

Is that plant hardy?

Is that plant hardy? Gardeners in Southern Ontario must ask this question of all plants they wish to grow as durable fixtures in their gardens. They ask this question because they have managed to exterminate some excellent plants they found while on plant expeditions or they have chosen to listen to experience before heading into a second mortgage on their homes when considering landscaping.

What is a hardy plant? When a gardener says a plant is hardy he or she refers to the ability of a plant to survive in our climate with our without specific care or protection. This could refer to a plants ability to survive cold winters, drought conditions, temperature fluctuations, basically anything that is detrimental to the plants well being.

The true meaning of plant hardiness is the plants biological programming to live in the particular climate or its adaption to a particular climate. Horticulturalists have for many years relied on the hardiness zone map which serves as a guide for registering a plants hardiness according to the average mean temperature of a given area. Ours being zones 5 to 5b (average mean temperature of -23 C or -10 F for 210 days) depending on

where you live. Look at the natural plants growing in your area. You will find clues which are helpful in determining the exposure you will have to bargain with. It is also helpful to take this information to an expert in gardening, because they will read more from the evidence than an amateur gardener. Experienced gardeners are like detectives (myself being Colombo), when handed tid-bits of information and expected to counsel in an intelligent manner. Gather the facts and choose wisely.

When you are pondering a plant for a certain location you must remember that each plant has its own needs to succeed. It is important that you go to the nursery with an open mind about what plant will work as opposed to the plant that you want! If the shoe fits wear it, but if you desire a certain plant and it is questionable as to whether its site is the proper one, don't plant it in the wrong location, only to have it deteriorate before your eyes. In my opinion, when you are contemplating a certain area to plant first think of the functions of this plant and then find out what plants will fit the scenario. Then by process of elimination choose the flora de jour.

If you have any questions call the Grapevine Hotline, 519-833-2117 or write "The Town Gardener", R.R.2, Erin, Ont., NOB 1T0.

Unit 2 meets

Norval News

By KAY WILSON

Unit 2 of Norval United Church met at the home of Aileen Nixon. Marilyn Buck presided in the absence of Gwen Laidlaw. Secretary Anne Wilson read the minutes. Business included.

Unit 2 contributed \$27.40 to the Least Coin of Ontario Association. \$6,000 is being donated by the Ont. Assoc. to an Abuse Centre for Native Women. Twenty burgandy chairs have been purchased through Fred Paul for the church.

World Day of Prayer will be held on March 1, in Norval Presbyterian Church. Bible Study is being held at the church every Sunday evening under Rev. Walter Beecham.

Guest speaker Norma Tripp of Brampton spoke on her hobby of collecting rocks and stones. Norma cuts the stones and makes them into jewelry.

Norma was thanked by Mary Crawford and presented with a token of appreciation. Lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by Mary Crawford and Norine Van Leeuwen.

Pinegrove Euchre

Pinegrove Euchre had five tables on Monday last. Winners were Mable Hives, Ethel Webb, Mae Tost, Enrico Caruso. Lucky draw - Jean Cunningham.

Early Bird Membership

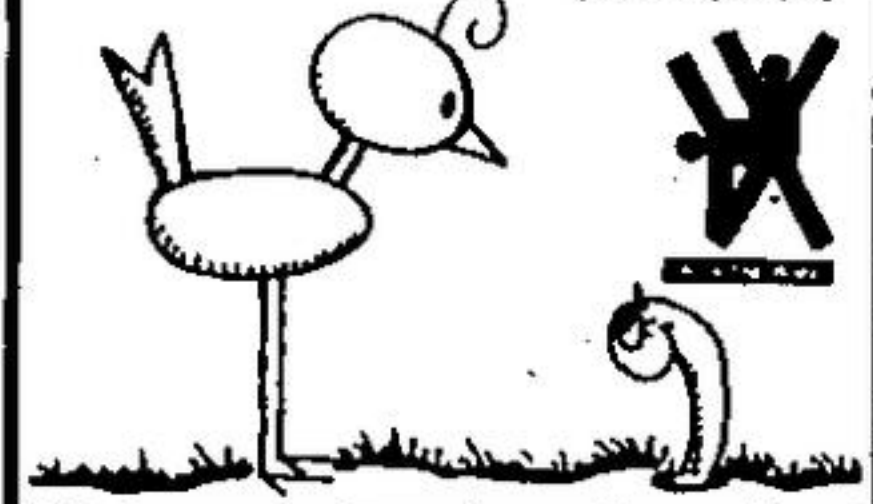
This annual membership is designed for the early bird. The club can only be used from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Monday thru Friday.

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