs have been preparing for a long season too, with sap beetles and caterpillars already having been sighted. It could be a bumper crop, indeed.

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Soil test inexpensive first step

CANNAMORE — The first step to a green and thriving garden might be a professional soil analysis.

"I recommend them very highly," says Winnie Beauchamp of Cannamore Nursery in Crysler. Beauchamp says a soil analysis will help a gardener recognize soil deficiencies and compensate for them.

Free sample kits are available from nurseries and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The home gardener must dig a hole about six inches deep, and cut a one-inch slice from this. The next step is to put the sample in a clear plastic bag and mark the sample's location on the bag. The gardener should also indicate what type of crop he plans to grow in the soil.

The analysis, which takes about two weeks to complete, is done in Guelph, and costs \$7.

Beauchamp says it is important to take samples from different parts of the lot. "One side could be completely different from the other," she says.

A soil test is especially important for home buyers, she says. The analysis will tell the gardener what to do to correct the previous use and possible misuse of the soil.

Most soil deficiencies can be cured by simply adding fertilizers. Beauchamp says bone meal is a good, inexpensive general fertilizer.

Nitrogen deficiency is a common problem, indicated by yellow foliage and slow growth. Beauchamp

recommends bone meal or animal fertilizers, such as rabbit, sheep or poultry manure, as cheap, effective solutions.

A compost heap is a good investment in time and energy, she says. Kitchen scraps like vegetable peelings and fish scraps left outside and turned over once weekly make a rich fertilizer.

Wood shavings, which are often used to combat nitrogen deficiencies, are not as effective as manure or bone meal, says Beauchamp, because they take too long to rot.

Poor growth is often a sign of potassium deficiency, and can be treated with an application of wood ash or potash rock.

Slow-growing plants with thick stems and deformed leaves may be the result

of calcium deficiency. Ground limestone or gypsum can be used to improve this soil.

Lime must be used with caution. If too much lime is mixed with the soil, the soil can develop iron deficiency and plants will have yellow or spotted leaves.

Beauchamp says heavy clay soil is sometimes a problem for gardeners in the area. She recommends peat moss to lighten the soil, and sand to improve drainage.

The backfill on many new lots may be of poor quality, says Beauchamp, and escaping gases can kill delicate plants.

Beauchamp suggests that new homeowners postpone planting ornamental trees, like junipers, for at least a year to allow gases to escape.

Planting for winter color

If the winter blahs always get you down, now is the time to do something about it.

This spring, plant shrubs and trees that will add some color to next winter's landscape, says master gardener Andy Langis of Sarnia, Ont.

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

Once trained, master gardeners are available to answer questions from the public.

Some trees and shrubs have a colorful bark; others produce bright berries, or flowers; and some keep their leaves all year long.

For example, The American holly (*ilex opaca*) has reddish brown leaves during the winter months and shiny

green leaves in spring and summer.

If you have plenty of space, a tree such as the Russian olive (*elaagnus angustifolia*) has a "shaggy" brown bark in winter and silvery green leaves the rest of the year.

You could also try the downy serviceberry (*amalanclier canadensis*).

This tree has a grey-pink smooth bark; in spring, it produces white flowers; in summer, purple berries; and in the fall, orange-red leaves.

The Kwanzan Japanese cherry tree (*prunus serrulata Kwanzan*) is another good choice because it has a bright red bark year round.

The Japanese tree lilac (*syria amurensis japonica*) may be used too because it boasts a reddish-brown bark.

"These trees require a sunny location but they will grow in most soils," he said.

Shrubs may also be used to add color to a winter landscape.

Those in the dogwood family, for example, are a good choice.

The silverleaf dogwood has bright red bark; the seiberian dogwood has a coral-red bark; and red ozier 'flaviramea' has yellow bark.

Other shrubs, such as the *kerria japonica* with its green branches growing in a unique zig-zag pattern and the beauty bush with its brown "shaggy" bark, may also be used to add interest to your yard.

Check with your local garden centre for shrubs and trees that are handy for your area.

Most require only minimal pruning to keep their shape; varieties are available to grow in sunny to partially shady locations.

Discover

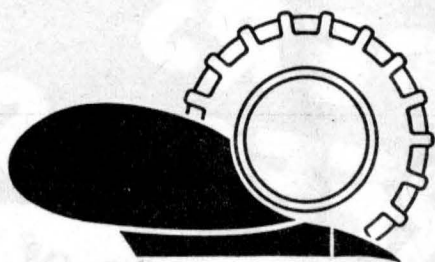
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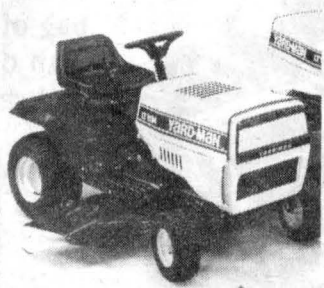


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Tips for large yards

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.

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.).

Recently, to initiate a plan for a backyard wildlife habitat collection at the University of Guelph's Arboretum, we held a design competition.

The winner, Katherine Dunster, has included in her plan titled, "Gardens for All", a number of plants, ranging from trees and shrubs to herbaceous material which fulfill the requirements of cover, food and nesting material.

Some of these include: Snowy Mountain Ash (*Sorbus decora*); Red Jade Crabapple (*Malus "Red Jade"*); Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*);

Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) not *Viburnum opulus*, the 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*); Red raspberry (*Rubus strigosus*) (the birds will share these with you); Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) and Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*).

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 (*Echinops sphaerocephalus*); Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); and Glory of the Snow (*Chinodoxa luciliaea*).

To attract butterflies, you must include food plants for their caterpillars: birth, 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.

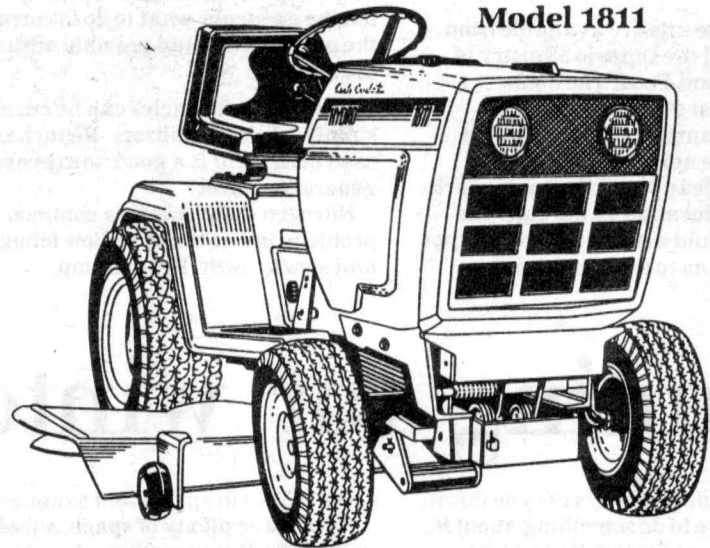
Dunster's plan for the Arboretum's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Demonstration is on display at the J.C. Taylor Nature Centre at the University of Guelph.

In the meantime, pick up a catalogue at your local nursery, design an outline of your yard and start on your plans. It will be a feather in your Monk's Hood (*Aconitum* sp.).

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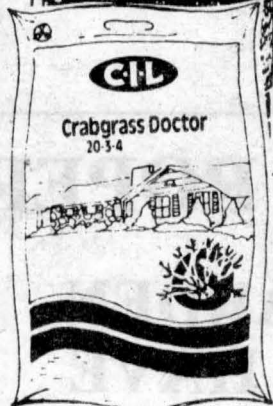
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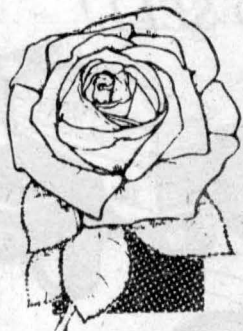
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Reap benefits of companion planting

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 Killeagh of Dorchester, Ont.

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

Once trained, master gardeners are available to answer questions from the public.

The beneficial effects of companion planting may be caused by root exudation that stimulates 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, herbs and flowers and "enemies" are those 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 family moth), dill (improves growth and health), mint (deters cabbage moth and ants, improves health and flavor), nasturtiums (deter bugs and beetles, aphids), thyme (deters cabbage worm); "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": 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: "companion": 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, carrot, 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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Timesaving ideas

Why not design a "low maintenance" landscape to reduce the amount of time you spend tending your flowerbeds, lawn and shrubs?

For example, choose slow-growing dwarf varieties of trees and shrubs to eliminate most of your pruning chores.

The Korean boxwood (*Buxus microphylla koreana*), the dwarf snowball (*Viburnum opulus 'Nana'*) or Arctic willow (*Salix purpurea 'Gracilis'*) are good choices.

Look for plant varieties that can grow just about anywhere and are known to be hardy and dependable.

Plants that lose their fruit or their flowers — such trees as the Norway maple, the tulip tree, or the catalpa — are poor choices too, if your aim is to eliminate work.

"By choosing plants that are "tried-and-true" and hardy for your area, you can usually avoid a lot of headaches," says Horticulturist Pat Tucker, head of the groups department at the University of Guelph.

Of course, perennial flower beds are time-savers because the plants bloom year after year.

Try bleeding hearts, peonies, iris, phlox, delphiniums and daylilies, hardy geraniums and black-eyed Susans.

You'll find it easier to care for your flower beds if plants are grouped and you will enjoy the added attractiveness of volume.

And by curving your flower beds, you'll be able to do most of your trimming chores with a lawn mower.

To keep weeds down use a mulch such as bark, stone chips, or cocoa beans.

Lawns require rich soil, good drainage and several applications of fertilizer every year.

And where grass simply will not grow — under mature trees, on a slope — why not try a ground cover?

English ivy, pachysandra, periwinkle or euonymus are usually trouble-free, once they are established.

First, you must get rid of weeds; cultivate the area frequently to destroy

weeds, or use a herbicide such as Round Up (Glyphosate).

If you use a chemical weed killer, follow the application rates recommended by the manufacturer.

"The chemical kills grasses and weeds, but it will leave the dead roots and crowns in place. These will hold the soil and prevent it from being washed away before your young plants can take hold," Tucker said.

Transplant the seedlings and then use a mulch, such as wood chips, bark or compost, to conserve moisture, control soil temperatures and to some extent suppress weeds.

Water during periods of drought.

"Once the plants have taken hold, they will suppress weeds, conserve moisture and hold the soil; they will also provide texture and color to your landscape design," Tucker said.

Occasionally, trimming or insect and disease control may be required; fertilize once in spring, at similar rates used for lawns.

And don't overlook the value of a low-maintenance shrub, such as forsythia, honeysuckle and viburnums; these can cover a large area at relatively little cost.

Or plant a mixture of trees and shrubs to provide all the design criteria of texture, color and form.

Evergreens, particularly the spreading types such as Green Acres, Andorra and Tamarix junipers, are used extensively in the landscape; they tolerate hot, sunny sites and provide texture and color during the winter months.

These are also relatively free of insects and disease.

Broadleaved evergreens such as wintercreeper, low-growing shrubs such as cotoneaster or herbaceous perennials such as creeping cinquefoil are also good choices.

These grow to a minimum height of 15 centimetres and they will also suppress weeds, fill in quickly and can be easily propagated.

