



A SNIP IN TIME — The key to pruning is to make clean flush cuts. Here George Durnford of Guelph, Ont., is thinning some branches to prevent overcrowding, ensure free air circulation and penetration of light so that the fruit will ripen evenly this summer. (photo by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food).

An 'edible' landscape? Incredible!

Think your lot is too small for a vegetable garden?

Well, by landscaping with vegetables as well as flowers, you can make the most of today's small city lots, says Master Gardener Bonnie Warner of RR 3, Eglehart, Ont.

Master Gardeners are gardening enthusiasts who have received formal horticultural training through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Master Gardener program.

Once trained, Master Gardeners are available to answer questions from the public.

Try planting a border of leaf lettuce and marigolds around your foundation plantings or grow tomatoes on a trellis to separate two areas.

"Planning is an important part of landscaping with vegetables. You must consider such things as color, growth habit, the time when each variety looks its best and appearance after harvest," she said.

Cabbage, for example, is an effective accent plant until the first head is harvested.

Once the head has been cut, the remaining leaves become an eye-sore.

At this point, perhaps you could replace the cabbage with small pots of marigolds, petunias or geraniums.

Location of the vegetables is of prime importance too.

Full sunlight, adequate water, proper fertilization and good soil are important if your vegetables and flowers are to thrive, she said.

"Certain vegetables also require a regular spray program, so you must find out if the spray will adversely affect neighboring flowers (or vice versa)," she said.

For example, if you plant vegetables around your rose bushes, check to see if the chemical used on the roses will harm your vegetables.

And note if there is a time interval required between the last spray and har-

vest time, so that the vegetables are not sprayed too close to consumption.

"One advantage of planting vegetables in your flower garden is the unique effect that can be created by combining new colors, forms and textures," she said.

Parsley's dark green color and ruffled texture makes it a good choice for your border.

Parsley is usually late to start from seed in the spring but it is very effective if you plant the seeds with spring bulbs in the fall.

The following spring, the bulbs and the parsley will appear; and in late June, when the bulbs have finished flowering, their unsightly foliage will be hidden by the lacey parsley foliage.

Asparagus, which is a perennial, makes an attractive delicate background in a perennial garden.

"But it is important to remember that asparagus needs about four to five years before you can begin to harvest the tender young shoots," she said.

Tomatoes may be used in several ways.

Miniature or cherry types can be used in patio pots or as a border plant.

Larger varieties can be trained to grow on a trellis for an effective backdrop to the rest of the garden.

Best of all, the tomatoes can be harvested and the plant will still be an attractive part of the landscape.

The unusual heads of the globe artichoke make it an interesting accent, along with its thistle-like flowers.

The heads are cooked like asparagus or sometimes eaten raw.

Kale and borecole (with its finely curled dark leaves) can be used as an accent or border plant.

The tender leaves of borecole can be used as boiled greens, chopped for salads or sandwiches or used like lettuce.

Brussels sprouts also make a good accent plant in the flower garden. And after harvesting the sprouts late

in the summer, the plant still looks attractive in the landscape.

Herbs — tarragon, dill, sage — may be used as background materials or accent plants.

Ornamental basil, with its dark purple leaves and lavender-white blooms, is an interesting contrast plant.

Chives, with its long narrow grass-like leaves and mauve-pink flowers, is ideal in a border.

Peppers and Swiss chard may also be used as border material.

The shiny leaves and fruit of the pepper add a unique texture to your landscape.

Unlike the beet, only select parts of Swiss chard are harvested, so the plant is still an effective part of the landscape.

Other vegetables are more difficult, although not impossible to use in a landscape.

Sprawling plants, such as pumpkin, squash and beans should be avoided, except under certain circumstances.

Summer lawn secrets

In mid-summer, lawn use is at its peak, but often your lawn is not, says Turf Researcher Nancy Pierce of the University of Guelph's horticultural science department.

Cool-season grasses enter a period of self-imposed dormancy during the warmer months of the year and without careful management, grass can become quite unattractive.

"This is the time to increase the mowing height of your lawn mower; the extra length helps shade the lower grass shoots and the soil surface and gives the plant more leaf surface with which to produce food," Pierce said.

Raise the mowing height from four centimetres or five cm to five cm or six cm.

Reduce the cutting height again when the cooler temperatures of fall arrive.

POWERFUL NEW BREED OF HORSE.

200-Series Lawn Tractors starting at **\$2299***

The new Wheel Horse 200-Series. Designed to be uniquely stylish. Engineered with the strength of 11 or 12.5 horsepower engines. Priced to put power back into the family budget. Come in and see the new Wheel Horse 200-Series today.

Wheel Horse 200-Series standard features:

- 11-horsepower Briggs & Stratton engine (12.5-horsepower Kawasaki engine optional)
- Unstressed steel frame
- Aero headlights
- Shift lever on column
- Electric key start
- Automotive parking sector steering
- Customized Fearless Transaxle
- Electrostatically baked-on enamel paint
- Includes mowing deck

WHEEL HORSE POWER. PUT IT TO WORK FOR YOU.

Wheel Horse

GEORGETOWN LAWN & GARDEN EQUIPMENT
5 Armstrong Ave. GEORGETOWN 877-6686

STOP throwing money out your windows!

Whether we supply only, or supply and install, we provide a full warranty on our workmanship and products

Artisan A SMART SOLUTION!
windows & doors limited

- Casement Windows
- Single Hung Windows
- Picture Windows
- Bow Windows
- Bay Windows
- Flower Bay Windows

Solid Wood Custom Built Doors In:

- Oak
- Pine
- Cedar, etc.
- French Doors
- Insulated Metal Doors
- Storm Doors and Patio Doors

Call Now & Save Money!

(416) 877-5413
Tor. Line 846-6649
LIMEHOUSE, ONTARIO