

Town Gardener

Care must be taken when planting trees

By TOM CAVAN

Many homeowners often plant young trees with little or no regard for how large the trees will be in just a few short decades. It doesn't matter whether it be one of the much sought after blue spruce, or one of the lesser-known white, Norway or Siberian spruce. All of these (which are hardy in virtually all of Canada) will easily attain 12 to 25 metres (40-80 ft.) in height, with a spread approaching three metres (ten ft.).

The popularity and beauty of the blue spruce seems to cause inexperienced homeowners to plant the small trees in areas where their growth will be restricted after only a few years. The difficulty comes in that there is almost no way that the growth can be restricted, unless the homeowner is willing to under-

take a severe clipping regimen on the new growth each and every year. Since the latter does not happen, the most common scenario is for the larger lower branches to be chopped off in order to regain access to a walkway, driveway, or the entrance to the house itself! This is where the trouble for the trees begins.

It is most important when planting not only spruce trees, but other large trees - whether evergreens such as fir and pine, or deciduous trees such as maples and oaks - that sufficient room be allowed for the trees to achieve their full growth. The Canadian Garden Council advises that an inquiry to your garden centre should bring a close estimate as to just what ultimate size the tree you have chosen may be expected to achieve in your area.

By the way, if you are presently considering planting a blue spruce trees, there are several types available. The most common is the Colorado blue spruce

(Picea pungens 'Glauca'). These vary in colour considerably, and through the winter months, retain more of a green than blue colour. It is generally the most economical variety to purchase. The oldest of the 'real blue' blue spruces is Koster (Picea pungens 'Koster'). It's major drawback has been a tendency to have a crooked main stem that needs to be staked upright for the first few years.

The Koster spruce through still very much available, has now been superseded by at least two other varieties you may want to check out at your favorite garden centres: Hoopsi blue spruce (Picea pungens 'Hoopsi') and Moerheim blue spruce (P.P. 'moerheimi'). Both of these have a much better conical shape, straight main stem, and excellent silver blue needle colour, throughout the entire year (although the colour is at its best in June).

A common habit of homeowners, once a spruce achieves a large size, is to

remove the lower branches. Often this is done to accommodate access around the tree because it was planted too close to a walk or driveway. But sometimes just because it's thought to be the "thing to do." Even many professional landscapers are guilty of this sin. If this pruning up sin can be avoided, it should be at whatever the cost.

According to the Canadian Garden Council, one of the problems that affect older spruce trees is a canker disease known as Cytospora. It occurs generally on older branches at the interior of the trees. One of the best methods of avoiding the disease is to keep older trees in a healthy state. An important way of doing this is to ensure that all of the lower branches remain on the tree, removing only dead or dying limbs. It is likewise important to leave all of the old needles, which annually fall from the tree, beneath the branches. This material acts as a natural mulch both keeping the surface roots

cool and moist, and maintaining an acid soil condition which the trees prefer.

Though the aforementioned care is the optimum, most homeowners do just the opposite by cutting away the lower limbs and removing all the valuable old needle mulch. The Canadian Garden Council says do your spruce trees a favour: leave the needle mulch intact and don't remove the lower branches from the trees either.

The canker disease is most easily noted on the interior branches near the trunk where exudations of sap with a white cottony appearance are evident. The only solution is the sterile removal of all dead branches exhibiting this appearance. After each cut dip the saw or pruners in alcohol to prevent spreading the disease.

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Community Service Bulletins

CSBs
If you are a non-profit organization, service club or charity or church group and would like us to publish your community service announcement of community interest, call us at 877-2201 during regular office hours. There is no charge for this service to Halton Hills community groups. The deadline for submissions is Friday at Noon for publication for the following Wednesday. Deadlines will not be extended. Although we will do our best to print all announcements, space is limited and there are no guarantees of insertion.