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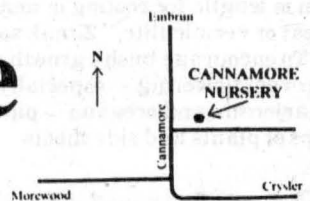


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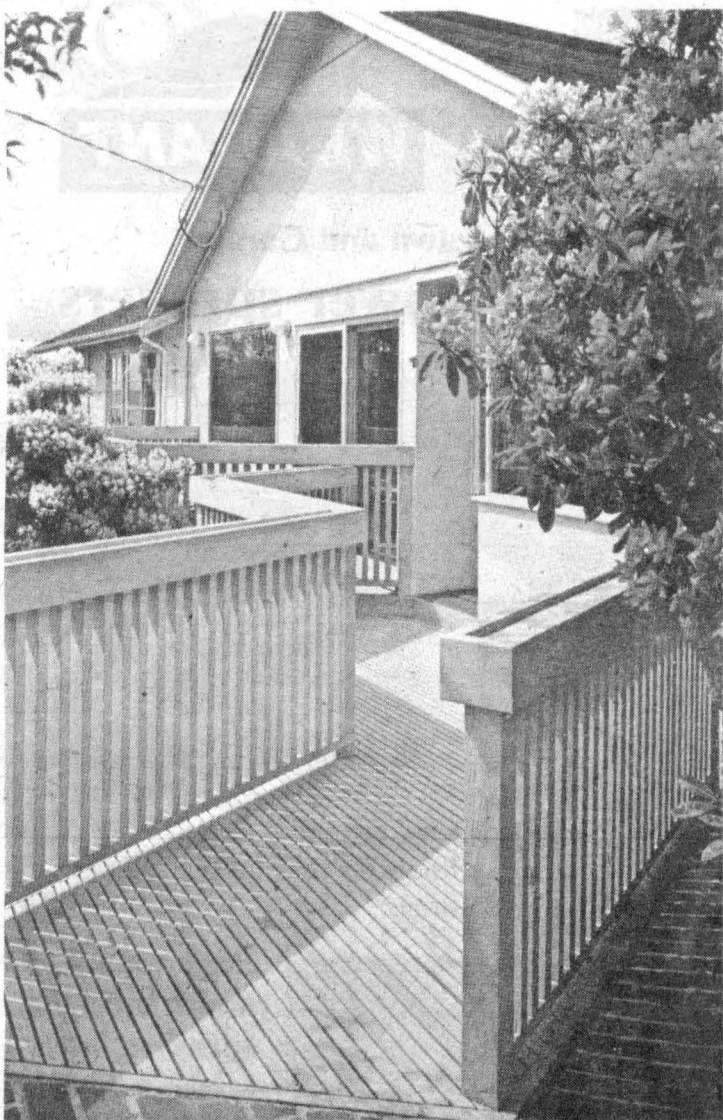


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Grow herbs indoors

Basil, chervil, chives, dill, garden cress, marjoram, oregano, parsley and summer savory are some of the fragrant herb spices you can grow easily indoors.

But begin on a small scale to gain experience and try out various locations in the house for best growth.

Start basil, chervil, parsley and savory by planting three to five seeds in 10 centimetre pots and allow only the sturdiest seedlings to reach maturity.

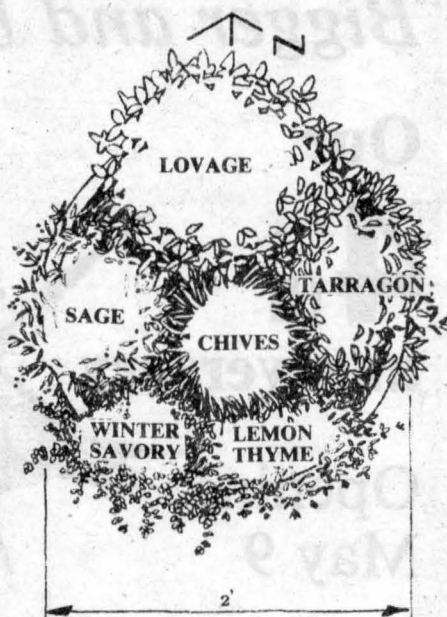
Turn plants growing on a windowsill every two or three days to ensure more even growth.

Harvest mature leaves from the bottom of the stem up or from the crown, never using more than one-third of the plant foliage; harvest in early-to-mid morning.

To propagate basil, marjoram, mint and oregano, use rooted cuttings; for quick plant establishment, plant only one or two to a pot.

"An outdoor herb garden can provide a good supply of shoots, five cm to eight cm in length, for rooting in moist sand, peat or vermiculite," Zitnak said.

To encourage bushy growth and prevent flowering — especially of basil, marjoram, and oregano — pinch off the tips of plants and side shoots.



A compact, easy to maintain herb garden can be planted in a wooden half-barrel. The garden of four to six perennials will add a decorative accent to porch or deck for years to come.

Spring lawn mowing

Giving your lawn a close shave is particularly harmful in spring, says turf researcher Nancy Pierce of the University of Guelph's horticultural science department.

Some lawn care books suggest mowing closer than the recommended mowing height of 4 to 5 cm, as soon as spring growth begins.

While this will brighten the lawn (by removing the old discolored leaves and permitting the new green blades to show more quickly), it is simply not recommended.

"Close mowing forces the young grass plants to put their energy into replacing

lost tissue, instead of into root growth. As a result, its root system will be very shallow all summer long, and you will be forced to water and fertilize your lawn much more frequently," she said.

This spring, wait until the grass reaches a height of 7 to 8 cm, before mowing for the first time.

And after that, apply the one-third rule: cut your lawn when grass blades are one-third taller than the recommended mowing height.

For example, if you want to keep your lawn at the recommended 5 cm, mow it when the grass is 8 cm tall, removing one-third of the grass blade.

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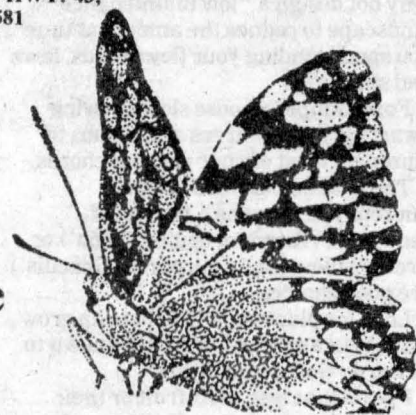
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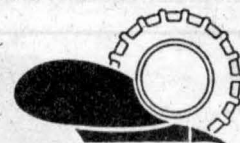
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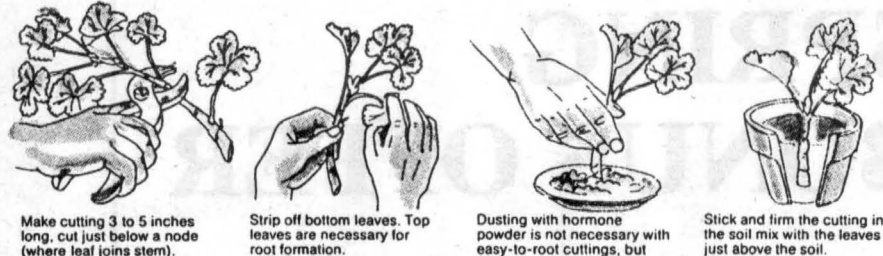
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Tips for best blooming

For the best show, plant bulbs in clumps or mass plantings. Three to five bulbs every metre or so, randomly spaced, will give a good color spot for tulips and daffodils.

Propagating



Make cutting 3 to 5 inches long, cut just below a node (where leaf joins stem).

Strip off bottom leaves. Top leaves are necessary for root formation.

Dusting with hormone powder is not necessary with easy-to-root cuttings, but helpful.

Stick and firm the cutting in the soil mix with the leaves just above the soil.

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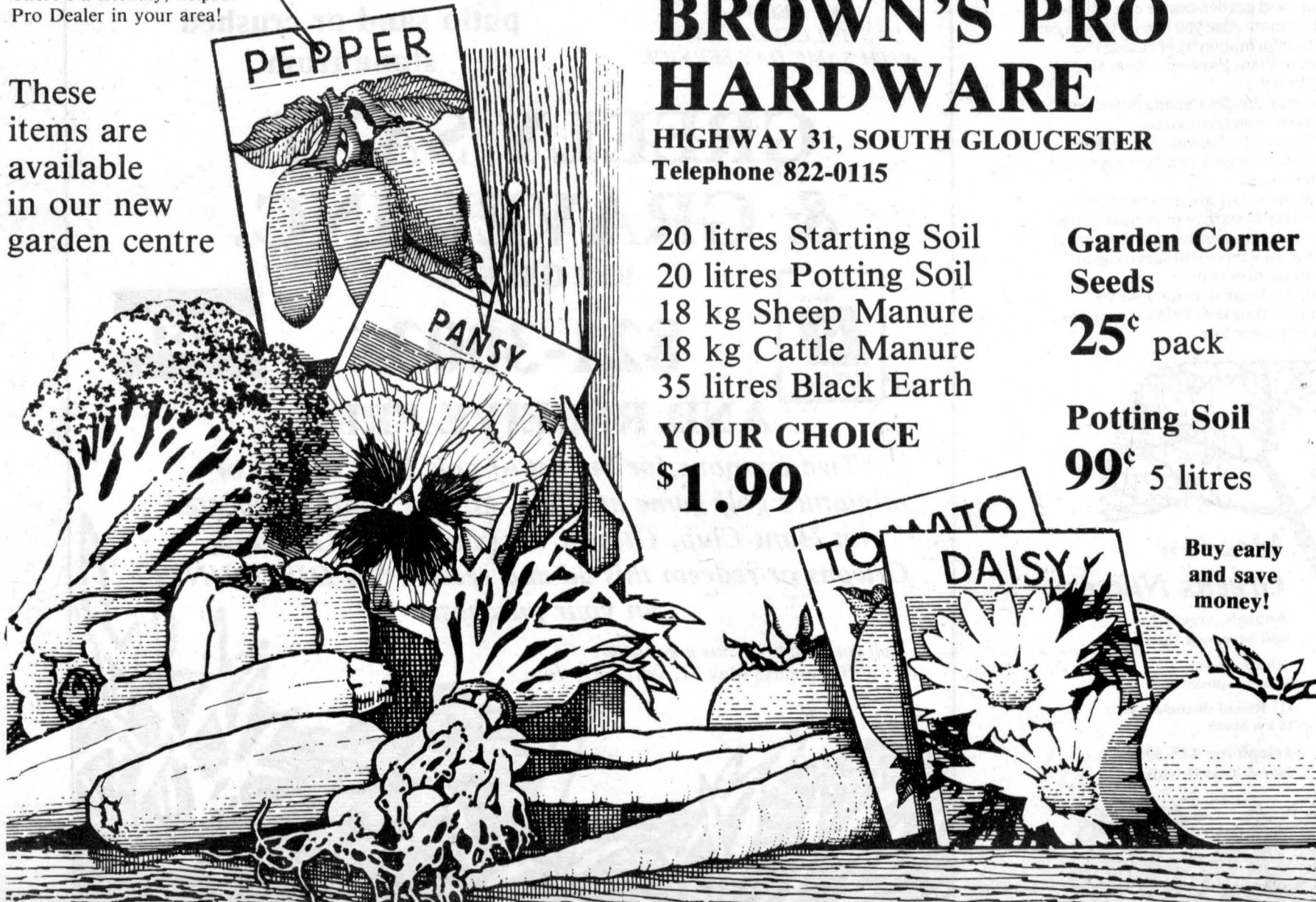
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Sub-tropical plants can enhance Ontario landscapes

Turn your yard into a tropical "garden of Eden", by growing a few exotic plants this year.

"Many sub-tropical, warm-loving plants can be grown in their containers outdoors and later overwintered indoors so that you can enjoy the plant's beauty and fragrance year-round," says horticulturist Amby Zitnak of the University of Guelph's horticultural science department.

Sub-tropical plants usually demand a warm, sunny and well-drained location.

In a container mix together equal measures of garden soil, peat and builders sand and then incorporate this soil mix into your flower bed.

One good location for these warm-loving plants is a flower bed near your front porch that receives about one-half to two-thirds of daily sun exposure. But be sure to water the plants daily to prevent sudden desiccation.

Another good location is an open flower bed where the plants have been either directly seeded into the bed or planted in a sunken container. But again, daily watering is required.

