



Lady Green-thum'n

by Elli Dryden

Showtime!

I recently attended the Spring Flower and Garden Show in Toronto, and without sounding like a critic would like to take this space to pass comments and suggestions on to you.

As usual the entrance fee went up, but I feel previous years you received more for your money. Displays of competition was excellent but the overall affect of the show was disappointing. My idea of going to an event as such is to acquire more knowledge, see new ideas and equipment, perhaps purchase a new plant or two and just relax in the beauty of it all. But I do object strongly to seeing retail booths pushing their wares that are not even remotely related to the show theme.

"Freedom of choice" you say. Yes of course, I chose to go because of my interest in plants and flowers and all matters pertaining to same, as well I'm sure all other fans did. But due to travelling distance, time, cost of parking, gas, exorbitantly high entrance fee, I do not wish to be subjected to carpeting (home show), jewelry and crafts (hobby show) etc. You can see these items at plazas and stores everyday for free.

One thing I have learned is before making any purchases, take a walk around and make a mental note of what you like and the price. You will be surprised to see the same item (probably next booth) at a competitive price.

Overhead, free enterprise, profit for survival, yes to all, but there is a definite difference between retail sale and rip-off. Note: why buy a fancy plastic container which only has two seeds for \$2.98 when right next to it on a rack is a paper packet, same item, containing five times more seeds for 99 cents?

There are new organic fertilizers and controls I hope will lower the harmful chemical content of this earth and inhabitants, only if one will become involved. The ministry of environment will be happy to re-educate us and send free information, after all, Mother Nature was in existence long before humankind. No liberation pun intended, this is one subject that treats the sexes, humans, plants and animals with equality.

Interesting subjects: "The Sun Garden", very rare and unusual succulent plants, established for our northern climate at good prices. "Bonsai" anyone? Fascinating hobby. To be covered in another column. "Aqua-Terra", an admixture for soils which when added to same creates a permanent locked-in reservoir of water which remains readily available and accessible to the root systems of anything you are growing.

Now there is "Nutriponics" as compared to "Hydroponics", another column. There is a process of keeping your plants living forever, rendering them fireproof and non-toxic, supposedly saving dollars in maintenance over the year(s). Wonder if this product works on humans?

Feels real, looks real, smells real, all hand made from a live plant known as "Papyrusifera Arellia" grown in Taiwan, the "Everlasting Wood Rose."

The most impressive plants were the exotic air plants that grow on your walls and require misting only. Another column.

Gadgets galore. The more I saw, the more I wanted, but after looking them over carefully, and seriously thinking about them, I felt that, that's exactly what some were. As the saying goes "A fool and his/her money are soon parted." I belong in that category but I must admit, I'm getting better. Purchased no gadgets, a couple of plants yes, green runs deep in my veins.

Missed the Solar Greenhouse, don't ask, someone please comment on it.

Irrelevant to show matter, (but they do grow on plants underground) I treated myself to those hot delicious beer nuts, what was that about fool and money? Thank goodness this is only done once a year when Springtime turns everyone's fancy. At least that's my excuse.

Moving on from feeding next will be seeding.

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