

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

STARTING YOUR OWN SEEDS THIS YEAR?

Starting your own seeds for spring flower and vegetable transplants is rewarding and fun. If you're having a few problems perhaps you have committed a faux faux of seed starting. The following may explain a few common problems.

* Seeds planted too deep or too shallow - As a general rule seeds should be planted to a depth that is equal to twice their diameter.

* Too cold - Seeds germinate best in a warm environment (on top of fridge or other warm appliance works great.)

* Seeds allowed to dry out - Once planted the soil should be kept moist. Place pane of glass or saran wrap over container; this will keep moisture in until seeds germinate. Remove covering once seeds germinate.

* Seeds not viable - Seeds that are not stored in a cool, dry location will quickly lose their ability to germinate.

* You can hasten the germination time of some large seeds such as corn, peas, beans by soaking them overnight in a little water.

* Some seeds need to have their seed coats broken to germinate quicker. Rasp each seed lightly with a nail file or nick the point of the seed with a knife. Do not cut too deep or you may injure the embryo inside the seed coat. This procedure works well for Morning Glories.

* Starting seeds too early in the season may result in tall, thin, weak seedlings. The reason is the lower light available at that time of the year. Always follow the recommended seeding date on the package.

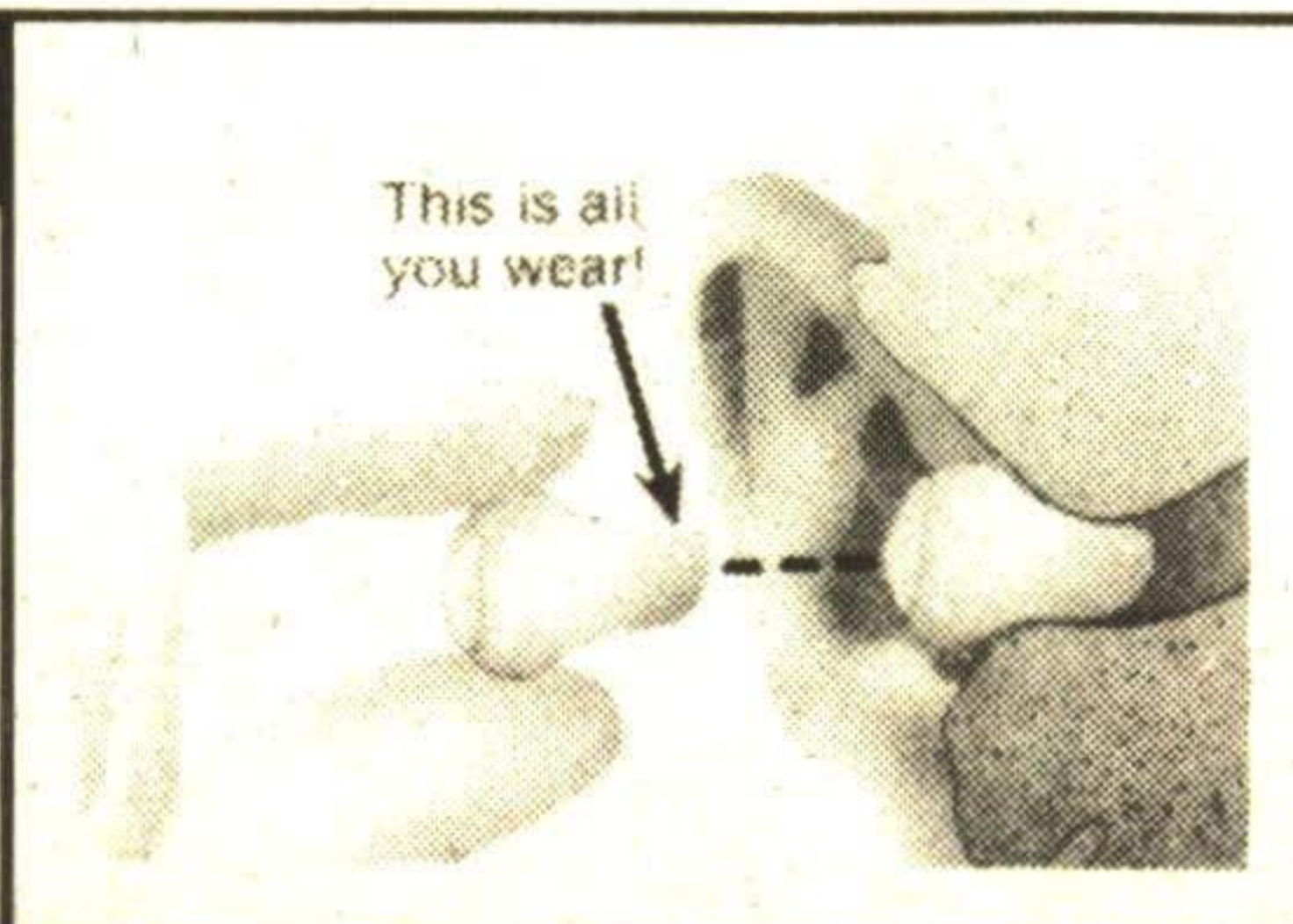
* Always germinate seeds in a fine textured, sterilized medium. (Garden soil is not appropriate. Unsterilized pots or soil could result in seedlings that die shortly after germinating (called damping off.)