One of the easiest ways to create a "tropical garden" at home is to grow a Castor oil plant (or Ricinus).

This fast-growing foliage plant is a native of southeast Asia; it can grow to heights of 180 centimetres or more in our climate when grown as an 'annual', Zitnak says.

The Castor oil plant can be easily grown from seed (the size of a peanut) and is best started indoors in 10 cm pots about four weeks before transplanting outdoors (June 5 to 10).

Seedlings need good light for normal development; if they are growing too fast you can slow down their growth by keeping them in a cool place overnight and by pinching off the fifth or sixth bud to encourage branching and bushiness.

Outdoor seeding is also possible — near the end of May — providing the plant is covered overnight and the seedling is gradually exposed to sunlight.

The Castor oil plant needs a lot of sunlight, a rich soil that is high in nitrogen and organic matter (a 25 cm compost 'nest') and fertilizing about every three or four weeks.

The plants grow quickly and need plenty of space; for an average home garden, place two plants about 200 cm apart or group three plants in a 180 cm triangle.

Overwintering is impractical because of the plant's high light requirement and the ease of obtaining good seedlings.

"But one word of caution. The seed coat occasionally fragments and it is highly poisonous. Therefore, careful handling and safe storage of seed is essential," Zitnak says.

The seed that forms in small spiny capsules late in the summer seldom reaches maturity, but as a precaution,

remove the pods before their full development.

Rosemary (Rosmarinus), is a plant of the Mediterranean.

Although the plant does not survive our winters, it is quite fragrant and can be easily overwintered indoors and set out again when frost danger is past.

Its fine silvery leaves may also be used to flavor many culinary dishes.

Rosemary is best obtained as a potted plant which can be multiplied by cuttings or layering (rooted shoots are severed and potted late in the fall).

Rosemary requires full sun, very sandy, well-drained soil, some bone meal (calcium), very little watering (misting is preferred) and a rather low-fertility soil.

Plant as a sunken potted plant in a flower bed and move indoors after the first light frost.

A perforated plastic pail is an easy-to-move container for a two-to-three-year-old plant.

Once indoors, cut back the plant by about one-third and reduce watering and fertilizing to encourage the plant to rest.

Occasionally, plants at the end of the first year will produce tiny blossoms upon transfer indoors.

Clary sage (Salvia sclarea), is a spectacular biennial bloomer that also originates in the Mediterranean.

The plant is quite hardy but is not commonly found in a home garden.

In the second year, the plants reach heights of 120 cm to 150 cm and provide quite a show with their pink colored bracts and silvery foliage.

Clary sage "self-seeds". As a result, you can transplant the seedlings that grow up to a permanent site in early August or September.

Plants need a sunny site with good drainage and fairly fertile soil, especially in their second year.

Oleander (Nerium oleander), is a flowering woody shrub or small tree of the dry tropics, which can be grown in a container in a bright, sunny location with moderate watering and a well-drained soil.

Seeds are difficult to obtain and germinate, so contact a grower for a small plant or a rooted cutting.

The flowers are fragrant, white to reds, single or double, and bloom two-to-three times during the summer.

Prune about one-quarter of the shoots to produce a bushier plant and try to keep the plant to a 120 cm to 180 cm height.

Before moving the plant indoors, cover the plant with burlap for a few afternoons, reduce watering and slowly move the plant towards a lower light intensity site.

Once indoors, the plant may lose a few leaves. Allow the plant to rest until early March and then gradually resume feeding and watering.

Plants rated for hardiness

To be sure that your trees and shrubs can withstand old man winter, you must follow the rules for selecting and growing plant materials.

In Ontario — and in particular northern Ontario — hardiness is a major concern of both amateur and professional horticulturists.

"Hardiness is a term most commonly associated with the ability of a plant to survive out-of-doors over winter," says Master Gardener Bonnie Warner of RR3, Englehart, Ont.

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

Your local garden centre can tell you which climate zone you live in. Or you can find the information by checking the Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone Map at your library.

This map divides Canada into zones, numbered from zero to nine.

The lower numbers indicate colder zones and the higher numbers represent warmer zones.

Plant materials are then rated as to their ability to survive in various zones.

For example, a crab apple tree that is rated for zone three will survive in all zones from three to nine.

Guelph is located within zone six, Timmins is zone one; Ottawa, zone five, North Bay, zone four.



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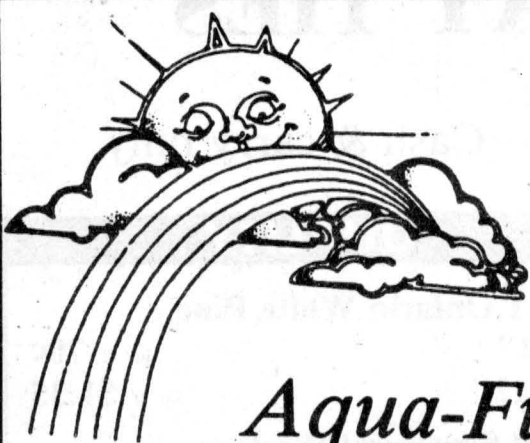
Full house!

Planting season will soon be here and scenes like this one won't be very common. Eager gardeners will soon fill area nurseries looking through the wide variety of flowering plants available for their gardens. The wide assortment available can make the selection difficult at first, but as stock goes down, so do the possibilities.



Cover up

Protect roses from winterkill by mounding up soil around the plants to a height of 20 centimetres to 25 centimetres (eight inches to 10 inches). After mounding, leave the roses until the ground has frozen and then cover with evergreen boughs to hold the snow.

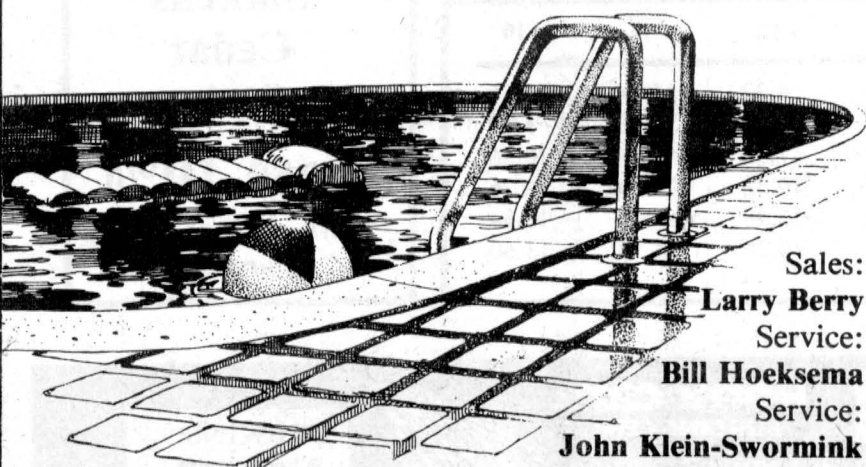


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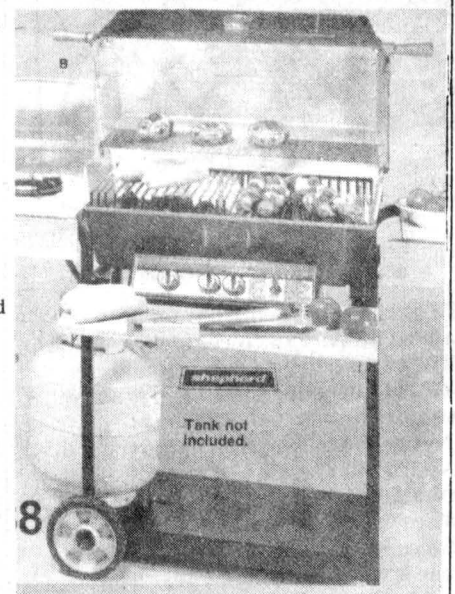
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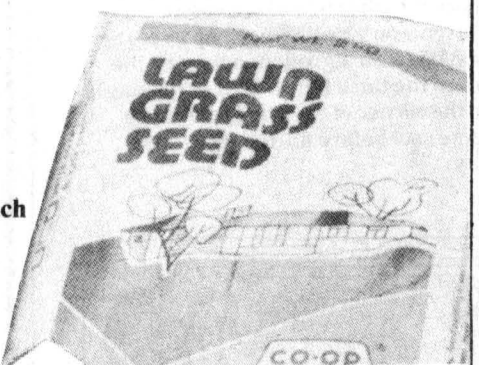


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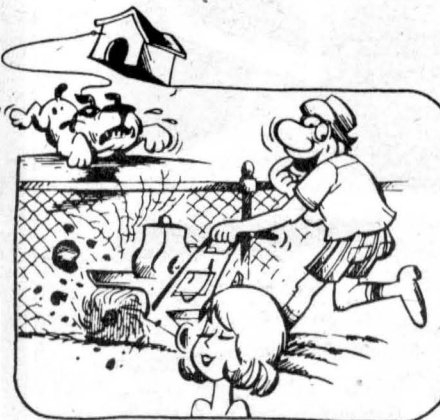
Safety tips for tillers

Many basic safety rules for mowers also apply to garden tillers.

Shut off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before going near the tiller tines. Never refuel when the engine is running or still hot. Keep shirttails in and wear hard shoes. Make sure that children and pets are at a safe distance, and read the operator's manual before using the equipment.

It is also important to keep your eye on the job at hand and maintain control of the tiller. Avoid tilling too near a ditch, chain link fence or concrete patio slab. The tines could chip off a piece of metal or cement, or the impact could knock the operator down. Sloped ground can also lead to lost footing.

To break the ground crust more easily with a walk-behind tiller, leave a strip of untilled earth between passes. This pattern prevents the creation of a "ditch" on one side of each pass that could cause the tiller to lean off balance. After the garden area has been covered, go back over the untilled strips to break all ground crust. Then till in each other direction, including corner to corner.

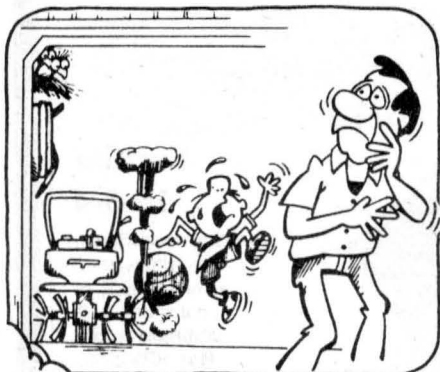


Keep your eyes on the tiller tines, or you'll be headed for troubled times.

To start, set the depth bar for a shallow cut, perhaps three inches, which will be enough to break the ground crust. Then use a deeper setting of up to six or seven inches. Don't overtill and pulverize the soil, because powdery soil sets hard after a rain and impedes seed germination.

When using a tiller to cultivate between rows of growing plants, ensure no one is weeding by hand near by and possibly obscured by the plants. Allow plenty of space between rows when planting so the tiller tines won't cut the roots.

Store the tiller in a place where children won't be likely to trip over the tines. It is also a good idea to park the tiller so the tines face a wall or fit snugly into the corner of the garage. Let the engine cool before putting the tiller away.



Store your tiller with tines faced safely away, especially where children are apt to play.

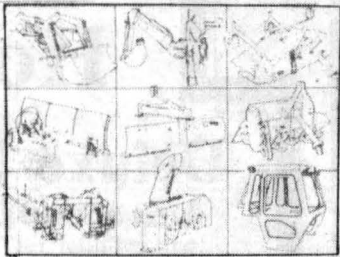


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Teaching little fingers to garden

Plants are living things you can grow to love — especially if those plants can be used to create funny creatures.

"Children will enjoy growing their own 'bugs meany' sproutman or a 'green-haired potato-man'. And by sprouting alfalfa, corn, peas or beans — all by themselves — the children gain a sense of accomplishment," says Ontario Horticultural Association District Director Pat Christian of Georgetown, Ont.

