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DOOR BUSTER

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VALUE



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TURF TIPS — Achieve a lawn that is the envy of the neighborhood with a little sensible and relatively easy management, says Horticulturist Jack Eggens at the University of Guelph's horticultural science department. Clip your lawn no shorter than three centimetres to four centimetres (1.2 inches to 1.5 inches) in height. Water and fertilize regularly.

Good lawn easy to start

A good lawn is easy to start, says Horticulturist Jack Eggens of the University of Guelph horticultural science department.

Begin with at least 10 centimetres to 12 centimetres (four inches to five inches) of topsoil to ensure deep rooting.

Prior to seeding, apply a high-phosphorus fertilizer such as 5-20-20 at 10 kilograms to 12 kilograms of fertilizer per 100 square metres (20 pounds to 24 pounds per 1,000 square feet) worked into the upper five cm (two in.) soil.

Rake the soil level to prevent winter damage to turf in low spots.

If you decide to seed your lawn, choose top quality seed which contains the good cultivars necessary for a good long lasting lawn. This mixture should contain about 50 per cent Kentucky Bluegrass, 35 per cent Red Fescue and 15 per cent perennial ryegrass, Eggens says.

Optimum seeding time is August and September, but spring seeding is successful if you irrigate. This prevents drying of the seed bed and drought stress to seedlings during July and August.

Three to four weeks after germination, apply a 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer such as 20-4-10 at three kg per 100 square metres (six lbs. per

1,000 square feet). Begin mowing when the grass height is six cm to seven cm (2.4 in. to three in.). Mow at four cm to five cm (1.5 in. to two in.).

A light rolling during the early spring following fall seeding will push heaved seedlings back into the soil and prevent spring desiccation.

Make a plan..

(Continued from D1)

plants that will attract birds and provide a pleasant fragrance. Now you can prepare various design ideas by matching your needs with the property. Because few of us have a perfect lot this means that you will have to set priorities on your needs when you find that the site will not accommodate everything.

After you have done one rough plan, analyze it to make sure compatible activity areas are close to one another (i.e. the bicycle storage area should be close to the driveway but not beside the main sidewalk).

If you are unhappy with the plan do another and another until you find it just right. It is much easier to draw and make changes on paper than it is to move trees and shrubs.

When you are selecting plants remember to consider their mature size and color, flowers and amount of light required. Consider the plants in relation to your house and to each other.

Good planning could accent the best aspects of your house and make it blend with the landscape. Be sure to think about the different seasons and what the plants will look like in each of them, especially the winter.

Variety of form and color is important but don't get carried away and plant one of each. Group similar plants together to provide a backdrop for a special specimen plant or flowers. One plant by itself can easily be lost in the overall effect.

To select your plants get a catalogue from a local nursery. Some even have pictures of each plant and all describe the plants' growth and requirements and mature size.

If you can't decide on what type of plant to use or do not have a catalogue to guide you, be sure to list all the requirements for each plant including how much sun it will receive in the spot you've chosen for it, the maximum height it should reach (so as not to block windows in a few years), color desired in summer and fall and preferred flower colors.

With this list of requirements for each plant your local gardening centre will be able to select the right plants for your property.

Brush up on..

(Continued from D1)

any amount claimed in a written notice as owed to a subcontractor or employees by the contractor. Full payment should be made after this period only if no notices have been received. This requirement, under The Mechanics Lien Act, protects you against possible suits against you if the contractor fails to pay his workers or suppliers.

One last work of caution: don't pay cash. Pay by cheque so you have a record of your transaction.

If you have problems

Under The Business Practices Act of Ontario, no company is allowed to engage in unfair business practices by making a false, misleading or deceptive representation. If you feel the contractor has violated the Act, you can send a letter requesting rescission of the contract within six months of signing the agreement. If this doesn't bring satisfaction, you can take the contractor to court under the Act.

Under The Consumer Protection Act, you can rescind a contract made with a door-to-door salesperson within two working days of receiving your copy of it. Simply send a registered letter to the company or deliver it personally to the address on the contract. A telephone call won't do.