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

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Additional details are provided in an information kit available from Ministry offices at:

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or contact MARIE FLYNN at (416) 793-4331

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or
197 Main Street East, Milton, Ontario

Completed proposals must be received by the Ministry no later than May 24, 1991 at 4:00 p.m.



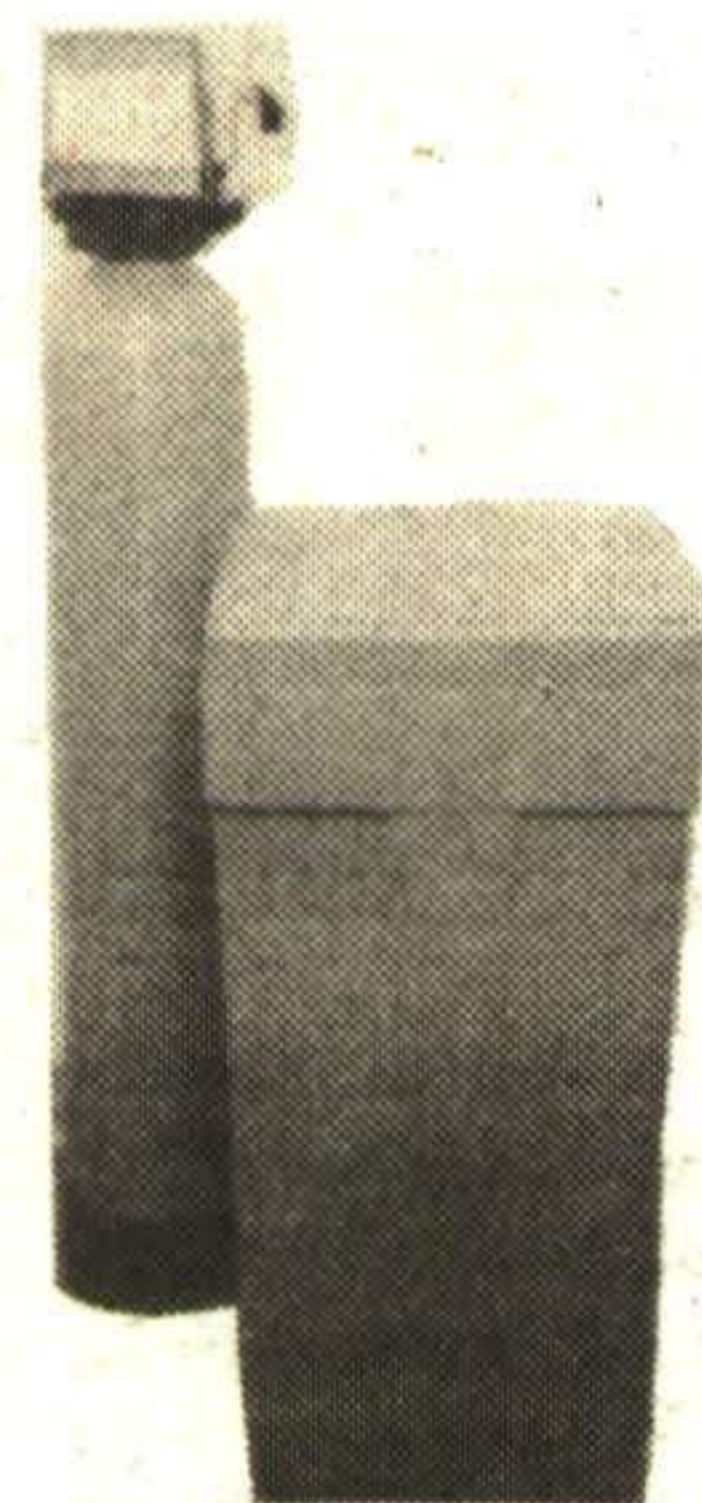
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Cutting the ribbon for the new Mayor Russ Miller and Doug Dufferin Quarry bridge were fromleft: Kenneth Gansel, president of Bruce Trail Association, Robertson, executive director of the Bruce Trail Association.