To sprout beans, corn, or peas, you will need a straight-sided clear glass jar, paper towel or blotting paper, some absorbent cotton balls (to keep the paper against the glass) seeds, and some water.

Roll up the paper towel and place it inside the jar.

Put the cotton balls inside the towel so that the towel is wedged against the side of the jar.

Place three or four seeds between the towel and the jar (when you look through the jar you'll be able to see the seeds).

Add just enough water to wet the towel. Do not cover the jar; plants need air.

Set the jar in a window sill that receives lots of sunlight.

Keep the towel damp at all times.

Watch your seeds grow and when the plants have good roots, transplant the seedlings carefully into a pot filled with soil.

You can also create your own 'bugs meany' sprout-man.

You need a large glass jar, water and about 15 millilitres of alfalfa seeds.

Put the seeds in the jar and add about 260 ml of water.

Place the jar in a warm, dark cupboard overnight.

In the morning, empty the water carefully, keeping the seeds in the jar.

Add fresh water and replace the jar in the cupboard.

Repeat until the seeds have sprouted. Once the seeds have sprouted, bring them into the sunlight to green.

Decorate the jar to make a 'bugs meany' face. Cut out eyes, nose and mouth from felt or construction paper.

If you decide to eat your sprouts, rinse them first, drain and then use them to top your favorite sandwich.

You can also make a 'green-haired' potato-man. You need a very large, clean potato, absorbent cotton balls, a small dish, water, grass seed and some cloves and cinnamon sticks (to give your potato a face).

First, decide which end of the top of the potato-man's head and which end is the bottom.

Slice off a small amount from the bottom end of the potato to make it sit flat.

Then slice a bit off the top and scoup out the inside of the potato.

Now, line the hollow with the cotton balls and stand the potato in a dish.

Add water to the cotton balls and the sprinkle with grass seed.

Make sure your potato-man always has just enough water.

'Hairy' should grow 'hair' in a few days.

You can give him a funny face by decorating the potato with cloves, cinnamon sticks and so on.

If you want to grow a potato-man with different textured hair, you can also use mustard seed or garden cress seed.

If you would like more ideas on "teaching little fingers to garden" contact your local horticultural society.



Children gain a sense of accomplishment by sprouting their own corn, peas, beans and alfalfa. They also learn about plants and have a little fun at the same time. Here Ontario horticultural district director Patricia Christian of Georgetown, Ont., makes a 'bugs meany' sproutman.

Photo courtesy of Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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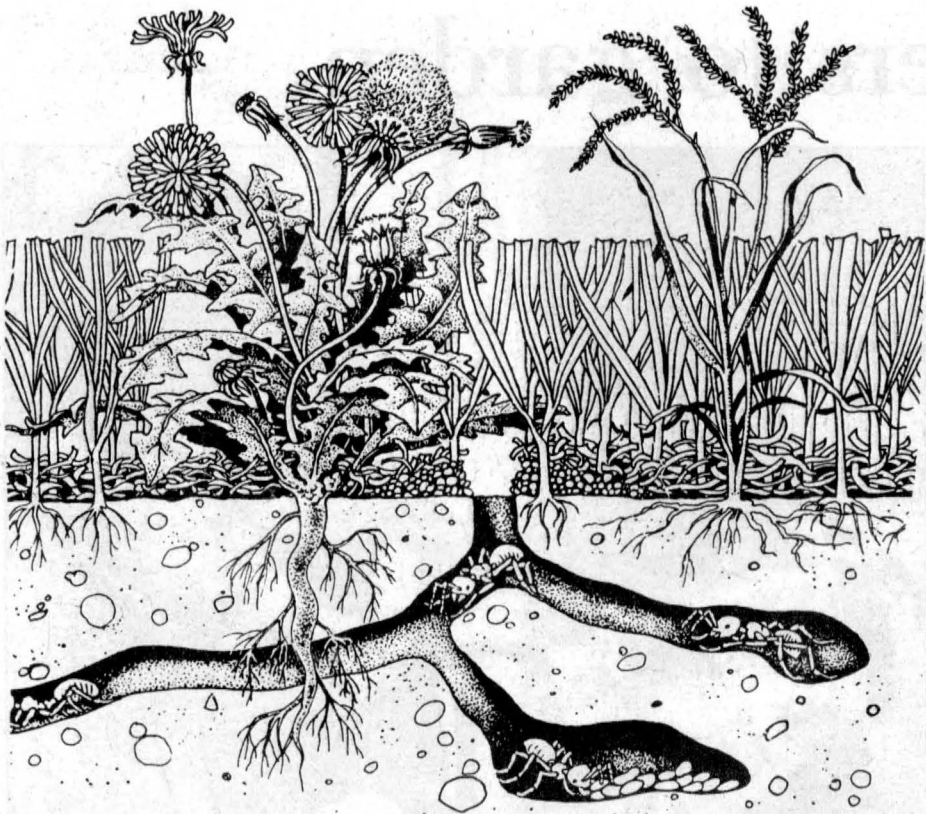
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Winning the battle against common weeds

Dandelions and crabgrass — to control these two lawn weeds, you must take action early, says weed specialist Rudy Brown, head of the horticulture and biology section at Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology.

Begin your campaign against dandelions and crabgrass in early spring.

Crabgrass must be controlled before it germinates; apply a pre-emergence herbicide such as Dacthal or Betasan in either liquid or granular form.

"The granular form is also sold as a fertilizer-herbicide mixture," Brown said.

Follow the application rates recommended by the manufacturer.

"Target date for crabgrass control is before May 1, and definitely before May 10," Brown said.

The herbicide goes to work after a spring rain; the herbicide is absorbed through the roots emerging from germinating seed.

And by raising the mowing height of your lawn mower during the whole season, you can help the grass compete against weeds more effectively, stay greener longer during periods of drought and generally remain much healthier.

Dandelions require early treatment

too: apply 2, 4D before they bloom and re-apply in late summer.

Spray weeds on a bright, sunny day when temperatures are 15 degrees Celsius or warmer.

"And be sure to protect broadleaved shrubs and ornamentals from spray drift by shielding them with a piece of cardboard," Brown said.

Fertilizer mixtures of 2, 4-D are also available, allowing you to apply both fertilizer and weed killer at the same time.

Rainfall should not occur for at least 12 hours after application of 2, 4-D.

Other common lawn weeds, such as creeping charlie, shepherd's purse mouse-eared chickweed, plantain, and so on, are controlled with mixtures of 2, 4-D and mecoprop or dicamba.

Again, early treatment is important.

Follow the rates of application recommended by the manufacturer.


Apply to weeds once in early spring and again in late summer or early fall.

Avoid spraying any mixture containing dicamba near the roots of ornamentals, particularly if the roots have emerged or if they are close to the soil surface; dicamba is absorbed by the roots and results in malformed leaves.



Planning is essential

Effective landscaping can certainly add a great deal to the appearance of any home. Traditional landscaping organizes the land around a house into certain accepted patterns, while "natural landscaping" seeks to set aside places where nature can be appreciated. The more time and effort devoted to advance thought and planning a landscape, the better. Press Photo—Blanchfield

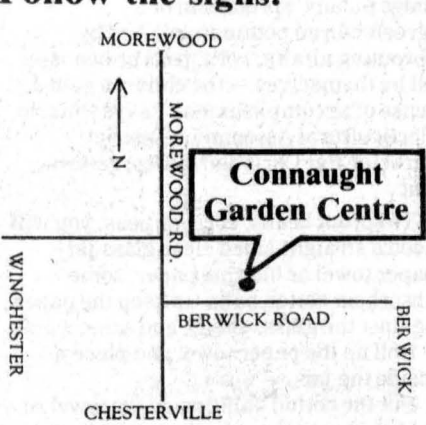


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Take a look at the Kubota G5200 HST and find out why Kubota owners say, "My Kubota. There's nothing like it on earth."



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Be 'consumer wise'

Trimmers, power blowers, hedge clippers, chain saws and other outdoor power equipment can make lawn and garden care much easier. But they can also cause headaches.

The engine won't start. It worked just fine before you stored it for the winter, but now it's making a funny noise.

Malfunctioning equipment can cause aggravation and accidents. And then there may be the inconvenience and expense of repairing or replacing units.

Inferior equipment certainly is one cause of potential problems; misuse, improper storage, and inadequate maintenance are others. What's a gardener to do?

Fortunately, there is a solution: Become a good consumer. If you know how to shop for quality equipment and good service, you can make wise purchases in the first place, and know what to do when (or before) something goes wrong.

Shopping for the right dealer is at least as important as looking for the right equipment. Naturally, it helps to choose a sturdy, well-manufactured piece of equipment with a good "track record" for longevity.

Cheap equipment is often just that, but price alone will not tell you what you need to know about the product's quality.

That's the dealer's job. Comparison shop — not only to see what equipment models and prices are available, but to see how you are treated by different sales staffs.

A good salesperson isn't just interested in selling something. He or she should care about you, not just the sales figures.

Look for salespeople who are willing and able to explain and compare product features. Explain what uses you have in mind — does the salesperson then point out specific models and features that will be most appropriate for you?

If you need versatility for specialized uses, does the salesperson suggest accessories or special features that are appropriate?

Both light and heavyweight products are available for a wide range of homeowner and commercial uses.

Good salespeople are happy, even eager, to demonstrate the power

equipment or have you try using it. Using the equipment yourself is the best way to find out whether a mower engine is hard to start, a saw is too heavy for you, or a blower really can move autumn leaves without disturbing your favorite plants. Some dealers will even let you borrow a demonstration model to try at home.

If you experience a product's performance before you buy, you're less likely to regret your purchase later. Salespeople should encourage your research.

Another thing to notice is the dealer's service facilities. Will you be able to get fast, reliable service? Is the dealership proud of its service facilities, mentioning them as an asset? Do the mechanics seem knowledgeable and willing to answer your questions?

Dealers who assume their job stops after you've paid for your new machine are "fair weather friends", whereas a dealer who is willing to service products well can make life much easier at repair and maintenance time.

Speaking of maintenance, how informative is the dealer about what you need to do to keep your equipment in good working order?

Few consumers are skilled mechanics; dealers who realize this provide instruction in assembling, using, and caring for the power equipment they sell.

Insist on learning about how to change blades, string or chain, add fuel and oil, store the product, and when to bring it in for routine maintenance.

Better yet, find a dealer who doesn't make you insist. Good ones will give you one-to-one instruction and/or offer classes in maintenance and safety.

If a dealer says "read the manual" when you ask about safety precautions or maintenance procedures, it's time to shop somewhere else.

A responsible dealer makes absolutely sure that you know how to handle the product, use ear and eye protection, and store equipment safely.

Buying a reliable, well-made product from a dealer who is willing to go an extra mile or two to satisfy you is the way to avoid power equipment blues.

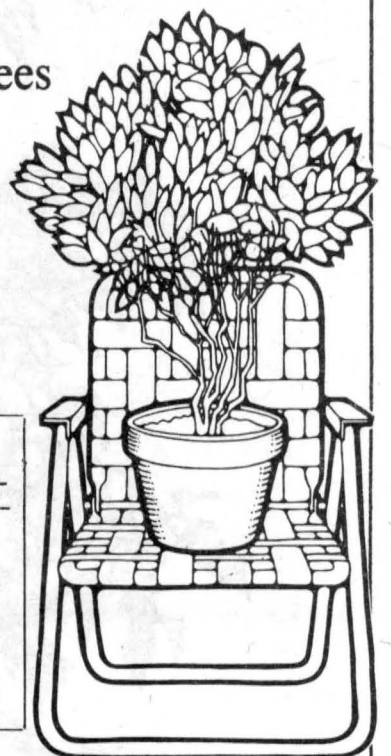
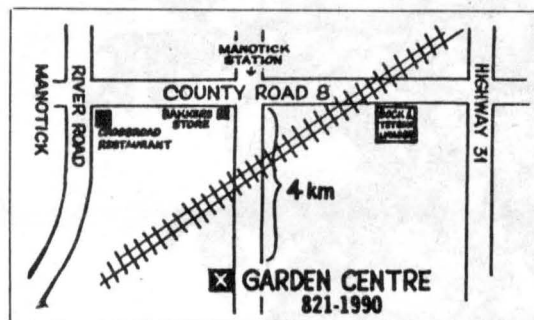
After all, power equipment is supposed to be a help in your garden and lawn work. Make sure you don't get less than you deserve.

