

# Spring Home & Garden

## Make gardening fun for kids

(NC)—Planting a garden is a great way to teach your children how to take care of their world. They will also learn to be patient, responsible, and open to eating new vegetables. Here's how to get started:

1. Invest in kid-sized gardening tools. Some adult-sized tools like rakes can be dangerous for little ones to carry. By giving them their own mini-set of tools, they can copy what you are doing.

2. Let your children decide what to plant. They will be more interested in their crops if they are consulted in the decision-making process. Be sure to add some quick-growing plants into the mix like sunflowers, radishes, snow peas, pumpkin, and lettuce to satisfy low attention spans.

3. Give your children their own garden beds. They will take owner-

ship of their own space and nurture their crops more carefully. Pick plots in areas with the best soil and light. The children can decorate their spaces with rocks, sticks, or other outdoor items they find.

4. Educate while you wait. Teach your children about the importance of gardens for families all over the world. Through Christian Children's Fund of Canada, an international children's charity, you and your child can provide a vegetable seed kit to a family in a developing country while growing the same items here. As children check on their own plants, they will wonder how the other family's vegetables are doing too. Visit [www.ccfcanada.ca](http://www.ccfcanada.ca) and search the gift catalogue for garden-growing items.

5. Reward hard work with praise.

Be sure to encourage your children on their well-maintained garden plots and crop successes. Ask if you can use their carrot crop to make a salad or carve their small pumpkin together so they can take pride in their efforts.

Be enthusiastic and let your children get dirty and explore. They will have positive memories of their garden and will want to do it again next year.



To make gardening fun, allow your kids to choose what flowers to plant in your spring garden.

## Tips for a 'green', healthy lawn!

(NC)—It may not feel like it, but Spring is just around the corner, so it's time to start planning the backyard of your dreams that your family and friends can enjoy throughout the summer. Starting at the roots, Canadian Tire has various solutions to help you create and maintain a lawn that is sure to make your neighbours green with envy.

Important components of creating a lush eco-friendly lawn include:

- Good quality grass seed can go a long way in ensuring a healthy, long-lasting garden in sunny and/or shaded areas. For example, Scotts Turf Builder EZ Seed Grass seed takes care of the seed to grow thick, beautiful grass anywhere.

- Grubs are one of the most difficult lawn pests to deal with. As the roots are destroyed by grubs, turf will turn brown. NemaGlobe Grub Busters is a natural, safe alternative to pesticides and should

be applied in spring and early fall to protect your lawn.

- Ergonomically designed tools make back-breaking gardening tasks easier. The Fiskars Telescopic Stand-Up Weeder is a convenient, environmentally-friendly tool that pulls weeds right from the roots.

- Watering your garden adequately and at the right time of the day is essential for a healthy lawn. Products like the Fiskars Salsa Rain Barrel allows home owners to recycle rainwater to irrigate their garden.

- And finally, to enjoy your lawn and keep it maintained throughout the summer season the Black & Decker 19" Cordless Lawnmower mows up to 12,000 square feet on a single charge. The three-in-one unit includes a durable grass catcher and converts the mower into an effective mulcher. A quick-release lock folds unit easily for compact storage.

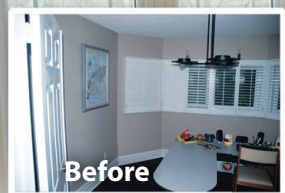
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- Custom Dream Kitchen with hidden English Pantry
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- Terrace garden three stories up overlooking garden pool, built into the attic
- Custom Spa bathroom off the master with dressing room island

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