

Gardeners learn how to plant

Guest speaker at the Georgetown Horticultural Society's meeting Wednesday, Alfred Prescod, gave a demonstration on planning terrariums.

Mr. Prescod graduated from McGill University in plant science and is now working at the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Understanding how plants can survive in closed terrariums two terms-photosynthesis and respiration explain the process.

When you water a plant the roots absorb the water, and water vapor escapes through the leaves. But, in closed containers the water vapor cannot escape and is re-cycled back through the roots with oxygen and carbon dioxide mixing together.

"Terrariums are complete self-contained environments," he said. They can be made from any transparent containers, either glass or plastics. Plants will cook inside the containers if placed in direct sunlight so artificial light is more practical.

It is advisable for a healthy terrarium to choose plants that need little light, and plants that do not grow very quickly. Temperate plants used to two basic seasons from very cold weather to very hot weather, might not adapt to a constant summer climate in terrariums.

"If you bring plants from outside to plant in the terrarium, put the plants in quarantine for three weeks so that all creepy-crawlers will die," he said.

Plants suitable for terrariums include ferns and members of the fern family, aglaonema, episcia, nerve plants, fittonia, peperomia. Root cuttings grow well in terrariums.

Containers used for terrariums are aquariums, flexiglass, gold fish bowls, large water jugs, glass coffee pots, large sherry glasses. For improving the appearance of terrariums colored stones or different colored types of soil. Designs can be marked through the soil by using a long handled fork.

Terrariums should be watered only once. "By putting your hand in the soil, then removing it, your hand should feel moist but not wet," he said.

Since the terrariums have a constant summer atmosphere tropical and sub-tropical plants are preferred, and a tropical or sub-tropical soil may be used.

Lung program announced

The Halton Lung Association, the "Christmas Seal Organization", is presenting a fitness preparation program.

It will be given at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, Burlington, in the physiotherapy department. The program begins on April 5 and continues each Tuesday evening from 8 to 9:30 p.m. for eight sessions.

Each evening will include an educational session as well as practical activities.

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