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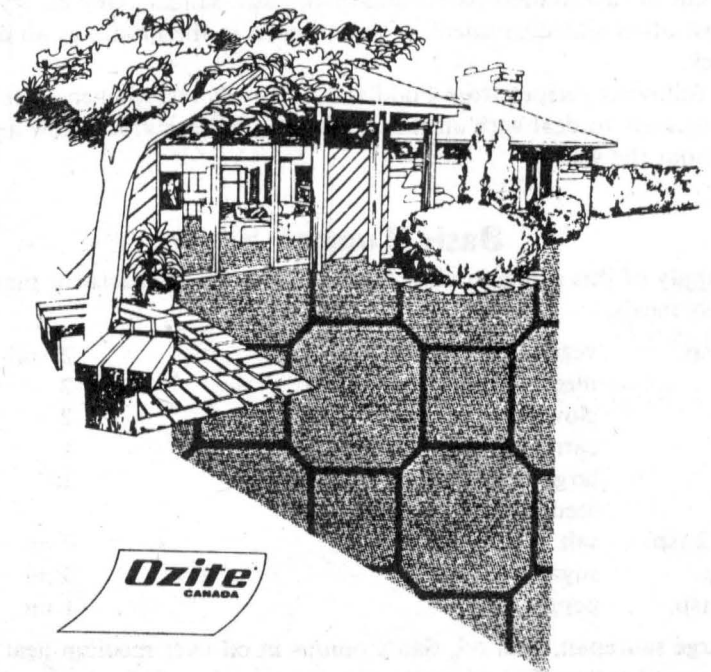
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Tomatoes, Tomatoes ...

In June, the frail young Ontario field tomato plants seem incapable of producing the promised wonders. Come July, a few tomatoes start appearing at the produce markets. Then suddenly, in August, the tomato flood is upon us, lasting until the first frost in mid-October.

At times, the vast supply of Ontario tomatoes may seem overwhelming. However, they are always welcome because local field tomatoes taste much sweeter and juicier than the wooden-like imports. Luckily, there are countless ways to enjoy this bountiful fruit. Besides being the key ingredient in an infinite number of salad and main dish recipes, tomatoes can be used in sandwiches, sauces and soups. Furthermore, it's possible to taste that vine-ripened flavor all winter long in a wide variety of canned, frozen, dried and pickled tomato products.

This versatility is partly a matter of genetic diversity and the fact that different types of tomatoes present different possibilities. The most common, big, round beefsteak varieties are excellent for salads, chili sauces, or that old-fashioned pleasure, broiled tomato slices. The smaller round types have a higher proportion of juice to flesh. They make splendid homemade tomato juice, canned tomatoes, or thin, lightly cooked sauces (coulis). The elongated plum or Italian-type tomatoes are denser and less juicy than round tomatoes and result in rich tomato pastes and thick pasta sauces. Tiny cherry tomatoes are most often added to salads or just popped in the mouth as an appetizer or snack.

The following recipes from Foodland Ontario's test kitchens offer some delicious ways to deal with all those Ontario field tomatoes, now and throughout the year.

Basic Tomato Sauce

A supply of this staple in your freezer, serves as the basis for many quick and easy meals.

2 tbsp.	vegetable oil	25 ml
2	medium onions, chopped	2
2	cloves garlic, minced	2
1	carrot, grated	1
10	large Ontario tomatoes peeled, seeded and chopped	10
1-1/2 tsp.	salt	7 ml
1 tsp.	sugar	5 ml
1/4 tsp.	pepper	1 ml

In large saucepan, heat oil. Sauté onions in oil over medium heat for 10 minutes until softened. Add garlic and carrot and cook 5 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, salt, sugar and pepper. Simmer covered for 20 minutes. Makes 7 cups (1.75 L).

Note: Sauce may be frozen for later use. Cool and spoon into freezer containers in quantities needed for a recipe. Seal, label amount, date and freeze.

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 40 minutes

• continued on page 21

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No ideal time to prune

There is no ideal time to prune all plants — that's what makes pruning such a tricky chore.

Trees and shrubs, grown for their blooms in spring and early summer, should be pruned after they have bloomed.

On the other hand, late-flowering shrubs that flower on the current season's growth should be pruned in the spring, prior to active growth.

Fruit trees should be pruned prior to leafing out in early spring.

Mature trees should be thinned out to prevent crowding, ensure free air circulation and penetration of light to help fruit ripen evenly.

Remove branches that grow inwards and those that are in contact — rubbing and wearing each other.

This allows the tree to grow to the outside and upwards, where it will be exposed to the maximum amount of light.

On young fruit trees, cut lateral branches back to within 50 centimetres to 60 centimetres of the trunk to encourage branching.

The tip of the leader branch should be cut back only slightly.

Leave no more than four well placed branches when pruning a young fruit tree.

Deciduous trees need to be pruned every three to five years.

Remove dead and/or diseased branches and prune to restore the plant's natural form.

Evergreens usually require little or no pruning at all.

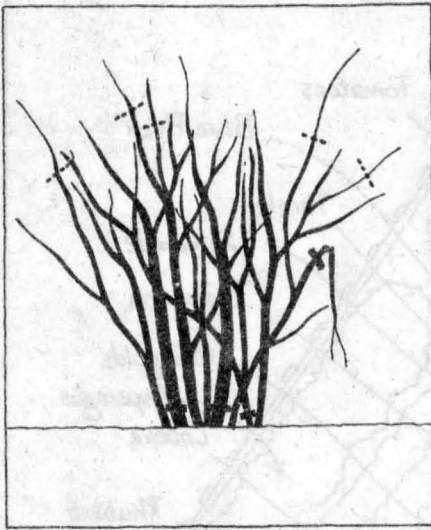
They may be pruned, if necessary, just prior to active growth in April and May.

Junipers and yews that have a tendency to spread, may be cut back just prior to active growth in June.

Hide the cut by pruning at an overlapping branch.

As with any gardening job, the right tools make the job a lot easier.

A sharp pruning saw is required for



In early spring, when winter damage is easily seen on leafless shrubs, prune away dead, diseased, weak or broken branches (black line, center right); remove any stems that rub against others (black line, bottom right), since rubbing can open a site for infection. On shrubs that bloom on current season's growth, this is also a good time to do additional pruning.

the larger cuts and will do a better job for any size of cut than even the best pruning shears.

Good quality hand pruners may be used too, but avoid long-handled pruners because they tend to have stubs.

The key to pruning is to make clean, flush cuts.

Find the branch "collar" — the tissue separating the branch from the main stem — and place your saw in front of the ridge and cut downward and slightly outward.

This will allow you to remove the branch without damaging the main stem.

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

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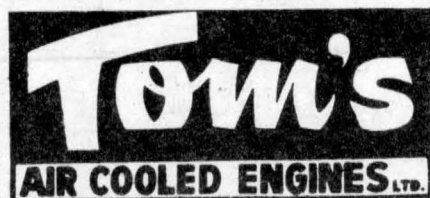


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FS 81



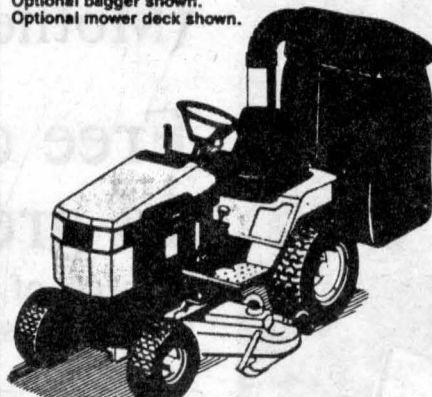
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Optional mower deck shown.



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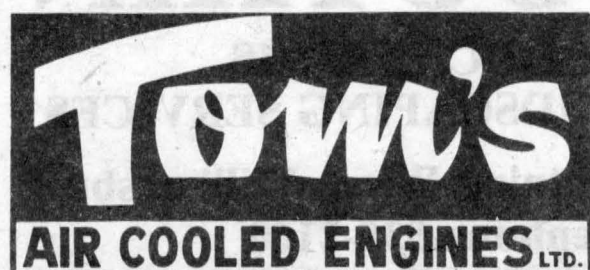


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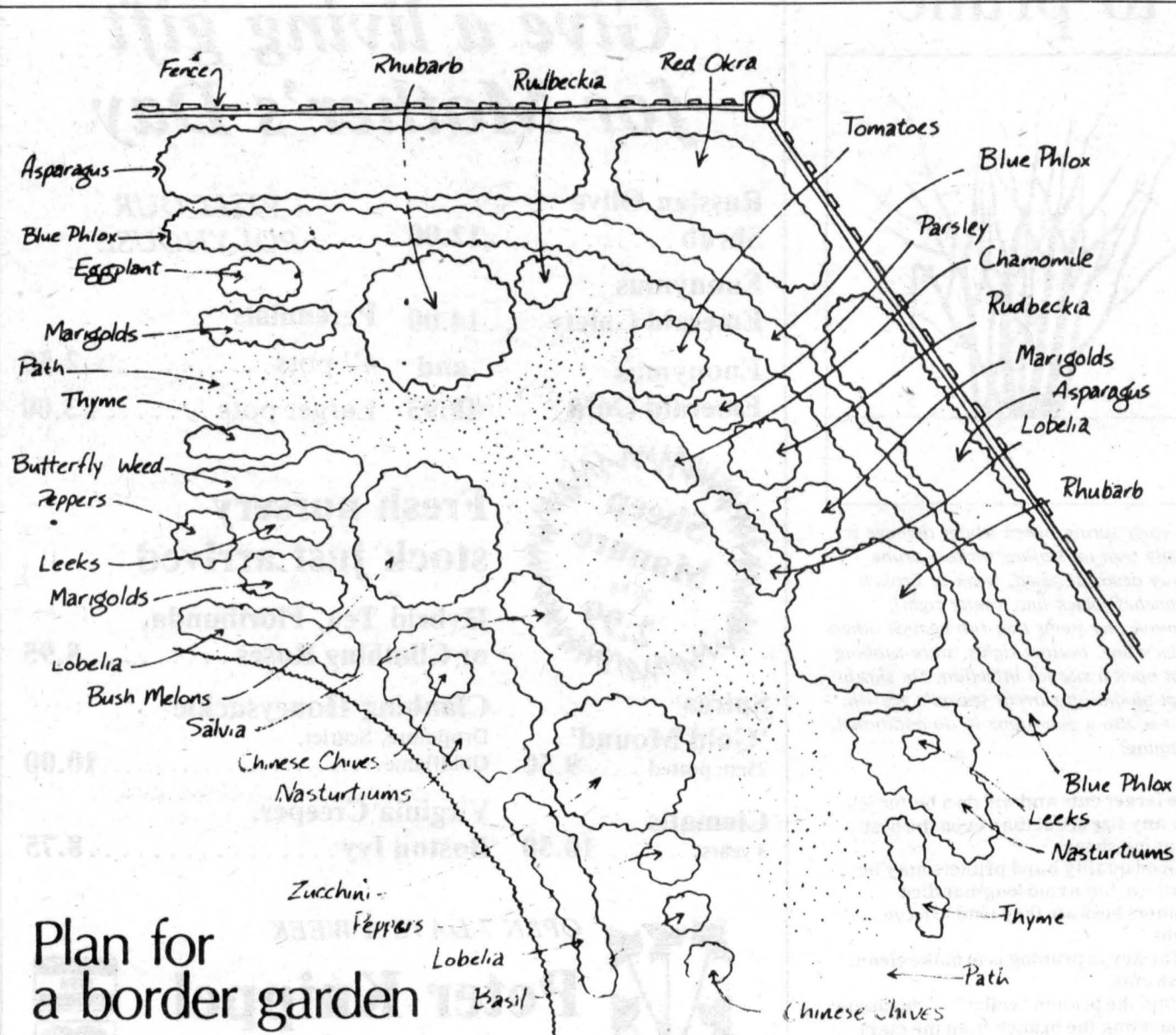
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Plan for a border garden

With the right planning, information and plant varieties, gardeners are finding they can grow some vegetables and flowers even if they don't have backyard space.

