

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

IN PRAISE OF GROUNDCOVERS

Groundcovers are low-growing plants used to cover the soil. Generally, the plants grow quickly to cover and protect (from erosion) the soil, and also form an attractive, dense mat. But, just as important, they are the solution to many difficult landscape problems.

Certain groundcovers will thrive in areas where other plants can't grow due to lack of light or moisture and poor soil. There is an appropriate groundcover for every situation: low growing evergreens, perennials, and herbs.

Some desirable plants, such as a lawn do not grow well in heavy shade. However, periwinkle (blue flower) Japanese Spurge, English Ivy, cotoneaster (white flowers, red berries) and maple vines grow well in the shade. Like a lawn, they provide a green backdrop for other plants, but they also need lower maintenance. They don't require regular cutting, raking (most debris is hidden in leaves) or weeding (most weeds can't compete with their dense growth) and, other areas that are hard-to-maintain slopes, (rough terrain) can be eliminated with groundcovers. Crown vetch is excellent in this situation since it roots and grows quickly to protect the soil and its pink flowers are attractive. Other perennial groundcovers with attractive flowers include: Ajuga (blue), candytuft (white), creeping phlox (red, pink, blue or white), Lily of the Valley (white), periwinkle (purple), Snow-in-Summer (white), creeping baby's breath (pink/white). While others have attractive foliage: Hosta (striped green/yellow, green/white), Goutweed (variegated), silver Mound (silver), Snow-in-Summer (silver), Ajuga (bronze or variegated).

Don't overlook the landscape value of groundcovers. They're practical, functional and at the same time attractive.

The following is a short list of perennial plants appropriate for use as groundcovers

IN A SHADY LOCATION

JAPANESE SPURGE: Shiny, evergreen foliage (8" tall) with cream colored spike flowers during late spring. Grows well in deep shade where little else will grow. Spreads by underground runners.

IN A SUNNY OR SHADY LOCATION
AJUGA: Short, green, bronze or variegated foliage makes excellent contrast to other plants. Brilliant blue spikes develop in early summer.

PERIWINKLE: Popular, rapid spreader with long, thin stems covered in glossy green leaves. Blue/purple flowers appear in spring.

ENGLISH IVY: Forms dense mat, and runners will grow up structures (tree trunk, wall) a short distance. The stems form roots where they touch the soil to produce a 6-8 inch cover.

IN A PARTIALLY SHADED LOCATION

GROUTWEED: A green and white variegated foliage plant that reaches 9 inches in height. Adapts to poor soil and dry conditions.

COTONEASTER: A short broad-leaved evergreen shrub that blooms (white) in early summer and produces attractive red berries in the fall. Stems mesh together to form a dense mat.

IN A SUNNY LOCATION

CROWN VETCH: Extremely fast spreading with a pink flower. Excellent for holding slopes.

POTENTILLA: A new plant widely available with yellow flowers similar to the Potentilla (Cinquefoil) shrub. Vigorous grower.

CREEPING PHLOX: Very fine foliage with attractive flowers of pink, red, white or blue. Many other perennials also make appropriate groundcovers.

Sunflower Showdown
Aug. 28/93 12-4 p.m.

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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Local residents lead rally for Prevention of Child Abuse

Pat and Marg Palmer are long time residents of Georgetown. They will lead the rally riders from Toronto to Kingston on their Harley-Davidson. As parents and grandparents they believe strongly in the work of the Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the need to decrease the risks for children in our society.

The target is 3,000 sponsored riders raising in excess of \$100,000.

Thousands of motorcycles will thunder down Highway 401 as the first ever Ontario Chamber of Commerce Motorcycle Ride for the Prevention of Child Abuse takes place on Saturday, September 25, 1993 between Toronto and Kingston.

Motorcyclists and passengers are invited to participate in the Ride, which will leave SkyDome in Toronto at 8:45 a.m. and arrive at Fort Henry in Kingston at 3:30 p.m.

The event is being organized by The Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs of Ontario and The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

Registration is \$25 per rider and \$10 for each passenger. All proceeds will benefit The Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse, a non-profit, charitable organization committed to the elimination of all forms of child abuse in Canada.

In addition to the motorcycles, marked police cruisers from various jurisdictions

in Canada and the United States will participate in the Ride, providing a colourful "escort" for the riders.

"Numerous motorcycle organizations have already been contacted, and the response has been very positive," said Pat Palmer, President of the Ontario Chamber and a motorcycle enthusiast himself. "Hopefully, this annual event will help raise awareness of the child abuse problem."

Recent research indicates that more than 225,000 children are abused in Canada every year. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce Motorcycle Ride for the Prevention of Child Abuse aims to draw attention to this issue, while at the same time providing a fundraising opportunity for The Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Firing up their engines on behalf of The Institute will be Campaign Chairman George Irwin, President of Irwin Toy Ltd., and Honorary Chairmen, Toronto Police Chief Bill McCormack and the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Several sports and entertainment celebrities have also been invited to participate.

Registration forms for the Ride are available by contacting The Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse at (416) 921-3151.

Reform Party opens Georgetown office

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The Reform party is gearing up for the federal election and opening campaign offices in the riding.

The main campaign office is in Georgetown, at 360 Guelph St. at the intersection of Hwy. 7 and Delrex Ave. It opened earlier this month.

"It was a historical moment, we opened the first reform party office that's been opened in Halton-Peel," candidate Dick MacDuffee said.

A Bolton office opened on Wednesday, and MacDuffee is also hoping to open offices in Campbellville and Burlington, but he hasn't found a location yet.

Volunteers staff his Georgetown office between

"The volunteers are just there to answer phones, hand out literature, answer questions that people have," he said.

He'll need to find more volunteers for all his campaign offices, something which will be a challenge.

"We have over 1,000 members in the riding, but not everybody wants to get really active (in the party). All our members are new and don't necessarily have any experience in

politics," MacDuffee said. MacDuffee said he's pretty sure the election will be before Oct. 25, but his "personal bet" is Oct. 18.

The phone number for his Georgetown campaign office is 873-8822.



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