Dufferin quarry bridge opens new route for Bruce Trail hikers

The Bruce Trail Association and Dufferin Aggregates, the operators of the largest limestone quarry in Canada, have joined forces to improve public access to an important section of the Niagara Escarpment.

The official opening on Saturday of a footbridge spanning a gap in the escarpment was one of the first initiatives undertaken by Dufferin to rehabilitate the quarry which the company has operated for the last 30 years.

The 41-metre steel span bridge had a price tag of \$150,000 of which \$30,000 came from Dufferin. The bridge closes a major gap in the 700-kilometre-long trail and creates a permanent path for hikers along the brow of the Niagara Escarpment.

"The opening of the footbridge symbolizes Dufferin's commitment to enhancing the beauty of this area," says Tony White, property manager for Dufferin Aggregates. "We're very proud of the rehabilitation work that we've already done and we will continue to rehabilitate in the coming years."

Dufferin has received several awards over the years for the high standards and success it has achieved in rehabilitating large areas of the quarry site.

In fact, the area below the escarpment was the site of the original plant which operated from 1962 to 1974. This plant was demolished and the area rehabilitated in 1974 when the new plant inside the escarpment was commissioned. The gap has since been landscaped and replanted and includes a baseball diamond

and a chalet used by employees. Both have also been opened for use by the local community.

The five-kilometre section of trail, which includes the bridge, will eventually feature an interpretative centre where displays will illustrate the rich geological history of the escarpment. As well, hikers will get a first-hand look at a quarry that has provided many of the raw materials for such projects as Highway 401 and Terminal 3 at Pearson Airport.

"The centre should help visitors understand why the aggregate industry is so important to our economy," says Bruce Simpson, Dufferin's sales manager. "Most people don't realize that it can take as much as 326 tonnes or 10 tractor trailer loads of sand, gravel and stone just to build and service one house in a new subdivision."

Equally as important is the work the company does after the raw materials have been extracted. Over the years, Dufferin has regraded, replaced topsoil, seeded and planted hundreds of trees and shrubs. And, in the next few weeks, the company will be planting more than 5,000 trees along the west side of the quarry.

"This area was once all heavily forested," says Brian Harrington, manager of the quarry. "We're trying to return it as best we can to its natural state by putting in white pine, cedar, spruce, common lilac and dogwood." The tree planting was all done after extensive consultation with the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Cambridge.

Until the bridge was opened, the Bruce Trail was rerouted around the quarry. About 30 per cent of the trail route between Queenston and Tobermory is maintained through private lands such as this says Doug Robertson, executive director of the Bruce Trail Association. He said Dufferin was one of the few original hosts which provided access for the trail when it opened in the mid-1960s.

"This project shows just how well the trail can coexist with a variety of land uses including industry," Robertson says. He says he hopes the success of the Dufferin Aggregates and Bruce Trail partnership will set an example for other landowners along the trail as well.

The Water Depot PLUMBING BOUTIQUE

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