Shown here is a plan for a border garden that can provide a lot of harvest from a very small space.

Gardeners can use this border garden to mix 16 nutritious, tasty food crops including asparagus, rhubarb, peppers, melons, tomatoes, eggplant, herbs and others, within a beautiful flower border of nasturtiums, phlox, marigolds and lobelia.

Mower safety is important

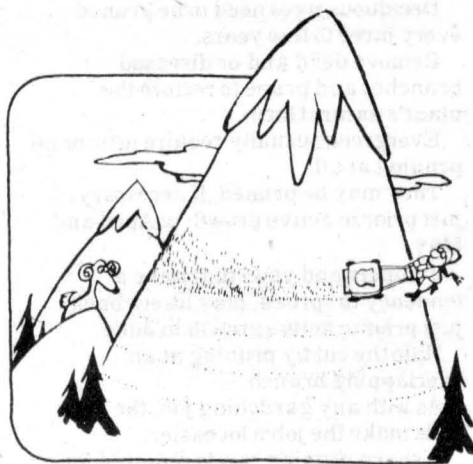
When spring greenery needs trimming, do it right by doing it safely.

For gasoline mowers: fill the tank before starting and don't fill it after the engine is hot. Never dangle gas cans from mower handles where a hot exhaust pipe could ignite escaping fumes. Those things could cause an explosion or fire. Don't clean the blades without first disconnecting the spark plug wire.

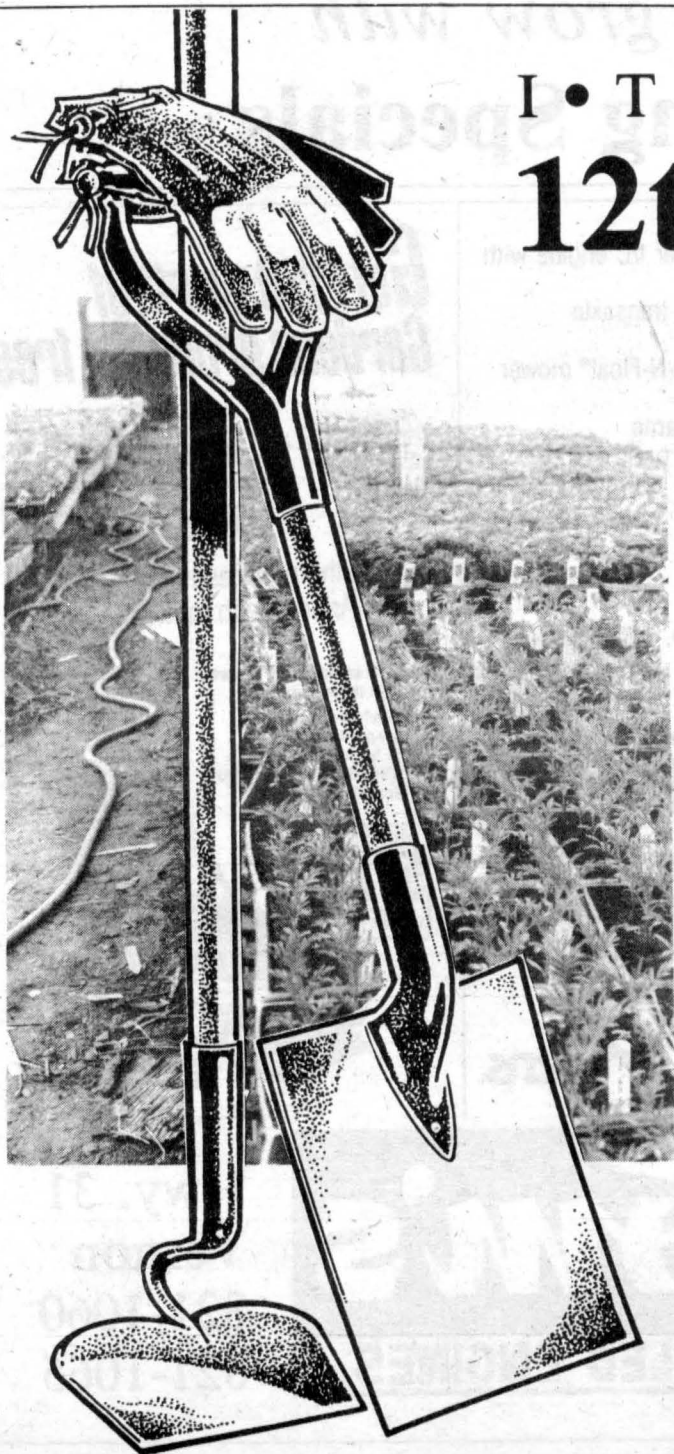
Gasoline mowers can start even when they're turned off if the blade is rotated.

For electric mowers: check the cords and plugs. If you cut the cord with the mower frequently, use a ground fault interrupter to insure your safety.

In general: always check the lawn before you begin for rocks, sticks and toys that can be thrown by the mower. Clear the yard of pets and children. Wear heavy shoes, just in case. Keep hands and feet away from the housing and never unclog the mower when it's running. Keep children away from the machine unless you're sure they're trained in how to use it and the dangers.



When pushing a mower on hills of grass, move across the hill on every pass!



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Getting the dirt

Improving the quality of your garden can be easily done by using soil mixes, or peat moss when planting. They enhance the richness of the soil with extra nutrients.

Landscape with mowing in mind

When the time comes to plant new trees and shrubs, it can be a good idea to make sure the lawn can still be mowed easily.

If a bush or tree is planted near a building or fence, be sure to leave enough space for the mower to cut the grass between. Also remember the growth potential of the new planting. A small shrub or sapling may look lost when planted a long distance from a building, but it won't be long before it fills out and needs more room.

Try to maintain a forward-only mowing pattern. Avoid landscape touches that force the operator to pull a walk-behind mower backward, or drive in reverse on a rider or tractor.

Because damage from mowers can kill trees, it's a good idea to strip the grass from around the tree in a circle with a radius of one to three feet, depending on the size of the tree. The ring can be filled in with mulch to discourage weeds. A

soft mulch like shredded tree bark would be best. This precaution will make trim mowing easier and faster.

Remove lower tree branches that can flick an eye or knock you off balance when mowing. Trimming tree branches may cause concern, but won't harm the tree if properly done. Actually, some experts recommend shaping a tree by pruning the lower branches. Pruning allows sunlight to reach the grass growing near the tree and helps prevent thin spots resulting from too much shade.

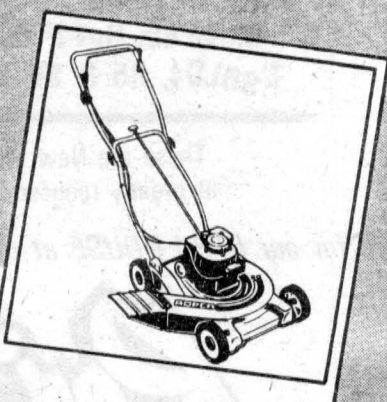
As new plants are put in, use any extra soil to fill holes around the lawn. Levelling terrain in this way makes a sprained ankle less likely and can provide a smoother surface for a rider mower.

Take a careful look at hillsides. If a slope seems too steep to be mowed comfortably, then replace the grass with a decorative ground cover.

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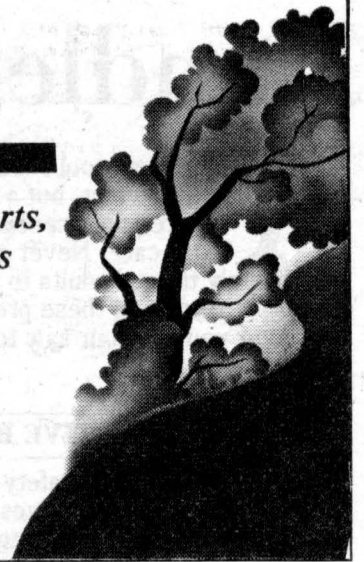
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Handle chain saws with care

Any cutting tool should be treated with respect, but a high-speed chain saw requires special caution and extra care. Never allow children or inadequately trained adults to operate your chain saw. And keep these precautions in mind whenever you put your saw to work.

WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Protect your eyes with safety glasses or goggles. Wear heavy work gloves to avoid scrapes and direct contact with cutting edges. Non-slip safety shoes help you keep your footing and guard toes from falling limbs. A hard hat is a good way to protect your head from falling branches that may come loose while you're working below. Ear plugs or muffs protect your hearing. Close-fitting clothes are less likely to catch on branches, thorns, or the moving chain. Wear a long-sleeved shirt buttoned around your wrists, keep your shirttail tucked in, and wear long pants rather than cut-offs or walking shorts. You may prefer the extra protection of leather chaps to guard your legs.



Wear hard shoes and clothes that fit closely; Use glasses and work gloves for safety.

HANDLE FUEL WITH CARE

Store fuel in an approved container and keep it out of the reach of children. Always mix fuel and fill the saw outdoors. Shut off the chain saw engine and let it cool before refueling. Avoid overfilling the tank and spilling fuel. Wipe the chain saw clean after refueling and move away from the fueling area before restarting the saw.

CARRY THE SAW PROPERLY

Be sure to shut off the engine before you carry the saw to a new location. Carry the saw with the muffler turned away from you. Hold the saw below the waist with the guidebar to the rear. That way, should you trip and fall, you can drop the saw and let your forward motion take you away from the chain.

PREPARE THE CUTTING AREA

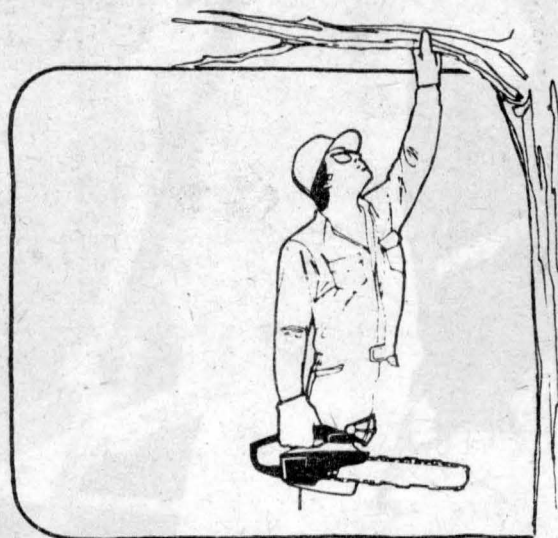
Make sure that people and pets are far away. Check for loose or dead branches overhead that may come tumbling down as you work. Clear a path for retreat before felling a tree. And clear the work area so there are no slippery rocks to make you lose your footing, or thorny brambles to catch your clothing.

