

Homes & Gardens

An Oakville Beaver Feature To reach this section call 845-3824 Fax:337-5567

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Native plants deserve place in your garden

The cooler weather has kept the early flowers in bloom and still brought out the daylilies, daffodils, forsythia, tulips, a little earlier. This has provided concentrated early spring colour sooner and longer lasting than usual.

Even the dandelions are early. The bees are in many flowers. The grackles are back in great numbers, harassing the crows to obtain territory and stealing grubs and worms from the robins.

The young foxes have been brought out of the lair to bask in the sun and are practising stalking. Our pair had three cubs the same as last year. What is there to disturb our tranquillity?

The white grub came to the surface early, feeding on the grass roots before they were even in full growth. The brown spots attracted the beetles in June or July. Treating them with diazanon or chlorpyrifos is not effective. The grubs are resistant to contact poisons. These two insecticides are successful against the young grubs in August and September.

This year, a systemic chemical called Merit is available. It is absorbed by the grass roots and kills the grubs when they eat them. It is applied in the spring and lasts the season. It has been approved to licensed sprayers only, so the service must be purchased from lawn care providers. Merit is available formulated for householder's use in the U.S.A. so may be approved for this use in Canada in a year or two.

When the lawn has been destroyed and replaced, the new lawn may be sprayed with diazanon or chlorpyrifos in August or September or treated with Merit to destroy the young grubs.

When the damage is limited, the debris may be removed, new soil added if necessary, the area rolled and seeded. Use a mixture containing modern perennial rye grass and if shade is prevalent, mix in some fescues. Ensure that these contain beneficial fungi called endophytes. This prevents surface feeding insects from harming the grass.

Along with the seed, use lawn fertilizer and then add a light layer of soil.



JOHN SIMKINS
In Your Garden

Lightly roll and water with a gentle stream. With endophyte grass to protect the top growth and a yearly treatment of Merit to look after the below ground insects, the lawn may well become 'easy-care.'

Last week I attended a meeting of District 6 of the Ontario Horticultural Association in Caledonia. The district members are 23 horticultural societies from Georgetown to Port Dover and includes the Oakville and Bronte Societies.

The guest speaker was Ken Parker from 'Sweet Grass Gardens,' at Six Nations of the Grand River which is located between Brantford and Hagersville. The nursery address is RR 6, Hagersville, ON NOA 1H0. His subject was 'Native Ontario Plants.' This is the specialty of the nursery and Ken tramps all over North America looking for native plants that are no longer here. He is leading an effort to have gardeners grow native plants or small pockets of native plants in their gardens. He maintains that areas growing native plants will attract frogs, toads, butterflies, and beneficial insects and birds. It will provide havens for our native plants that are becoming extinct. It seems a reasonable idea for Oakville gardeners.

He lists 250 native trees and shrubs, grasses and hedges, perennials and biennials, so there are plants for most garden locations. Set aside a part of the garden, determine whether it is sun or shade, moist or dry, and has good or poor soil. Some of the native plants do very well on poorer soil and are easy to grow if planted in a soil that they like. They are resistant to most insects and diseases.

At the nursery, they have lists of plants for all locations. Two herbal plants that make a spectacular scene together are Joe-Pye weed and Angelica at the rear of a large border. They will grow in shady areas and fit at the edge of a wood. Both grow enthusiastically to nine feet.

Angelica has large umbels of greenish white flowers and Joe-Pye pink flowers in profusion. They will spread into large clumps, so they are not recommended for mid-size gardens unless planted in barrels. How about the cottage?

An easily-accommodated plant is chelone or turtlehead. It grows two feet high in clumps in sun or shade and has pink or pale blue flowers on short spikes in the fall. There is a good offering of perennial sunflowers and one is the Iroquois potato or Jerusalem artichoke. The roots are smaller than potatoes and have an unique taste. They are said to be very healthy as the starch is in a more easily digested form. A clump may be grown in the centre or toward the back of the border. The plants grow about 4-5 feet tall. The tubers spread and in the second year of planting a few may be harvested by digging them up after a frost or two as needed, mulching those left to keep the ground open. They may be dug and stored in a root cellar.

In the spring, those in the ground will grow, flower, and produce roots for next winter. They may be left in the same area for years or moved in the fall if necessary.

There are wild roses, prickly pear and other cactus, many varieties of grasses and many shrubs and trees. The trees and shrubs 1-2 feet high are in the \$10 to \$15 range and the perennials and grasses in 4" pots are \$3 to \$5.

The nursery is open until Sept. 26th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, closed on Mondays and holidays. Phone 519-445-4828.

The Oakville Society plant sale is May 20th at St. Paul's United Church at 9 a.m. If you would like to donate plants for the sale, phone Linda at 631-8656.

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ISLAND GRILLED SALMON

Ingredients
1 salmon fillet, about 2lbs, cut about 1" thick
3 tablespoons each lime juice & Oriental sesame oil
1 tablespoon each brown sugar, minced fresh ginger, & soy sauce
1 med. size pineapple, peeled, cut cross-wise into 6 slices, & cored
1 teaspoon sesame seeds
1 tablespoon sliced green onion
Lime wedges
Salt

Rinse fish & pat dry. Combine lime juice, oil, sugar, ginger, and soy sauce in a large heavy-duty plastic food bag. Add salmon & pineapple & seal bag securely. Rotate bag to distribute marinade & place in a shallow pan. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 1 hour, turning bag once.

Meanwhile, toast sesame seeds in a small frying pan over medium heat, shaking pan often, until golden (about 3 minutes). Remove from pan & set aside.

Remove fish & pineapple from bag & drain, discarding marinade. Lay fish, skin side down, on a piece of heavy duty foil. Cut foil to follow outline of fish, leaving a 1-to-2 inch border. Crimp edges of foil to fit against fish. Arrange foil-wrapped fish & pineapple on cooking grate. Place lid on grill. Cook, turning pineapple once halfway through cooking time, until pineapple is browned & fish is opaque but still moist in thickest part, (about 10 min.; cut fish to test).

Supporting fish with foil & a wide metal spatula, transfer to a platter along with fruit. Sprinkle fish & fruit with sesame seeds & onion. Garnish with lime wedges. Season to taste with salt.

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SEARS CORRECTION

For our 16 page Outdoor Sale (V051V200)

(Sale Dates: May 1-14, 2000)

Due to an error in advertising the Spalding "Heat" 11-Pc. Golf Set advertised on page 9 should read METAL MATRIX, not stainless steel.

The Michelin Pilot "XGT" H4 Performance Tire will not be available until the end of May. Orders for this tire will be taken at any Sears Auto Centre.

For our 40 page Mother's Day pre-print

(Sale Dates: May 1-7, 2000) (C051F500)

Back page - Gilda's Club

We regret to inform you that the scarves will not be available in our stores until after May 10, 2000.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused Sears Customers.

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