Happenings
Halton Hills Ambulance Service is willing to provide your school, club, business or group with short or long presentations on the nature and history of the Service. For more information call Phil at 877-1615 and leave a message.
Are you expecting a baby this Fall? Halton Regional Health Department offers a series for expectant parents. You will gain the most benefits by attending as early as possible. If your due date is in Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. 92 - register now for the early series by calling Milton, 878-7261.
Tony Meers, The Making of a Working Artist, 1966 to 1991 in the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, Georgetown, from now to August 10th. Exhibition and Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Halton Hills Libraries, Acton and Georgetown. All welcome. Free admission.
Want to go back to school? But you can't find child care? If you are a pregnant teen or young mother, then TEAM may be the program for you. Child care is provided while you work on your high school credits. Work at your own pace, with supportive staff to help you. Program to be offered in Georgetown this Fall. Phone Anne Day at 333-3499 or 878-1240.
Maple Co-operative Nursery School, located in Cedarvale Park, has openings left for September. Half day programs, 3 or 5 days for either mornings or afternoons are available. For further information please phone Paula Baker at 877-4693.
Love in Christ Food Bank will be closed on Thursday nights only to September 5th. Anyone needing a ride phone 877-5482.
The Victorian Order of Nurses, Halton Branch, will hold a Foot Care Clinic at the following location. The cost is \$15.00. Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital - Emergency Dept., Georgetown 1:00-4:00 p.m. Aug. 20. For further information and appointment please call 1-800-7127 and 7128.
Radio Control Car Racing, Sunday, August 18 at the Georgetown Fairgrounds, starting at 12 noon. Featuring 2WD car, 4WD car and truck. Prizes Entry fee \$3.00. Pre-register at Georgetown Hobby and Toy, 110 Guelph St., Georgetown.
Halton Hills Anti-Drinking and Driving Assoc. (HHADDA) is holding a car wash, Saturday, August 10, 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$3.00 per wash. Located at Georgetown's Home Hardware.
Beach Party Dance, Saturday, August 11, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$6.00 per person. Tickets available at the Ballinafad General Store. To be held at the Ballinafad Community Centre.
Meetings
Acton Lions Club meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. at Legion Branch 197, Acton. For more information contact Dave Pyke at 853-3410.
Lioness Club of Georgetown meet at the members homes on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. For more information contact Louise Giffin at 877-8888.
Kiwanis Club of Georgetown meets Wednesdays at the

Halton Golf and Country Club for a noon luncheon. For information contact John Schalljoat 877-5206.

Halton Hills Toastmasters meet Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at Glen Williams Town Hall. For more information call Don at 873-3954 or Paul at 853-3712.

Kinsmen Club of Georgetown meet every other Wednesday at the McGibbon Hotel at 7 p.m. For more information call Ron Lefebvre at 877-2370.

Lion's Club of Georgetown meets every Tuesday at the Lion's Hall on Mill Street behind the Arena at 7 p.m. For more information call Bill Mason at 877-7901.

The Rotary Club of Acton meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Wooden Hearth Restaurant. For more information call Brian Robertson at 853-1653.

Georgetown Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion monthly meeting at 8 p.m., 4th Thursday of each month at the Georgetown Legion Branch, 127 Mill Street, Georgetown. For more information call 877-4413.

Optimist Club of Georgetown meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the club, Hwy. 7. For more information contact Sandy Booth at 877-4569.

Living With Cancer Group meets every second Thursday at the Canadian Cancer Society, Milton Branch, 751 Main Street East at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 877-5228 or 878-1876.

La Leche League of Georgetown and Acton meet the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. to talk about breast feeding and parenting. Pregnant moms and nursing babies welcome. For more information call Sandra at 878-4732.

Pregnant Teens: Prenatal classes designed specifically for teens: Free of charge! Transportation provided! Pregnancy counselling available. Call Susan Stuart at 844-5502 or Public Health Department for more information.

Halton Hills British Canadian Club meetings are held informally on the 1st Thursday of each month in the lounge of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Georgetown, at 8 p.m. For more information call Dave at 873-2934.

Beta Sigma Phi Chapters in Georgetown and Acton. For meeting times please contact

City Council President Bett Jamieson at 873-2096.

New Acton Al-Anon Group is meeting every Wednesday at Acton Baptist Church (side entrance), at 8 p.m. Everyone welcome. For further information contact Eleanor Patterson at 853-0331.

The Halton Hills Community Chess Club meets every Wednesday from 7:10-8:30 p.m. in the Library of Georgetown District High School. Casual and tournament play available. For further information contact the school.

A local cycling group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Georgetown District High School's front parking lot. For more information call Heinz Rusche at 877-3298.

Volunteers

Georgetown Vintners are looking for amateur winemakers. For more information call 877-5302.

Red Cross Georgetown and District requires volunteers to assist in Finance and Publicity, driving and First Aid instructions. For more information call Bernice at 877-5233.

Alcoholic Anonymous can help. Call 877-1211 for more information.

Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Region Branch, needs volunteers for recreation programs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings in Burlington, Oakville and Acton. For more information call Laura McCullum at 845-5044.

The Salvation Army will pick up appliances in working order. For more information call 853-3321.

Volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown Unit, needed to transport patients to and from the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. Reimbursement for mileage will be paid. Please contact the Georgetown Unit's office at 164 Guelph St., Georgetown, between 1-4 p.m. daily, or call the cancer office at 877-1212.

Halton Support Services is looking for mature individuals who are interested in contract positions working 4-15 hours per week teaching life skills to children with developmental handicaps. Instruction takes place in the child's home. If you are 18 or older call (416) 849-8000 for more information.

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