CUT CAUTIOUSLY

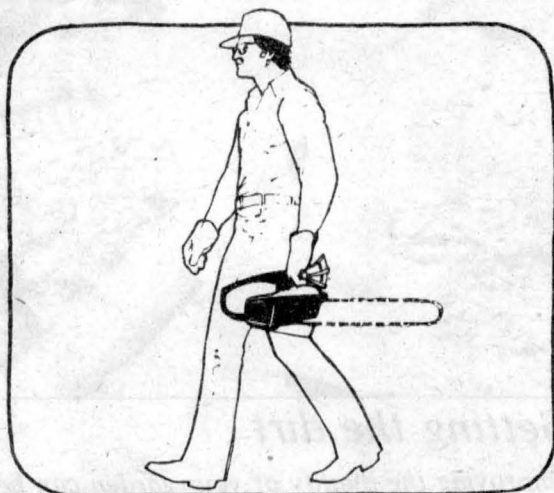
Never operate a chain saw when you're tired. Keep your saw in good working order; make any needed repairs before continuing your work. Keep the chain sharp and properly tensioned. Keep hand grips clean and dry. Hold the saw to your right so that your body will not be directly behind the chain. Work slowly and plan your moves in advance.

Kickback — the tendency for a chain saw to jump back — can be avoided by following these suggestions. Never let the tip of the guidebar contact a log, branch or other object. Don't start a cut with the end of the guidebar. Bring the chain up to cutting speed before starting to cut. Hold the saw firmly with both hands. Be ready to react quickly.

Read the operator's manual for your chain saw to learn the proper felling and trimming methods, correct maintenance, and other procedures you need to know about operating a chain saw properly.



Check for loose branches on a tree; Remove them before they shake free.



Carry a chain saw as shown here—Below the waist, guidebar to rear.

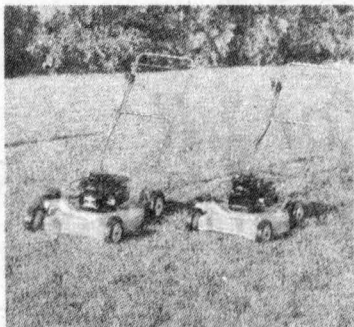
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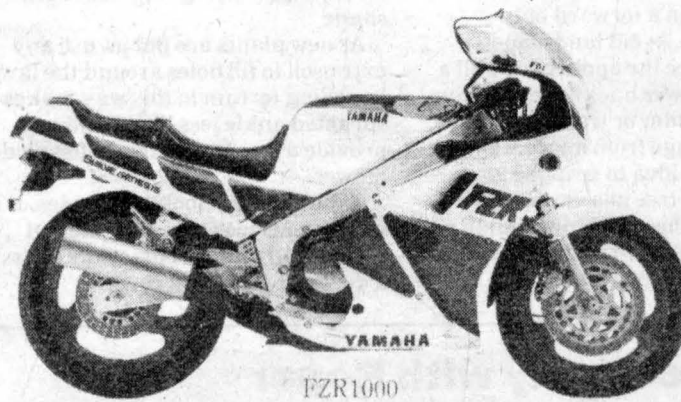
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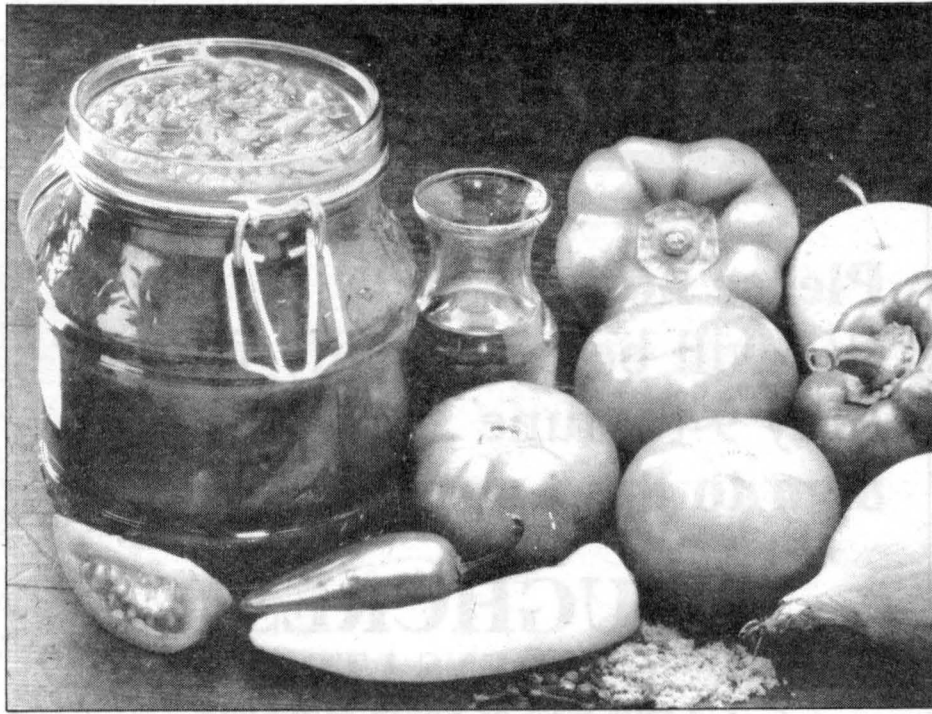
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• continued from page 16

Chili Sauce with a Twist

What better way to use all those tomatoes than in a spicy chili sauce! The addition of apples gives this traditional recipe a bit of a twist.

15	large Ontario tomatoes, peeled and chopped	15
5	medium onions, chopped	5
4	green or red peppers	4
2	apples, peeled and chopped	2
2	hot peppers, chopped	2
3 cups	brown sugar	750 ml
2 cups	cider vinegar	500 ml
1/4 cup	pickling salt	50 ml
1-1/2 tsp.	pepper	7 ml
1-1/2 tsp.	ground allspice	7 ml
1/2 tsp.	ground cloves	2 ml

Combine all ingredients in large heavy saucepan. Bring to a boil. Simmer, uncovered, over low heat, for 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Stir frequently. Ladle into hot sterilized jars and seal. Makes 12, 1-cup (250 ml) jars.

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 2 hours

Tomato and Feta Salad

The flavorful combination of tomato and Feta cheese will make this easy salad a 'regular' during Ontario's tomato season.

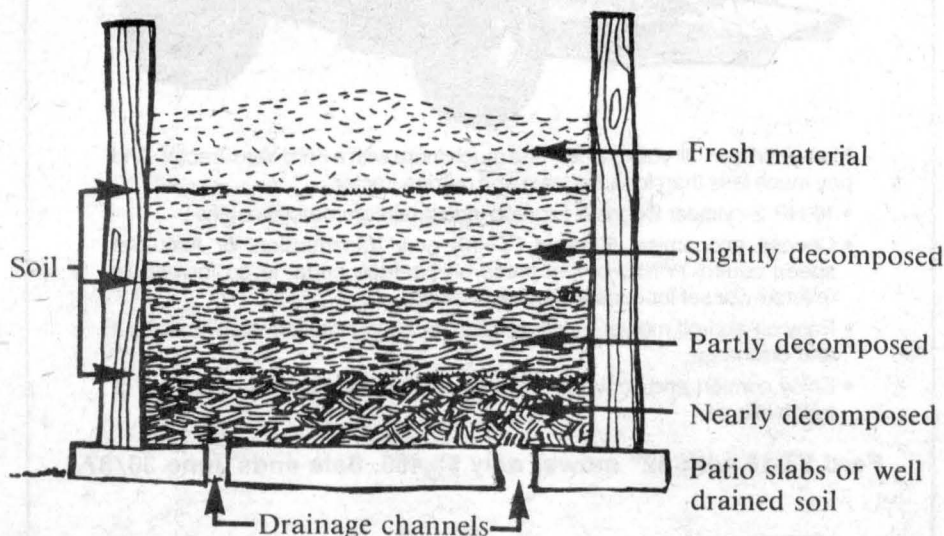
5	medium Ontario tomatoes, cut in wedges	5
1/2	medium green pepper, cut into thin strips	1/2
1/3 cup	vegetable oil	75 ml
2 tbsp.	red wine vinegar	25 ml
2	green onions, sliced	2
1/4 tsp.	dried oregano leaves	1 ml
1/4 tsp.	salt	1 ml
1/8 tsp.	pepper	0.5 ml
1 cup	crumbled Feta cheese	250 ml
	Romaine leaves, optional	

In shallow bowl, combine tomato wedges and green pepper strips.

In jar with tight-fitting lid, combine oil, vinegar, onions, oregano, salt and pepper. Shake well and pour over tomatoes. Cover and chill for a few hours.

Line serving plates with lettuce, if desired. Spoon on tomato mixture and sprinkle with cheese. Makes 4 servings.

Preparation time: 10 minutes



Homemade bin

Recycle house and garden vegetable waste into a useful additive that will improve the texture and fertility of almost any soil. Building your own compost bin is relatively easy to do and providing you follow certain guidelines, the composted material will not smell. Shown here is a cross-section of a homemade bin.

Photo from Agriculture Canada's Publication 1681

Dilled Tomato Bisque

Enjoy this delightful soup now or freeze and satisfy a winter craving for fresh Ontario field tomatoes.

2 tbsp.	butter	25 ml
1	medium onion, chopped	1
1	clove garlic, minced	1
2 tbsp.	all-purpose flour	25 ml
2 cups	chicken broth	500 ml
6	medium Ontario tomatoes, peeled and diced	6
2 tbsp.	chopped fresh dill or 1 tsp. (5 ml) dried	25 ml
1 tsp.	sugar	5 ml
1/4 tsp.	salt	1 ml
1/8 tsp.	pepper	0.5 ml

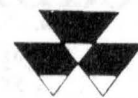
In medium-size saucepan, melt butter. Sauté onion and garlic, over medium heat, until tender. Stir in flour, then add remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil and simmer, covered, for 30 minutes. Makes 5, 1-cup (250 ml) servings.

Preparation time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes



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Incorporate vegetables into landscaping plans

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.

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.

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 eyesore.

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.

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

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.

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 background 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.

Tomatoes may be used in several ways.

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

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

Best of all, the tomatoes can be harvested and the plant will still be an attractive 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 sandwiches 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.

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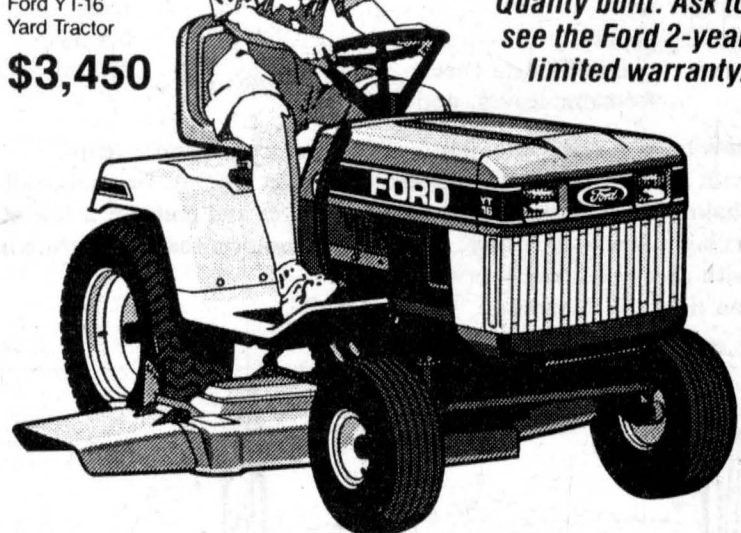


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Naturalistic gardening

Naturalistic gardening is becoming a very distinct alternative to what we traditionally think of as "landscape design", says Fiona Rintoul a graduate of the University of Guelph's master of landscape architecture program.

The distinction is apparent in the type of plant material used and in the way it is used.

Naturalistic gardening means that you use native plants — plants that naturally grow in fields and forests — in a style reminiscent of Mother Nature herself.

Wildflowers, native trees and shrubs — purchased at garden centres or from wildflower societies — are planted using nature's patterns as a guide.

"Books can give you some design ideas; but a visit to 'nature's garden' with a sketchbook is even more valuable," Rintoul said.

Although naturalistic gardening, in the pure sense, means "natives only", plants that are not native to your area will thrive alongside natives in your garden.

Plants, not native to your area are called "ornamentals" or "exotics".

The Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia soulangeana*) for example, is native to Asia; when you grow it here in North America, this plant is referred to as an ornamental.

On the other hand, our sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is considered an ornamental in Great Britain.

"It is all a matter of location: understanding the distinction is the first key to naturalistic gardening," Rintoul said.

So, before designing your own naturalistic garden, you must find out which plants are common to your area — both woody plants (trees and shrubs) and herbaceous plants (commonly called wildflowers).

Reference books will outline the botanical (Latin) and common names of native plants and the type of environment they usually inhabit.

For example, some plants grow on the edge of forests; some under the canopies of large trees; others only in open fields.

"Knowing this will help you decide which plant species are best suited to your garden," Rintoul said.

Finding sources of native plants is not as easy as finding Junipers or geraniums, but native plants are becoming more common at garden centres.

Major nursery catalogues often contain sections dealing with "native trees and shrubs" or "wildflowers".

And once a year, the Royal Botanical Garden in Hamilton sells native plants as a fundraising campaign.

"An increasing number of groups are also organizing plant sales or plant swaps, trading plants that its members have propagated," Rintoul said.

And remember that a naturalistic garden earns its distinct beauty from its random patterns; it should look as though it was planted by Mother Nature herself.



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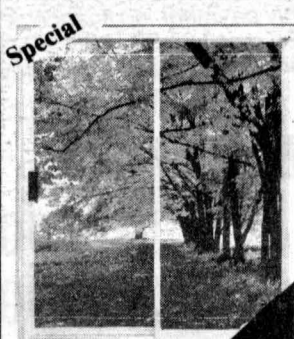
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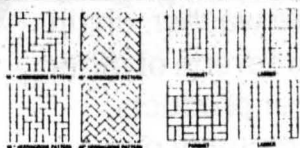
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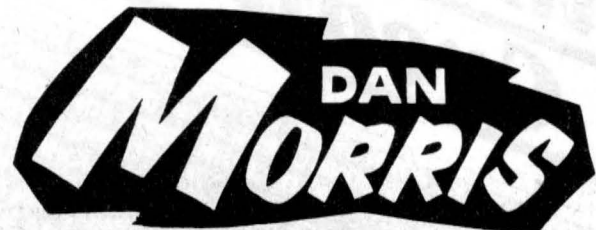
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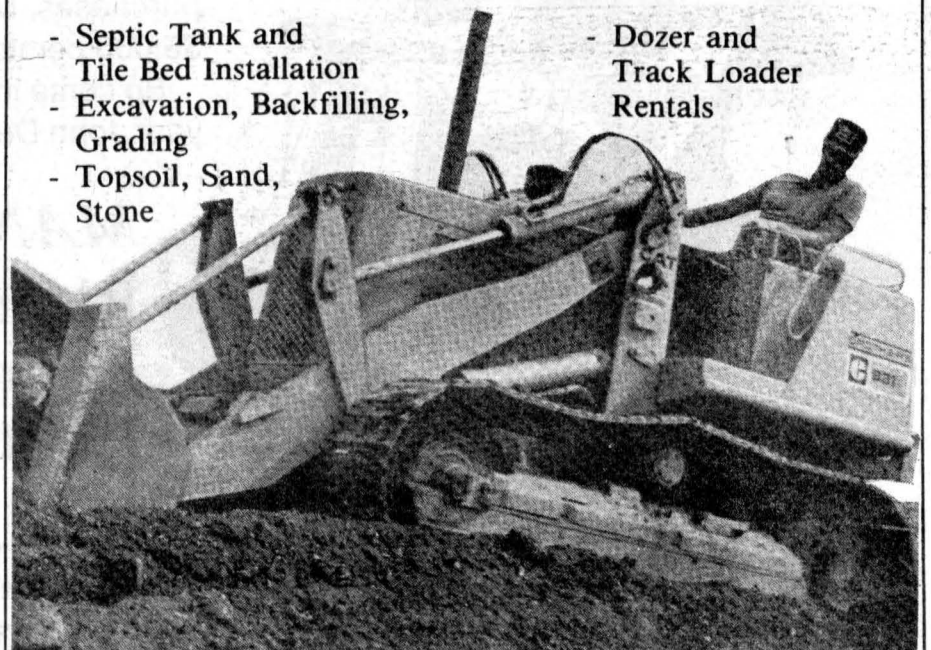
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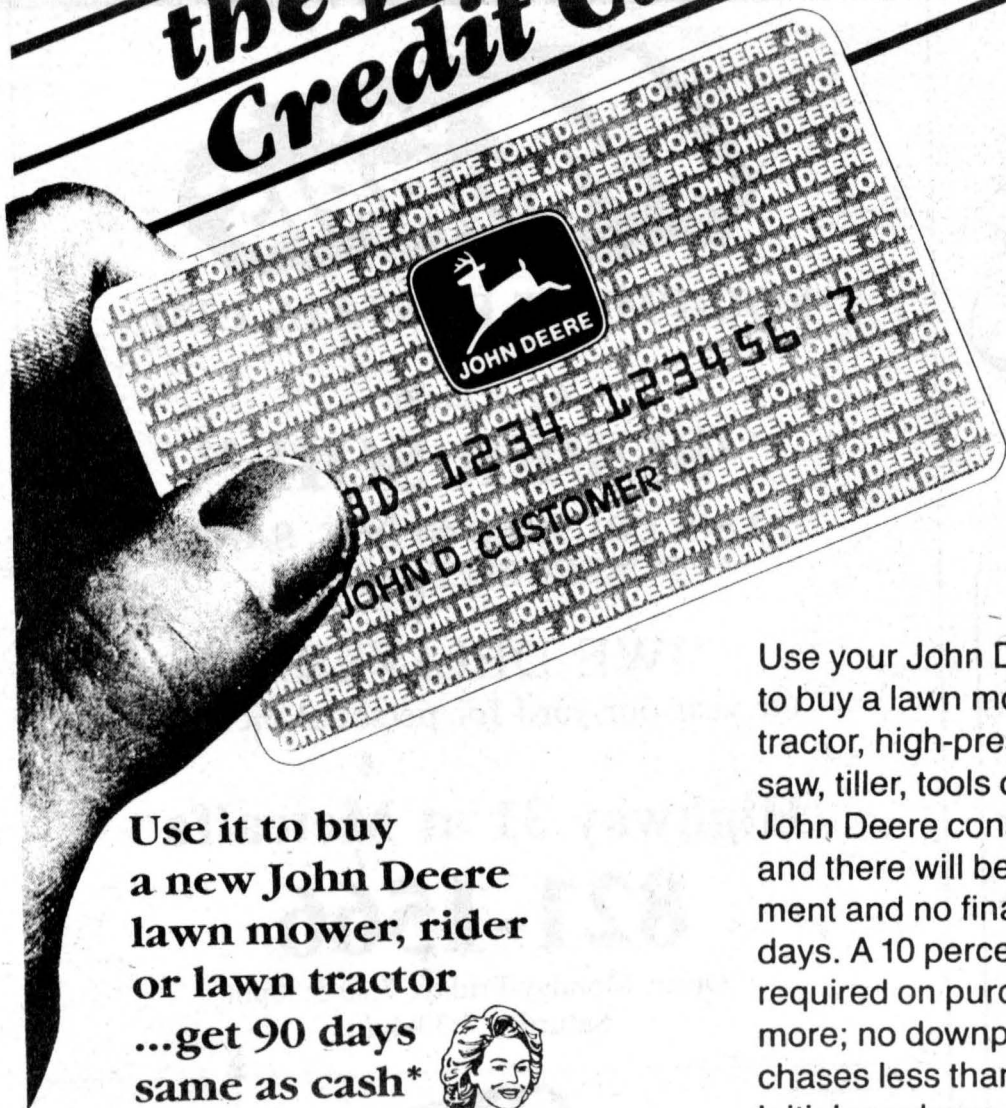
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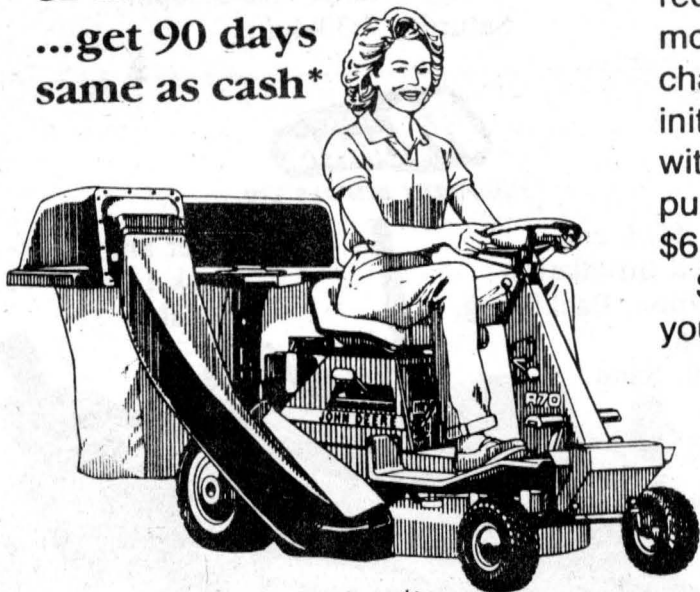
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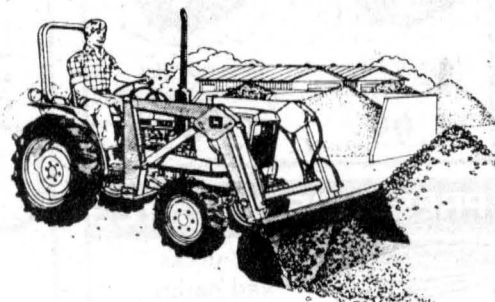
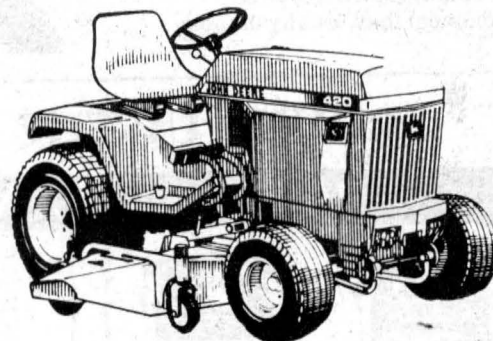
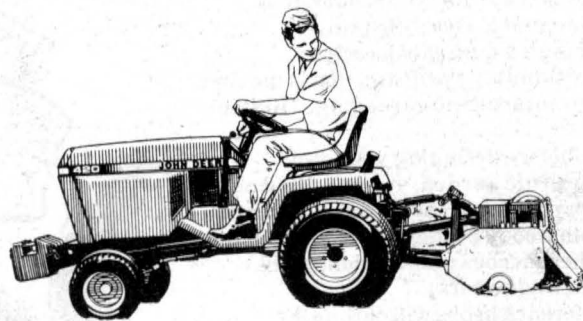
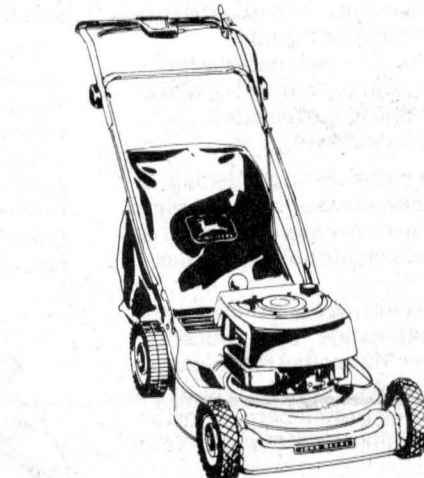


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